



League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula



VOTER



Summer 2009, Volume 81, No. 9

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I begin my first President's Message with a disclaimer: the following are some personal observations and are not necessarily representative of League positions.

I am honored that the League members have elected me president. But I have to wonder how I got here. I originally joined the League because I wanted to learn more about county government. The LWVMP seemed like the only group paying attention to it.

But I stayed because I found the League to be so much more. As the child of immigrants, I am conscious of the opportunities that this country has given my family. As a way to contribute, I think the League offers the best vehicle for working towards improvement of government and the community.

I have had wonderful teachers in the League. I got a lesson from Judy Higginson on how to recruit people. I was a new League member, and Judy was membership chair. Every time I saw Judy, she would ask me what League job I wanted. There's the lesson -- be persistent!

You need mentors because the League has its own way of doing things: consensus, studies, positions, Pros & Cons, and more and more. You have to learn and practice "the League way."

And who hasn't heard that phrase? I first heard it while I was a member of a LWVMP study chaired by Louise Stuart about libraries. I suggested some course of action, which prompted wise Dorothy Newton to say, "Now that is not the League way."

The "League way" is integral to the credibility of the LWV. It is humbling to hear messages on the League office answering machine. People often say that they are calling because they highly value the League's opinion. As members of the League, it is our responsibility to maintain that credibility.

I am looking forward to this coming 2009-2010 League year. We have an experienced and enthusiastic board. We have a knowledgeable and engaged membership. There are a lot of possibilities.

As for the question about how I feel being the male president of an organization that has the word "Women" in its name, I am comfortable with that. At this point, there is no need to rename the organization the "League of Informed Voters" or something like that. "The League of Women Voters" is just fine. When the day comes that the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified, then we can talk.

DENNIS MAR

The LWVMP

Board of Directors

President

Dennis Mar 372-9388

DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Vice President, Admin.

Harriet Mitteldorf 373-3694

Harriet@redshift.com

Secretary

Mary DeBartolo 625-1968

MaryM5535@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Marilyn Maxner 649-0335

montmm@aol.com

Government Director

Bev Bean 484-2451

BeverlyGB@gmail.com

Natural Resources Director

George Riley 645-9914

GeorgeRiley@hotmail.com

Social Policy Director

Pris Walton 659-1519

PrisWalton@sbcglobal.net

Voters Service Director

Candace Ingram 373-7823

ingramgp@ix.netcom.com

Membership Director

Tamara Harris 649-3865

TBHarris146@aol.com

Program Director

Janet Brennan 659-2090

JanetB@montereybay.com

Public Relations Director

Regina Doyle 375-4496

ReginaDoyle@aol.com

State & National

Action Director

Anne Bell 624-3942

Anne.Bell@sbcglobal.net

Co-Webmaster

Bob Evans 372-8323

BobEvans13@me.com

Co-Webmaster &

VOTER Editor

Jeanne Melaugh 622-0892

JMelaugh@sbcglobal.net

Appointed Positions

Executive Committee

Marilyn Maxner, Bev Bean,
Janet Brennan, Dennis Mar,
and Pris Walton

Luncheon Logistics Chair

Lorita Fisher 375-8301

GLFisher@redshift.com

THANK YOU!



Special thanks to the following members who joined at a higher level of membership or provided us with a donation.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Amy Anderson

Judy Higginson

Susan B. Anthony

Doris Auerbach

Lori Lockwood

Peggy Bates

Dennis & Susan Mar

Nancy Green

Donations

Janet Brennan

Mary Ann Matthews

Ann Clifton

Harriet Mitteldorf

Kathy Dale

Joy Osborne

Mary Debartolo

Phil Smith

Virginia Fry

Gillian Taylor

Tamara Harris

Marilyn Von Berg

In Memory of Jean Esary

Janet Brennan

Betty Matterson

Molly Erickson & Michael Stamp

Harriet Mitteldorf

Fran Gaver

Martha Norton

Judy Higginson

Janice O'Brian

Dennis Mar

Robin Tokmakian

NEWSLETTER HELP

HELP
WANTED



Many thanks to Evelyn Westlye for her wonderful "Member Profiles" which she provided for the *VOTER*.

