



Santa Cruz Voter

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

February 2012

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Calendar

Sunday, February 12, 2012

11:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Valentine Luncheon & Silent Auction

Hilton Scotts Valley

6001 La Madrona Drive, Scotts Valley

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

1 - 3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Saturday February 25, 2012

9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

LWV of California Northern Regional Meeting

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

150 E. San Fernando Avenue, San Jose

Friday, March 2, 2012 8:30 P.M.

Community Service Award for Ilse Rowe

Temple Beth El

3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos

Thursday, March 15, 2012 1 - 3 P.M.

Local Program Planning Meeting

Beach Cliff Clubhouse

863 Via Palo Alto, Aptos

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Status of Health Care in Santa Cruz County

Guest Speaker Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.

Details to be announced.

Saturday, June 2, 2012

LWVSCC Annual Meeting

Bruno's Barbeque

King's Village Shopping Center

230 G Mount Hermon Road

Scotts Valley

Valentine Luncheon and Silent Auction

Susan Mauriello speaks on Prison Realignment

Sunday, February 12, 2012

11:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Hilton Scotts Valley

6001 La Madrona Drive, Scotts Valley

Open to League members and the public.

\$25 per person (includes admission and buffet luncheon)

Prepaid reservations required by February 6

Send checks payable to LWVSCC to:

Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

LWVSCC invites you to its second annual Valentine Luncheon and Silent Auction featuring Susan Mauriello. After last year's overwhelmingly successful event, we know you won't want to miss the auction fun and delicious buffet lunch. Join in the excitement and help the League by bringing a gift to donate to the silent auction or just come and enjoy the bidding action. You'll be sure to find the perfect gift for a friend or loved one or a special treat for yourself. To donate an item, bring it with you to the event and complete the auction form with the value of the item and the starting bid.

Suggested donations of gently used or new items include: candy, homemade baked goods, gift certificates, books, art, jewelry, handcrafted items, music, plants, flowers, candles, silk scarves, knick-knacks and gift baskets (wine, flavored vinegars, soaps, lotions).

County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello's presentation, "Open Your Hearts and Minds to Prison Realignment" will address new state sentencing guidelines that will result in more felons being housed in county jails which are already over their capacity. Find out what alternative custody arrangements and other solutions are being utilized to manage our county jail inmate population.

Reservations are already pouring in for this remarkable once-a-year event, so invite a friend and make your reservations today! For more information contact: Maria Nesheim (831) 662-8845 or e-mail league@lwvsc.org

News Briefs

✓ In December the California State **Supreme Court upheld a law abolishing redevelopment agencies** and struck down a companion measure that would have allowed some redevelopment agencies to continue. An oversight board will be set up to sell many properties owned by local redevelopment agencies, including the Rispin Mansion, the Tannery Arts Center, the Del Mar Theater, and the former Suburban Propane site on Mount Hermon Road in Scotts Valley.

✓ Last year California inaugurated the Citizens Redistricting Commission as a new method for drawing legislative and congressional district lines. In a letter to the Commission, **LWV of California suggested improvements to the redistricting process**, including starting earlier, seeking a more diverse selection of commissioners, improving public participation, increasing the commissions' budget, and making the commission's deliberations and decisions fully transparent to the public. View the letter on line at <http://ca.lwv.org>

✓ New research papers, the Leaders' Guide, and the Consensus questions have been added to the **Privatization Study** webpage. <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>.

✓ Just before Christmas, the U.S. Department of Justice **denied South Carolina's controversial new voter ID law**. LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara lauded the DOJ decision. Congratulations to the LWVSC for its unremitting efforts to defeat this law, both in the legislature and in urging the DOJ to deny pre-clearance!

Northern Regional Meeting in San Jose

Registration is now open for the League of Women Voters of California's Northern Regional Meeting in San Jose on Saturday February 25, 2012 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. Topics include California's broken state budget, the growing trend in government privatization, and changing rules and preparations for the 2012 elections.

