



League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula



VOTER



February 2010, Volume 82, No. 5

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Did you feel a political earthquake? "Today, basic pillars of American democracy have been undermined—that elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and that the voters should be at the center of our democratic system." National LWV President Mary Wilson made this public statement about the Supreme Court decision on *Citizens United v. FEC*.

The Court stated that corporate funding of independent political broadcasts in candidate elections cannot be limited. Can you smell the stacks of cash anxious to get into the game?

I expect that some of us feel disheartened. LWVMP members have participated in campaign finance reform at national, state, and local levels. Will all be swept aside by a tide of corporate money and saturation of the media?

But now is not the time to fall into despair. Here are two ways for us to respond.

Let People Hear Directly

Many of my friends outside of the League are amused by my attachment to C-Span. I admit that I am a Brian Lamb groupie, having traveled twice to hear him speak (okay, it was only CSUMB and then Salinas). When C-Span's BookTV bus stopped in Monterey, I went down there just to sit in it and pretend I was being interviewed.

C-Span has a novel approach to the use of probing or hand-hitting questions during their interviews: *there are none*. Brian Lamb's theory is let the protagonists talk—let all sides talk—and the public is smart enough

to tell whom to believe and whom not to believe.

Our candidates' forums follow much of this philosophy: let the candidates speak, let the public question, make sure the process is fair and accessible. The words go from the candidates' mouths to the public's ears. There is no filtering in between.

It is an effort to present a candidates' forum especially in rounding up an audience. But where else can the citizens question candidates directly? The League has a great tradition leading these events. We must keep at it.

Stay Organized

The second point to remember is you are members of a strong organization with a well regarded reputation. With the League, you have a collection of informed and committed people. Organizing for group action multiplies the influence of the individual.

Please come to the **Program Planning meeting Wednesday, February 17, at noon**. At this meeting, members talk about their concerns and suggest ways the League could address them. The meeting will be at Mariposa Hall conference room, 801 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey, (cross street Irving).

The first 20 people to contact me get a free box lunch. We will set local priorities and suggest issues for national attention. (Send me an RSVP through LWVMPCA@yahoo.com or leave a message at the League office 648-8683, or contact me directly if you want box lunch!

DENNIS MAR

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Juvenile Justice Division Frequently Asked Questions

What does Probation do to prevent delinquent juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system?

Probation uses several programs designed to divert the less serious offender from formal court action when the community's safety is not in jeopardy. Some of the diversions include Youth Accountability Boards, Informal Probation, and a variety of other supervisions keep youngsters out trouble including family counseling, parenting classes, substance abuse, gang awareness, truancy court, mental health referral, mentoring programs, and/or restorative justice skill-building activities.

How does a youngster come to the attention of the Probation Department and Juvenile Court?

Contact begins with a referral from a law enforcement agency. Juveniles accused of committing crimes may be referred to Probation by law enforcement agencies. The behavior may range from very minor law violations to murder. Probation officers interview the minors and their families and decide whether court intervention is necessary. If the situation is serious, a petition will be filed with the court; if not, the matter may be handled informally.

What happens to juveniles when they enter the juvenile justice system?

After a juvenile has been arrested by a law enforcement officer and a decision has been made to book him/her into custody, a detention hearing is held before a judge within two to three days to determine whether he/she should continue to be held. There are different modes of custody, depending on the juvenile's past record and the severity of the crime: Juvenile Hall is a locked detention facility for youth awaiting court hearings, placement, or other dispositions including assessment or short-term incarceration. All such decisions are made by the court. Wards may be committed to Juvenile Hall for short stays as part of a sanction for delinquent behavior.

How long will a minor be held in Juvenile Hall? What happens during that time?

Average length of stay for a juvenile in detention is 24 days. Occasionally, wards awaiting placement to out-of-home facilities, such as foster homes, group homes, or the Department Justice, trial adult

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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@comcastl.net or mail to:

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

—*Juvenile Justice FAQ, continued from Page 2*

court, may be in custody several months. School, recreation, exercise, and work programs are provided. Medical staff on duty are available hours a day; psychologists, psychiatrists, other mental health professionals are available as required. Probation officers interview detainees before court hearings to obtain information and report recommendations and supervision treatment plans.

What happens after a juvenile becomes a court ward?

The judge has a number of options. The minor could be placed under probation supervision with certain conditions to follow, such as paying restitution and performing community service. Each case is different; circumstances vary for each minor. Youngsters may be supervised in specialized caseloads.

— www.co.monterey.ca.us/probation/

Monterey County Juvenile Justice Facilities

Youth Center

The Probation Department's Youth Center is a low-security, coeducational, residential treatment facility located in East Salinas. It is one of only a few secured juvenile treatment centers in the state.

The Youth Center is comprised of three dormitories with a total capacity of 85 residents. Probation staff, Behavioral Health therapists and teachers from the County Office of Education work cooperatively and collaboratively with outside providers in a team approach that works with residents and their parents and/or guardians to understand and address the causation of the residents' delinquent behavior, gang involvement, or drug and alcohol addictions.

The Youth Center's therapeutic environment is designed to work to help residents develop insight into their personal situations, to instill impulse control by improving personal coping mechanisms, and to encourage pro-social attitudes and behaviors.

Santa Lucia Treatment Center

The Santa Lucia Program houses female residents who have a dual diagnosis of substance abuse and mental health disorders. Santa Lucia is a 24-hour, non-medical, Day Treatment Intensive (DTI) program with an average length of stay of nine to 12 months. Residents are treated for substance abuse issues, psychiatric disorders, and behavioral impairments. Santa Lucia residents often graduate to transitional programs, such as Job Corps or local rehabilitation residential programs.