But she has resigned as the designated interviewer, so we need a volunteer to phone interview and write new member profiles.

Please contact Jeanne Melaugh at jmelaugh@sbcglobal.net or 622-0892 if you have questions or are interested.

The League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula publishes the **Monterey Peninsula VOTER** September through May. Submission deadline is the second Saturday of each month. Send copy to the *VOTER* Editor Jeanne Melaugh (622-0892) by email to JMelaugh@sbcglobal.net or mail to:

LWVMP, P.O. Box 1995, Monterey, CA

LWVMP STUDY AND ISSUES FOR EMPHASIS

The attendees at our May 13, 2009, Annual Meeting chose the following study and priorities for Education and Action, the issues on which we will focus our efforts in the coming year:

Study

Criteria for Community Incorporation

While the study will look at incorporation issues in general, the study positions would be most useful for evaluating the incorporation of Carmel Valley as a city. Keeping that in mind, the study committee would meet during the summer and present a program and consensus questions in September. If the date for a vote on incorporation is changed from November 2009, the study could be delayed to a later time.

Advocacy & Education Issues for Emphasis

Water

This issue continues from 2008/2009. Decisions about water will remain in the forefront of the local area's agenda. The League will follow all these activities and expects to offer guidance as appropriate.

Election Integrity

This issue continues from the previous LWVMP local program. Our local League will address whether the current electronic voting equipment and processes used in Monterey County fulfill this principle: all citizens to have the opportunity to vote and to have their votes fully and accurately counted.

TRANSPARENCY NEEDED IN VOTING

[Submitted by the League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula]

The following resolution was adopted by Delegates to the LWVC Convention, May 17, 2009

- Whereas,** The League of Women Voters has been an active champion of openness and transparency in government throughout our history;
- Whereas,** Problems arising from the use of electronic voting systems led to the LWVUS adoption of the SARA Resolution that our voting systems be Secure, Accurate, Recountable, and Accessible;
- Whereas,** The principle of Transparency will improve the current SARA Resolution and enhance public confidence in elections, which are the basis of our democracy;
- Whereas,** Election transparency means full public access to all election procedures in order to allow meaningful verification of ballot handling, tabulating, auditing and related election records; and
- Whereas,** Furthermore in January 2009, the LWVUS Election Audit Task Force issued its Report on Election Auditing which repeatedly emphasized the critical need for transparency; therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the LWVC support the principle of Transparency in all election procedures; and

Resolved,

That the LWVC urge the LWVUS to add the principle of Transparency to the SARA Resolution.

FOND MEMORIES OF THE STATE CONVENTION

—Sylvia Shih, Convention Delegate—

I have rarely participated in conventions or seminars since my retirement in 1991. When I said, “Yes,” to this one I surprised even myself. But, oh boy, I enjoyed myself! I have great fond memories from being a team member, from observing how the convention was conducted, and from learning how to enhance the effectiveness of convention process.

My ride with Bev Bean to and from Long Beach was filled with great conversation and a Barbara Kinsolver’s book on tape. What a fun ride. At night we, or rather Bev, worked into the wee hours honing the speech to present our resolution to the required two minutes.

During the convention, George Riley would listen, feel the air, and rush back to the team to rework the resolution. Just imagine; it took three weeks and fifteen revisions to come up with the final resolution. And in two days it was changed twice. Beverly did the word rearranging. Dennis Mar did the mass printing from his printer. Valerie Lane served as our reference source on the issues. Nancy Pratt was busy putting out billboards, handing out flyers, and cornering delegates in conversation. We all did some of that. We conducted our workshop quite effectively and changed at least one mind from being our opponent to being our proponent.

