



League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula



VOTER



September 2009, Volume 82, No. 1

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Study Process

Sometimes you hear that “it’s all about the process” when it comes to League. This September, League process will be on full display.

At the May Annual Meeting, the membership voted to include a local study of incorporation criteria as a project this year. The question is “How should a potential incorporation be evaluated?” What questions would give the League the necessary answers to judge the positives and negatives of the creation of a new town?

The study committee, chaired by Janet Brennan, has spent the summer working hard. The committee had to learn about constraints imposed by state and county regulations. They read what others have said about the necessary conditions for a viable incorporated city.

This process is very wonkish (characterized by studying “a subject or issue in an excessively assiduous and thorough manner”). But it is this delving into the details that supports the League’s credibility.

Serving on a study committee is an activity every League member should think of doing. Working on a League study is a good way to apply your reading and writing skills. You don’t need to be

an expert in the subject. But you will be when the study is over.

The next step in the process is to take consensus on the study results. League members will question and discuss until a consensus emerges. From this process, the League obtains a local position. We encourage everyone to attend the consensus meeting at noon on September 16 at Mariposa Hall, Monterey.

However, before the consensus meeting, League members will see how well the list of incorporation questions can frame the debate. At the September 9 general meeting, speakers for and against the proposed Carmel Valley incorporation will be asked to frame their arguments according to the criteria developed by the study committee. League members can learn about the proposed incorporation and judge how well the criteria can bring out the relevant facts.

Summer Vacation

This summer I visited the Iowa roots of Carrie Chapman Catt, the founder of the League of Women Voters. I attended a statistics conference (not as lively as League meetings!) at Iowa State Univ. in Ames, Iowa. Iowa State has a building named for her. Mrs. Catt was

—Continued on Page 2

The LWVMP

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Appointed Positions

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Dennis Mar, Marilyn Maxner,
and Jeanne Melaugh

Luncheon Logistics Chair

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"The President's Message," continued from Page 1

graduated from that school in 1890. She was the valedictorian and only woman in her graduating class. In 1921, she was invited to be the first woman to deliver a commencement address.

I also drove to Charles City, Iowa, population 7,812 and midway between Minneapolis and Des Moines. I visited the farmstead where Carrie Lane grew up. The house is still in the country and on a gravel road. It is preserved as a museum, mostly devoted to the struggle for women's suffrage and the 19th amendment. Oddly, the League is only mentioned in passing. I asked the docent if there was a local League. Alas, she said there had been a local League but it is no longer active.

DENNIS MAR

Anita Arellano

Anita Arellano, a long time League member, died on June 21, 2009. Born August 8, 1932, in Oakland, she was brought up in Alameda during the Great Depression, and spent the war years and high school in Oakland. In 1950 she attended San Jose State College, where she majored first in journalism and then in history. She graduated with a BA in 1954, and married Carl Pohlhammer, a fellow historian, the following year.

Anita attained a Master's Degree in history and political science from San Jose State, to go along with her General Secondary Credential. In 1963 Anita and Carl moved to the Monterey Peninsula. In addition to teaching at Monterey Peninsula College, she acquired a J.D. from the University of Santa Clara Law School, and practiced law for many years.

Anita managed several political campaigns and served as a delegate to the 1984 Democratic National Convention. She served on both the Alameda and Monterey Democratic Central Committees. At Monterey Peninsula College she served as President of the Academic Senate, delegate to the statewide academic senate, and she served on a number of committees, including the Affirmative Action, Presidential Selection, and Inter-cultural Relations Committees.

Since coming to Monterey in 1963, she has been a member of many boards, including the League of Women Voters, the United Nations Association, the World Affairs Council, the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Fort Ord Flying Club, and others. Anita will be sorely missed.

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE LWVMP STUDY OF CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING ADVOCACY ON INCORPORATION

At the May 2009 LWVMP general meeting, the membership supported a study of criteria that should be used by the LWVMP to evaluate community incorporation proposals. The committee consisted of Janet Brennan (chair), Mary Ann Matthews, Margaret Robbins, Carole Erickson, Max Chaplin, Robin Tokmakian, and Dennis Mar. Members of the committee represented both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Three meetings were held between June and August 2009. The Committee reviewed Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) legislation related to incorporation, including the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 and the Cortese-Knox Act (1985). This legislation provides strict guidelines and requirements for the incorporation of a community¹. Discussions of proposed criteria also addressed general issues related to why communities might want to incorporate.