Registration costs \$15, or pay \$25 for both registration and lunch (\$30 after February 18). If you have questions or would like to register by phone, please contact Shelly Saini at (408) 460-0320 or shellyksaini@gmail.com You can also register on line at <http://ca.lwv.org/>

*Location: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
150 E. San Fernando Ave.
San Jose, CA 95112*

Local Program Planning

*Thursday, March 15, 2012
1 – 3 P.M.
Beach Cliff Club House,
863 Via Palo Alto, Aptos*

Please join us to discuss and select areas of emphasis for the 2012-2013 year. Suggestions for new or continued studies, as well as speakers and locations for future events are welcomed. We'll also review our current local positions for Santa Cruz County, which can be found at <http://lwvsc.org/positions.html> or in your local League handbook. This is an excellent opportunity for new members to meet experienced members and learn more about the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County. If you are unable to attend, you may contribute your recommendations by e-mail at league@lwvsc.org or call (831)426-VOTE (8683). Please plan on attending and carpooling, if possible.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

National Program Meeting Report

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

____\$65 Individual annual membership

____\$97.50 Two members in a household

____\$30.00 Student membership

____ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

In January LWVSCC members met to discuss National Program Planning at Sandy Warren's home in Santa Cruz. Using the League's positions as published in "Impact on Issues 2011-2012," Morgan Rankin, Joyce Aoyagi, Ann Wise, and Barbara Lewis presented overviews of national positions on Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.

Members at the meeting also considered two interesting proposals: one concurrence proposal and one proposed study for the 2012 national Convention. The concurrence proposal, which received full support from members present, came from the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia and the ad hoc committee on sentencing reform formed at Convention 2010. The proposal, titled "Sentencing Policy," was comprised of two statements: "1) The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. 2) The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses." Arguments for and background on this proposal were read by Barbara Lewis.

A second proposal, which garnered significant but less support than the first, came from the Columbia-Boone County, Missouri, League and would involve a national study in support of violence reduction in the United States and the establishment of a cabinet level Department of Peace, which falls in the Social Policy and International Relations areas.

—Barbara Lewis, Vice President/National Program

Ilse Rowe Receives Candy Coonerty Award

Fifty-year League member Ilse Rowe has been named this year's recipient of the Candy Coonerty Woman of Valor Award to honor community service. The award was created in memory of Candy Coonerty, who owned Bookshop Santa Cruz with her husband Neal Coonerty.

Ilse has contributed to many organizations, including Temple Beth El, Hadassah, and Meals on Wheels, as well as working in Voters Service for the League. I know she would love to have some League members at this event.

Join in a celebration of Ilse's contributions on Friday, March 2, 8:30 P.M., at Temple Beth El, 3055 Porter Gulch Road, Aptos. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Temple Beth El office (831)479-3444.

Sandy Warren, Treasurer

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of Santa Cruz County*

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Membership Report

This month the Santa Cruz County League welcomes Suzanne Meisenzahl as a new member transferring from Hawaii.

We sadly regret the loss of League member and past president Nancy Ellzey Carlson. Member Ann Wise remembers Nancy Carlson as a devoted League member and a quality board member. Nancy's valuable contributions to discussions were appreciated; she was a worthy co-worker on any project and always had a smile on her face. Nancy was a super public relations agent who always saw a positive way to handle a sticky situation. A valuable volunteer in many local service efforts, our community has benefited greatly from her legacy of community service.

—Barbara Lewis, Vice President/Membership



Looking for that perfect valentine's gift? See page one for details on our silent auction coming up on February 12.

President's Message

Dear League Members,

There are so many opportunities to get involved in League activities and enjoy the camaraderie of working with a dedicated group of community volunteers. Let me list just a couple of projects that will benefit from your participation.

Coming up on February 12 is our major fundraiser for the year: a Valentine Luncheon and Silent Auction at the Hilton Hotel in Scotts



Valley. County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello will speak about Prison Realignment. The funds raised at this event will help support our voter service activities in this presidential election year, as well as advocacy efforts on public interest issues aligned with established League positions. We expect the luncheon event will be both fun and informative. You can help by attending the lunch and bidding on silent auction items. We also welcome new and gently used items for the silent auction. Please mail in your reservation by February 6, if you haven't already. For more information see the article on page 1.

Here's another worthy activity that can use your help. The League supports the SAFE California Initiative, currently in circulation to collect the necessary signatures to qualify for the ballot. This initiative would stop executions and replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative. To learn more about why the League supports this initiative, log in at <http://ca.lwv.org> If you can help gather signatures, contact league member Nancy Abbey at (831)465-8272 or nabbey@cruzio.com.

League members are always welcome to attend our local Board meetings listed in our Voter newsletter calendar. This is a great way to learn more about the issues we're working on and to get acquainted with your local Board members.

I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon on February 12. E-mail or call me if you have questions.

—Jan Karwin, President
league@lwvsc.org (831)460-1714