The convention room where the plenary sessions were held had two big screens that showed

projections of motions, resolutions, program proceedings, and awards as the session proceeded. That arrangement made the programs easy to follow. The mix of light and heavy topics made the convention flow light-heartedly. The adherence and consulting of the parliamentary rules elevated the convention to a professional level. The respect paid to it tickled my funny bones especially when the state board tried to rearrange the agenda to fit the time.

Right out of the gate of the first plenary session, someone moved to alter the order of the agenda so that the non-recommended motions from the floor would be debated and voted on before the recommended motions from the state board. Oh, power to the people! Who was that brave soul? Liza White, the president of the LWV of LA. Later on she made another motion that was greatly to our liking. I actually wrote it down as a recommendation for the future. But here she was doing it right on the spot where it mattered. Liza made a motion that the voting of the resolutions be placed in the same session as the presentation and debate of the resolutions. It was the sensible thing to do. You see the delegates’ attendance changes from session to session. It made great sense that the same set of people who heard the debate of the resolution would vote on it.

Well, I learned a lot and enjoyed a lot. Thank you for sending me to the convention.

NOTES ON CONVENTION

—Nancy Pratt, Convention Delegate—

Process: I’ve attended three conventions working on resolutions regarding electronic voting machines. In each case, the resolutions changed dramatically during the caucus meetings. My recommendation for future delegates: be adaptable and expect the unexpected. George Riley put forth a great lobbying effort by meeting socially with two key players on the Resolution Committee on our first night. By listening carefully he knew how to amend our proposal so it could pass.

Redistricting: LWVC and LWVMP members can apply for positions on the Redistricting Commission in the next 3 to 4 months. Public comment on the Commission’s regulations is open until July 9.

Brown Act: City managers cannot report to council members comments made to him/her, by other council members. This answered a question I have had concerning circumventing Brown Act restrictions.

CONVENTION IMPRESSIONS

—Valerie Lane, Convention Delegate—

As a new member of the LWVMP it was a privilege and an honor to be invited to join the “Government /Election Integrity” committee at the League state convention.

The Election Integrity Committee preparations began in April when our Committee Chair, Bev Bean, explained the goal of presenting a resolution at the LWVCA convention which would add Transparency to the previously defined principles of the 2004 LWVUS SARA (Secure, Accurate, Recountable, and Accessible) Resolution. While there is a recognized need for election transparency and this principle has been championed by the LWV throughout its history, it became clear at the convention that there is a great deal of confusion among League members about the critical importance of this principle. I will address this “confusion” in this report of impressions of the convention.

The California election process is presently complicated by antiquated election code which does not factor in the technical security vulnerability issues. Additionally, the CA election code fails to require comprehensive chain of custody procedures related to processing thousands of Vote by Mail ballots. Also, as Secretary of State Debra Bowen explained during her recent speech to LWVMP members and guests, the state-required one percent audit is inadequate to properly assess the accuracy of vote tallies in small jurisdictions. Our committee is concerned that not all valid ballots are subject to even the one percent random audit selection.

There is also the issue of what appears to be unenforceable regulations mandating required security measures. Sequoia Voting Systems has challenged the Secretary of State’s authority to impose mitigating security measures by its refusal to abide by one of the important requirements for certification. Due to a severe shortage of staff in the Secretary of State’s Office of Voting Technology, oversight appears to be inadequate to provide appropriate evaluation of county election procedures during the lengthy election time frame.

It is critically important that the public be vigilant, assume the burden for monitoring election procedures, actively engage in review of election procedures, and request electronic records. When one does participate

as an election observer, it becomes clear that the level of transparency of the present system is totally inadequate to support election integrity.

Confusion about the critical nature of the security vulnerabilities is understandable. Comprehension of the technical nature of our voting system and the election code requirements demands extensive study of the subject. This problem is complicated by the fact that many League members work in concert with election officials on Election Day. As members of the official election team they have become sensitive to any questions by the public which they perceive as questions of either the personal competency or the integrity of themselves or the election officials.