While there are requirements that a county and community must meet before incorporation can be voted upon, there is some leeway in the requirements. For example, since 1998, eight communities have been incorporated¹. Each community defined its financial relationship with the county in a variety of ways. Some have been successful with the financial agreement between the county and the newly incorporated community and some are now seeking new sources of financing or are renegotiating the agreement. One of the primary criteria that have been suggested is to evaluate the financial arrangements of a new community.

Several LWV of the United States (LWVUS) and LWV of California (LWVC) positions on governance also help in determining the criteria to consider. The LWVUS' fundamental position of representative government,

"Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive"

and the LWVC position on intergovernmental relationships,

"Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public",

can be used to guide what the criteria should be.

In particular, the LWVC position further states that there should be:

"A rational organization of powers and functions of the several levels of government: based on economic efficiency, administrative effectiveness, political accountability, and fiscal equity."

and

"Active participation by the public in state and local government, which entails the right and responsibility to be informed, to be heard, and to be involved not only in, but beyond elections; and which requires that officials make decisions openly and that they provide broadly publicized, convenient opportunities for participation in the process."

The following LWVC Land Use Position is also applicable:

"Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation."

¹ opr.ca.gov/index.php?a=planning/lafco.html

² www.calafco.org/resources.htm#incorp;
www.calafco.org/docs/inc-tudies/Summary_of_Recent_Incopr_Terms&Conditions.pdf

[See Page 4 for Consensus Questions.]

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR INCORPORATION STUDY

When considering a position on incorporation, which of the following criteria should the League use and how important is each criterion? Rank very, somewhat, or not at all.

1. Would the future city/town be fiscally viable, i.e., expected revenue sufficient to provide public services and facilities and a reasonable reserve during the first three to ten years of incorporation?
2. If the proposed area of incorporation provides more revenue to the County than it receives in services, what would be the impact of incorporation on future County revenues?
3. How adequate are existing public services compared to proposed services, i.e., police protection, road maintenance, flood control, other safety issues, etc.
4. Are the boundaries logical, e.g., do not conflict with Spheres of Influence of other jurisdictions; no County islands; consistent with County area plans and lot lines; geography, etc.?
5. Would incorporation have significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated per the California Environmental Quality Act?
6. Are County land use decisions in compliance with area plans and the County General Plan?
7. Do advantages of the proposed division of government outweigh disadvantages?
8. Is there a community of common interest within the boundaries of the proposed city?

CALL TO ACTION: HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. Business as usual is not an option.

Congress must take action to pass strong health care reform legislation that guarantees quality, safe and affordable health care to all U.S. residents including the choice of a public insurance plan. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. The legislation must include a benefits package that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care, acute care, long-term care, and mental health care. In addition, any health care package must include prescription drug coverage and allow for pre-existing conditions.

Legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits

packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

Cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care.

To achieve this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. Take action today to encourage your Senators and Representative to support strong health care reform legislation!

Senator Barbara Boxer (415) 403-0100
Or use the email form at www.boxer.senate.gov.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (415) 393-0707
Or use the email form at www.feinstein.senate.gov.

Representative Sam Farr (831) 424-2229
Or use the email form at www.farr.house.gov.

RESERVATION FORM

September 2009 General Meeting

WHEN:

September 9, 2009, 12 noon

WHERE:

Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey, CA

COST: \$16.00 per person

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:

Friday, September 4, 2006

After this date call Lorita Fisher at 375-8301

SEND CHECK TO:

LWVMP, P.O. Box 1995
Monterey, CA 93942

NAME: _____

GUEST: _____

(Please print.)

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

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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

September 2009

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

September 16, Wednesday, 12 noon

Incorporation Criteria Consensus Meeting
Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: Janet Brennan, 659-2090

September 23, Wednesday, 2:00 P.M.

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



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LUNCH AND LEARN WITH THE LEAGUE

DATE: Wednesday, September 9

TOPIC: Carmel Valley Incorporation—the Pros and Cons

SPEAKERS:

Pro: Karin Strasser Kauffman, former County Supervisor and author
Michael McMillan, business executive

Con: Scott Dick, retired Army Officer
Lawrence Samuels, editor and author

LOCATION: Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey

The \$16 luncheon is at 12:00 noon and requires a reservation.

The program is free, is from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., and does not require a reservation.

INCORPORATION CRITERIA CONSENSUS MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 16, at 12 noon

LOCATION: Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey