



League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula



VOTER



March 2010, Volume 82, No. 6

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Next Generation

On the afternoon of the February 10 general meeting, some of us went from there to the memorial service for longtime member Martha Norton. At the service we listened to friends describe Martha's community and political activities. Seemingly, everyone there had been taken by Martha to walk precincts.

Martha did more than her part. In the future, will there be people with the same dedication to the community? Where will the people come from to fill her shoes, literally? Fortunately, I got an encouraging glimpse of that new cohort of political activists.

The organizations Leadership Monterey Peninsula and Leadership Salinas Valley organized a four evening seminar for people interested in running for political office. The course was planned for 40 people. But interest was so high that the class began with an enrollment of 50.

The financial contributors, which included LWVMP, were invited to make some welcoming remarks to the attendees. I used my three minutes first to explain what a man was doing as a president of a local League of Women Voters and then to make a pitch for participating in candidates' forums and putting candidate information onto the Smart Voter web site.

The League provided more than financial support. Two of the people who developed the seminar curriculum, Carmelita Garcia and Robin Tokmakian, are also League members.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is in action. When you get a call about serving on the board or other committee, please give it serious consideration. If you are interested, don't wait for the telephone ring. Contact the committee chair Melanie Billig at 626-3826 or HBillig@sbcglobal.net or any other of the committee members: Anne Bell, Janet Brennan, Barbara Bass Evans, or Harriet Mitteldorf.

By joining the board or a committee, you will be a leader in an organization that has effect. I know this because I am cornered occasionally by opponents of the League. It is not that they oppose a League stand. (That's fine. Anyone is free to disagree with the League.) It's that they invariably declare that the League should stay out of the issues. Why do they want the League to leave the arena? Because they know the League has clout. The public listens to the League.

This coming year, the board will be enlarged to include two directors-at-large. We are looking for people who have not served on the board before. Each will serve for a year.

These directors-at-large will be full voting board members. But they will not have any portfolio responsibilities. The idea is that new members can learn how the board works while bringing new perspectives. They will learn about the different League jobs and whether they want to take one on. It is not expected that after a year a director-at-large will take a board job. But they will be much better prepared if they do so.

DENNIS MAR

The LWVMP

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DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Vice President, Admin.

Vacant

Secretary

Mary Margaret DeBartolo
625-1968

MaryM5535@yahoo.com

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Appointed Positions

Executive Committee

Bev Bean, Janet Brennan,
Dennis Mar, Marilyn Maxner,
and Jeanne Melaugh

Luncheon Logistics Chair

Lorita Fisher 375-8301

GLFisher@redshift.com

Video Webmaster

Bob Evans 372-8323

BobEvans13@me.com

March Luncheon Meeting

Speaker: *Bruce Delgado,
Mayor of the City of Marina*

Topic: *“A Vision for the Future of Marina”*

When: *Noon, March 10, 2010*

Where: *Monterey Elks Club*

The topic should really be “A Vision for the Future of Marina (and the Rest of Us, too)”.

Marina is no longer “that place you drive through on the way to Salinas.” The Marina is the gateway to the Monterey Peninsula.

In the past several years, it has approved over 4,400 residential units. With the change in market conditions, the City is reconsidering the design of one of its major projects.

The relationship of the proposed light rail system and transit-oriented development is also on the City’s agenda.

Marina is home to the Marina Coast Water District which is planning a major desalination facility to provide water for growth on the former Fort Ord and the Monterey Peninsula. Understanding how these issues intersect will help us plan for our future.

Bruce Delgado was one of the leaders of the successful citizen initiative to establish Urban Limits for the City of Marine—the only city in the County to have adopted urban limit lines. He was elected to the Marina City Council in 2000 and served until 2004. He was elected Mayor in 2008. Bruce is a botanist for the Bureau of Land Management.

Donations

In memory of Martha Norton:

Karin Strasser Kauffman
Sandra Smith

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

MARINA FACTS AND FIGURES

As of the census of 2000, there were:

- 25,101 people,
- 6,745 households, and
- 4,809 families residing in the city

The population density was 2,869.8 people per square mile. There were 8,537 housing units at an average density of 976.0 per square mile. The racial makeup of the city was:

- 43.74% White,
- 14.34% African American,
- 0.74% Native American,
- 16.27% Asian,
- 2.10% Pacific Islander,
- 14.81% from other races, and
- 7.99% from two or more races.
- Hispanic or Latino of any race were 23.19% of the population.

There were 6,745 households out of which:

- 35.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them,
- 51.1% were married couples living together, 15.1% had a female householder with no husband present, and
- 28.7% were non-families.

21.4% of all households were made up of individuals and 6.4% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.79 and the average family size was 3.25.

In the city the population was spread out with:

- 21.3% under the age of 18,
- 14.0% from 18 to 24,
- 38.4% from 25 to 44, 18.4% from 45 to 64, and
- 7.9% who were 65 years of age or older.