Debra Bowen stated that it will require a lawsuit to hold Sequoia Voting Systems accountable for willful negligence to meet state requirements to provide specific mitigating security measures required for certification. This obviously endangers the important relationship between the election officials and the vendors upon which they are dependent for their technical support.

Audits cannot fix a broken system. Audits may not be able to discover errors or even identify the cause or result of electronic or human errors. In addition, audits conducted by the same officials who ran the election are not an ideal practice. The possibility of independent audits—as suggested by the LWV audit report—is not likely. While it is laudable that the LWV audit report outlines many of the voting system security vulnerabilities and focuses on the need to improve transparency, we should evaluate how practical the proposed solutions are when all the interested parties must fully cooperate in order to satisfy the public’s “need to know.”

In closing, I thank the LWVMP for the opportunity to have become an integral part of democracy in action. I especially enjoyed assisting in the creation of an invaluable resource booklet which provides the background and resource materials explaining the need to restore election transparency. I hope that this Transparency Resolution resource book will become a valuable tool in educating those who do not yet fully understand the need to restore full transparency to the election process.

OTHER CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE PLAN

The following Resolution Was Adopted by Delegates to the LWVC Convention, May 17, 2009

Whereas, The LWVUS position on health care calls for A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM which is universal, comprehensive, equitable, and affordable both to individuals and to the nation;

Whereas, The LWVUS position (adopted in 1993) supports A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums; and

Whereas, A SINGLE PAYER health care plan can best fulfill these criteria; therefore, be it

Resolved

That the LWVC ask the LWVUS to actively support the principle of SINGLE PAYER NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE by

- Vigorously advocating that a single payer legislative proposal be included in deliberation of health care reform by Congress and the Administration and
- Insisting that side-by-side comparative analyses of single payer proposals with other proposals for health care reform be part of these deliberations.

PROS AND CONS OF BALLOT MEASURES

The following Resolution Was Adopted by Delegates to the LWVC Convention, May 17, 2009

Whereas, Most of the 65 local Leagues in California have built their community outreach efforts and reputations around Voter Education and election-time activities;

Whereas, The published *Pros and Cons* of the statewide ballot measures have long been the foundation and mainstay for our education and outreach activities to hundreds of community organizations throughout the state;

Whereas, The printed *Pros and Cons* product has matured into an attractive, user-friendly, and highly-regarded institutional publication with impressive name-brand recognition, and is also a modest revenue-generating project for the State League; and

Whereas, The abrupt and conspicuous absence of the published *Pros and Cons* has been met with shock and dismay by a great many local Leagues, as well as the many community organizations that invite us to present and deliver the so-called "Pros and Cons" of the statewide ballot measures on behalf of the highly-respected League of Women Voters of California; therefore, be it

Resolved,

That the delegates of this 2009 LWVC Convention do hereby respectfully and urgently request that the Board of LWVCEF consider reinstating the publication of *Pros and Cons* of the statewide ballot measures for use by our local Leagues in our very important Voter Service and Civic Engagement activities for future statewide elections.

LWVMP STATEMENT SUPPORTS HYBRID REGIONAL PLAN FOR THE CPUC ADMINISTRATIVE LAW HEARINGS JULY 13 & JULY 14



TO: The Honorable Angela K. Minkin
Administrative Law Judge
California Public Utilities Commission

The League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula (LWVMP) studied water issues in 1982, 1995 and 2003 and has numerous positions related to developing water supplies for the Monterey Peninsula. Our positions support a variety of water supply sources such as conservation, including saving "lost water" and reclamation. We believe that an agency responsible for planning and implementing a water supply project should be directly elected and that the agency should be local and have boundaries that generally coincide with the service area boundaries of the water purveyor and water sources, i.e., Carmel River and Seaside Aquifer.

We believe that planning and implementation for "new water supplies" should be the primary responsibility of one agency. Based on statewide League studies, we support a variety of water supply sources with emphasis on nonstructural alternatives; the use of reclaimed water for groundwater recharge, agricultural and landscape irrigation; and coordinated water resource planning with land use planning and the provision for future water needs without encouraging growth.