Gavilan Bay and Pinnacles Bay

Male residents at the Youth Center are housed in Gavilan Bay and Pinnacles Bay for a twelve-month treatment program. For the first nine months residents generally live at the Center. The latter stages of the program involve graduation from the Center followed by three months of supervised aftercare as residents reunify with their families and reintegrate back into their respective communities. In addition to alcohol and substance abuse treatment, residents also take classes in pregnancy prevention, young fatherhood, and gang-involvement topics. Family therapy is a cornerstone of the treatment process; therefore, the Youth Center's goal is to repair and/or enhance the original family structure.

Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention (SSGPI)

In 2005, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) – Administration for Children and Families (ACF) awarded the Probation Department \$1,298,600 to implement a multi-agency collaborative prevention and early intervention program to prevent and reduce gang association, membership, and activities among youth in Monterey County.

The grant provides funding for the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention (SSGPI). As the lead agency and fiscal agent, the Probation Department, in collaboration with community-based agencies: the Monterey County District Attorney, the Department of Health/Behavioral Health, the Department of Social and Employment Services/

—*Continued on Page 4*

Office for Employment Training, the Monterey County Office of Education, the Second Chance Youth Program, Partners for Peace and Community Human Services, formed the Silver Star Resource Center. The Silver Star Resource Center offers a “one stop shop” for youth’s age 15½ to 18 that are vulnerable to gang involvement, substance abuse, truancy, unemployment, and family conflict.

The Silver Star Resource Center and its collaborative are dedicated to working together to provide services for youth and their families by increasing opportunities for academic achievement, employment skills development, and improvement of overall health and welfare.

Rancho Cielo

The Rancho Cielo facility, located off of Old Stage Road in Salinas, California, operates the Silver Star Youth Program. Silver Star offers a variety of prevention and early intervention programs for at-risk youth age 15½ through 18 and their families.

In collaboration with community-based organizations, the Silver Star Youth Program is funded by the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA), for local law enforcement programs and related services under the supervision of the Probation Department.

The program consists of a comprehensive set of services with the primary goal of improving the health and wellbeing of youth by reducing risk factors and providing an environment rich in academic, health, recreational, and job preparation opportunities. The programs and services include individual and family support systems that provide alternatives to crime. Some of the services offered include:

Social and mental health related support services

- Day school offering completion of GED and college credit
- Breakfast and lunch for day school students
- Cultural enhancement activities
- Arts and expressive therapy
- Sports and recreation activities
- Job training, placement, and follow-up services

- Gang intervention and counseling
- Tattoo removal services
- Tutorial services
- Alcohol and drug treatment services
- Young Fathers Program
- Victim Reconciliation Services

Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP)

The Repeat Offender Prevention Program is a multi-disciplinary collaboration with community-based programs that provides comprehensive family services, individual treatment, health education, academic instruction, and intensive supervision to first time wards of the juvenile court age 13 through 15½ years and their families. Its partners and services include:

- The Monterey County Office of Education’s Alternative Schools for eligible students offer structured academic instruction to earn school credits.
- Community Human Services offers counseling drug and alcohol youth and family with opportunities to attend Super Teens and Strengthening Families classes.
- Monterey County Health Department provides a part time nurse to address the needs of the youth and offers referrals as necessary. Monterey County Behavioral Health Department offers the services of a social worker to address the well being of program youth. Referred services include:
 - Alcoholics Anonymous
 - Families in Control Program (English and Spanish)
 - Narcotics Anonymous
 - Planned Parenthood Wellness Group
 - Second Chance Program
 - Sports and Recreation Programs through the Silver Star Youth Program
 - Sunrise House substance abuse and YATV programs
 - The Power of Words class for parents
 - Victim Impact Class
 - Young Fathers Program

— www.co.monterey.ca.us/probation/youth_center.html

RESERVATION FORM

February 2010 General Meeting

WHEN:

February 10, 2010, 12 noon

WHERE:

Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey, CA

COST: \$18.00 per person**DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS:**

Friday, February 5, 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.

Please clip this coupon and mail it with your dues to:

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

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.

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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Mailing Address

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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

February 2010

February 3, Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:30 P.M.*Natural Resources Committee*
Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: George Riley, 645-9914**February 10, Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:30 P.M.***General Meeting:*
"Rancho Cielo Youth Campus"
Elks Lodge, Monterey

Contact: Lorita Fisher, 375-8301

February 17, Wednesday, 12:30 P.M.*Program Planning Meeting*
Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: Dennis Mar, 372-9388**February 24, Wednesday, 2:00 P.M.***Board Meeting, Mariposa Hall, Monterey*
Contact: Dennis Mar. 372-9388



Monterey Peninsula *VOTER*
Published nine 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



LUNCH AND LEARN WITH THE LEAGUE

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

TOPIC: Rancho Cielo Youth Campus

SPEAKER: Susie Brusa, Executive Director, Rancho Cielo

Rancho Cielo Youth Campus is a unique environment for at-risk and disadvantaged youth. It serves a human service need that is not found elsewhere in the tri-county area. In addition, the campus provides a service to students whom in the recent past were allowed to fall through the cracks or, worse, fall deep into the juvenile justice system. The mission of Rancho Cielo Youth Campus is to motivate and support youth who face multiple risks to gain the skills, self-esteem, and confidence they need to be accountable, competent, and responsible citizens of their community.

LOCATION: Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey

The \$18 hot lunch 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.