The median age was 32 years. For every 100 females there were 133.8 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 142.3 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$43,000, and the median income for a family was \$46,139. Males had a median income of \$43,139 versus \$26,679 for females.

The per capita income for the city was \$18,860. 13.1% of the population and 10.7% of families were below the poverty line. Out of the total people living in poverty, 18.1% are under the age of 18 and 5.9% are 65 or older.

—www.wikipedia.com

In Memory of League Member Martha Norton

Martha was always there—at the card table during Farmer's Market registering voters, in front of the Post Office gathering signatures for coastal initiatives, at every party function, at every campaign for political office, arranging candidates' forums, passing out flyers, teaching and encouraging anyone who wanted to improve our government or run for office.

She was a retired chemistry teacher, a bridge player, a League member, a C-Span viewer, and proud of her family.

Martha even had a special way of parking. We called it the "Martha park." In a car festooned with

party bumper stickers she would head straight into the space at a 45 degree angle, drive up over the curb, and then let the car drop back into to the intended space. Martha would emerge classically dressed with the latest election button on her jacket. That was Martha, direct, efficient, knew all the angles, and always ready "to drop" into the next task.

Martha knew everyone. We could never say "no" to Martha because she worked so hard. The least we could do was to give her a several hours. We were honored and proud to be on Martha's call list. She is missed. I think of her every time I go to the Monterey Post Office.

—*Barbara Bass Evans*



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS

JUNE 8, 2010, STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

✓ SUPPORT PROPOSITION 15

California Fair Elections Act.

Huge amounts of money are raised in California politics, giving special interests unfair influence and access and shutting out the rest of us. Proposition 15 takes an important step toward getting politicians out of the fundraising game. It is a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. Only candidates showing broad support and agreeing to strict reporting and spending limits would receive funding. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future. The pilot program would be funded primarily by fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers, with no taxpayer dollars going to candidates. Proposition 15 will allow elected officials to start focusing on the public's interest, instead of returning political favors to their campaign donors.

✗ OPPOSE PROPOSITION 16

New Two-thirds Vote Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers.

Proposition 16 would amend the state Constitution to require a city or special district that provides electricity to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the voters before expanding its service territory or providing new service to its customers if public funds are involved. Two-thirds approval by the voters would also be required for a local government to buy power at wholesale prices to sell to residents through a Community Choice Aggregation program. The LWVC opposes this supermajority vote requirement that would allow a minority to prevent decisions on electric supply favored by a majority of the people to be served. PG&E, the largest for-profit utility in the state, is the sole sponsor of Prop 16 and would benefit from this measure's stifling of competition. The impact would be fewer choices and thus higher rates for consumers, and fewer opportunities for local agencies to offer renewable green power.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT.

PROPOSITION 13: Property Tax: New Construction Exclusion: Seismic Retrofitting

The League generally supports regular, frequent reappraisals for property tax purposes, and this measure excludes certain construction from reappraisal. However, considering the public safety benefit of encouraging seismic retrofits, we remain neutral on this proposal.

PROPOSITION 14: Top-Two Candidate Open Primary

PROPOSITION 17: Auto Insurance Pricing

Because League positions do not cover these issues, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 8.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA • 1107 9th STREET, SUITE 3000 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
916-442-7215 • Fax 916-442-7362 • Email: lwvc@lwvc.org • Web site: www.lwvc.org

LUNCHEON LOGISTICS

Lorita Fisher would like people to only make luncheon reservations by contacting her at 375-8301 or GLFisher@redshift.com rather than mail in checks...so please just pay at the door. But PLEASE still make a reservation if you plan to

attend so that there are enough meals provided. Also, if you make a reservation and do not attend, please mail us a check for \$18. We have to pay for your meal even if you are not there.

MARCH 2010 GENERAL MEETING

WHEN:

March 10, 2010, 12 noon

WHERE:

Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey, CA

COST: \$18.00 per person

DEADLINE FOR PHONE OR EMAIL RESERVATIONS:

Friday, February 5, 2006

FOR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT LORITA FISHER AT:

375-8301 or

GLFisher@redshift.com

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 for 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

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 March 2010

March 3, Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:30 P.M.

Natural Resources Committee

Mariposa Hall, Monterey

Contact: George Riley, 645-9914

March 10, Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:30 P.M.

General Meeting:

"A Vision for the City of Marina"

Elks Lodge, Monterey

Contact: Lorita Fisher, 375-8301

March 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, March 10, 2010

TOPIC: A Vision for the City of Marina

SPEAKER: Bruce Delgado

Bruce Delgado, Mayor of the City of Marina, will address "A Vision for the Future of Marina." The City is the gateway to the Monterey Peninsula. In the past several years, it has approved over 4,400 residential units. With the change in market conditions, the City is reconsidering the design of one of its major projects. The relationship of the proposed light rail system and transit-oriented development is also on the City's agenda. Marina is home to the Marina Coast Water District, which is planning a major desalination facility to provide water for growth on the former Fort Ord and the Monterey Peninsula. Understanding how these issues intersect will help us plan for our future.

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.