The LWVMP has participated in the effort by the CPUC Ratepayers and Water for Monterey County to develop a regional program. We support elements of the Regional Plan described in the DEIR for the Coastal Water Project as recently updated, including the use of reclaimed water, conservation and the use of excess winter water from the Carmel River (Aquifer Storage and Recovery).

Because the League believes the focus of new water should be on nonstructural alternative water supplies, we do not support the large desalination facility proposed in the Regional Plan. Further, because of the urgent need to address the regulatory requirements related to the Carmel River and the Seaside Groundwater Basin and because transfer of water from the Salinas Groundwater Basin could result in extended litigation, we support a small desalination facility that either relies on brackish water from the Seaside Groundwater Basin or extracts water from Monterey Bay through

slant wells. Further, because the water users within the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) are largely excluded from the planning and implementation of the Regional Plan, we support designating MPWMD as a co-lead agency to develop a desalination facility.

The League has worked with several community-based organizations on the Monterey Peninsula and in North County to develop an alternative to the Regional Plan that focuses on the issues described above. Based on our knowledge of water supply options and recent data provided in the Proposed Decision of May 7, 2009 by Administrative Law Judge Bushey, the Hybrid Regional Plan option described in the attached could be developed in a timely and less costly manner than other options addressed in the CWP DEIR.

Phase I of the Hybrid would address the immediate regulatory need for 10, 300 AFY as identified in Draft EIR for the Coastal Water Project. It would rely on 1,920 AFY from ASR; 2,700 AFY of reclaimed water for landscaping and groundwater replenishment; 700 AFY from replacing leaking pipes in Seaside and electronic leak monitoring; interim use of 300 AFY from conservation and 300 AFY from the Sand City desalination plant; and 3,650 AFY of desalinated water, for a total of 10,300 AFY. Phase I of the option could also include water for immediate needs of Marina and Fort Ord through reclaimed water for landscaping and an expanded desalination facility.

Phase II of the plan would include an evaluation of the effectiveness of water supply projects identified above followed by implementation of expanded and/or new projects to address drought reserve, growth and water for North Salinas Valley.

Because of the urgent need to address water supply options for the Monterey Peninsula, we urge you to carefully consider the issues and recommendations identified by the LWV and other concerned residents of the Monterey Peninsula.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dennis Mar
President, LWV of the Monterey Peninsula

TABLE 1
HYBRID REGIONAL PLAN

Project	Monterey Peninsula (AFY)	Marina/Ft. Ord (AFY)	Total
Conservation ⁽¹⁾	300		300
ASR I and II ⁽²⁾	1,920		1,920
RUWAP ⁽³⁾	300	1400	1,700
Seaside GWB Replenishment ⁽⁴⁾	2,400		2,400
Reduce Unaccounted for Water (replace Seaside pipelines) and Electronic Leak Monitoring ⁽⁵⁾	700		700
Interim Use Sand City ⁽⁶⁾	300		300
Desal Plant ⁽⁷⁾	4,380	1,300	5,680
TOTAL	⁽⁸⁾ 10,300	⁽⁹⁾ 2,700	13,000

- (1) DEIR, p. 5-11, shows range of 300 to 1,000 AFY.
- (2) MPWMD/CalAm Proposed Project.
- (3) Regional Plan (REPOG/Water for Monterey County).
- (4) MRWPCA's 1/9/09 presentation to the REPOG estimated 3,000 to 6,000 AFY for GWB.
- (5) May 7, 2009, Administrative Law Judge draft opinion, p. 59 shows up to 1,000 AFY. And 350 AFY for electronic leak monitoring. Conservative estimate used.
- (6) Regional Plan (REPOG/Water for Monterey County).
- (7) Supplements other projects.
- (8) May 7, 2009, Administrative Law Judge draft opinion cites CalAm regarding 9,000 AFY to meet regulatory requirements (p. 60); DEIR (p. 2-7, Table 2-2)shows 10,272 AFY needed to meet regulatory requirements (excludes adjustments for weather of 7.8%).
- (9) Phase I Regional Plan (REPOG/Water for Monterey County).

TABLE 2
WATER SUPPLY PLAN ELEMENTS

Water Projects	CalAm-Moss Landing (AFY)	CalAm – North Marina (AFY)	Regional Plan (AFY)	Hybrid Regional Plan (AFY)
Desalination	10,000	11,000	10,000	5,680
ASR	1,300	1,300	920	1,920
Salinas River Water	0	0	2,980	0
Groundwater Replenishment	0	0	0	2,400
Sand City Desalination	300	300	300	300
Recycled Water for Irrigation	0	0	1,000	1,700
Reduced Unaccounted for Water (replace Seaside pipelines and leak monitoring)	0	0	0	700
Conservation	Not quantified	Not quantified	Not quantified	300
TOTAL	11,600 ⁽¹⁾	12,600 ⁽¹⁾	15,200 ⁽²⁾	13,000 ⁽³⁾

- (1) Water for Monterey Peninsula only
- (2) 2,700 AFY for Marina/Fort Ord; 12,500 AFY for Monterey Peninsula
- (3) 2,700 AFY for Marina/Fort Ord; 10,300 AFY for Monterey Peninsula

The White Paper on the Hybrid Regional Plan can be viewed at www.lwvmp.org/.

RANCHO CIELO EVENT

Saturday, August 22, 11:00 - 1:30

The League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley is hosting an event on Saturday, August 22, at Rancho Cielo and is inviting our League members to join them. Rancho Cielo was started by Judge Phillips and a group of interested people to provide for at risk and disadvantaged youth throughout our county. It provides a unique environment not found elsewhere in the area. Judge Phillips will provide a 30 minute talk on the purpose and vision of this youth campus, followed by a tour of the campus. After the talk and tour a light lunch will be provided by the Salinas League. A car pool meeting place will be designated in south Salinas. Contact Nancy McInnis at 484-1318 or mcinnis3@hotmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

WE'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email, etc: _____

- Send me more information about the League.
- I want an email reminder for the luncheons.
- I want a phone reminder for the luncheons.
- Email League news to me.

Please clip this coupon and mail it with your dues to:
LWVMP, P.O. Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942

Enclosed is my check for the following level of membership:

- \$250 Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 75 Household (2 people at the same address)
- \$ 50 Single
- \$ 25 F or young persons and non-citizens

Dues and contributions are not deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes. Contributions to the League of Women Voters of California Educational Fund (LWVCEF) are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The LWVMP

Office

648-8683 or 648-VOTE
Mariposa Hall
801 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey, CA

Web Site

www.lwvmp.org

Email Address

LWVMPca@yahoo.com

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942

DIRECTIONS TO THE ELKS LODGE

From Munras Avenue turn on to Soledad Avenue. Go approximately two (long) blocks. Turn left, uphill, on Monte Vista. Continue another long block and turn left on Porta Vista. Turn right into the Elks Lodge parking lot.

PROGRAM CALENDAR Summer 2009

August 26, Wednesday, 2:00 P.M.

Board Meeting, Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: Dennis Mar, 372-9388

September 2, Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:30 P.M.

Natural Resources Committee
Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: George Riley, 645-9914

September 9, Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:30 P.M.

General Meeting:
"Carmel Valley Incorporation Pros and Cons"
Elks Lodge, Monterey
Contact: Lorita Fisher, 375-8301



Monterey Peninsula *VOTER*
Published eight times per year
League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula
P.O. Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Monterey, CA
Permit No. 115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2009 STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION AWARDS



The **Salinas Valley and the Monterey Peninsula Leagues** received the LWV of California Mock Election Award for their innovative use of voting through an online ballot. The novelty of voting over the Internet has helped generate interest for mock elections in schools. Thank you Arlene Guest and Dennis Mar!

The **League of Women Voters of California Education Fund** was honored with the Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State. The award recognizes outstanding efforts in nonpartisan voter education and outreach for the 2008 election year.