

## *The PRESIDENT'S Message*

### **The Expected and the Unexpected**

I can't say that this last year went by fast: it required effort. I knew about the time it took to host public meetings, chair board meetings, and conduct League business. What I didn't realize was the volume of reading necessary. Both National and State Leagues turn out weekly reports which must be read and digested.

On the local level, knowledgeable members keep the LWVMP on top of issues involving land use, energy policy, health, planning, water resources, voting, and housing, to name a few. This deep understanding is one reason the League is so effective. I don't have to be an expert, but I need to read our analyses and responses—you're never done reading!

### **Good Advice**

The Executive Committee (ExComm) acts when action is needed at that moment. ExComm actions must be ratified at the next meeting of the full board (that's what the bylaws state).

But beyond that, of value to me was the ExComm's advice and counsel. I was fortunate to have had a committee comprised of former League Presidents: **Beverly Bean, Janet Brennan, Marilyn Maxner,** and **Jeanne Melaugh**. They gave me, as a first-year President, the confidence that I was going in the right direction.

### **Strong Board Members**

Three 2009-2010 board members concluded their service with significant contributions. Thankfully, Secretary **Mary M. DeBartolo** is continuing her

work during elections. Outgoing Voters Service Director **Candy Ingram** organized an in-studio, all-television candidates' forum for County Treasurer for the June primary. This highly successful event was conducted at **Access Monterey Peninsula** and was the LWVMP's first foray into this format. **Jeanne Melaugh** has filled more League roles than can be counted; last year she edited **The Voter** and managed our website. Jeanne moved from the Monterey Peninsula to be closer to family. We are envious of the next local League she joins because they will be getting such a capable leader.

### **Local League Connections**

Jump started by **Arlene Guest** of the **LWV Salinas Valley**, Leagues in the 15th District (Santa Cruz, Southwest Santa Clara County, Monterey Peninsula, Salinas Valley, San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria Valley) organized a proposal for a candidates' forum on radio.

Although the candidates didn't take up our proposal, the effort was worth it as local Leagues organized themselves for ad-hoc projects. Everything was done by e-mail, and we got to know each other and establish contacts for the future. The more we practice organizing across geographic areas, the more nimble the League becomes.

Locally, the Monterey Peninsula and the Salinas Valley Leagues are attending each other's board meetings: **Jane DiGirolamo** represents LWVSV at our meetings, while **Beverly Bean, George Riley,** and I take turns attending Salinas Valley's.

[DennisRMar3@yahoo.com](mailto:DennisRMar3@yahoo.com)

# LWVMP

## Officers

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trillerud@mindspring.com

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carole@dawsonmonterey.com

## Appointed Positions

### Executive Committee

Beverly Bean, Janet Brennan,  
Dennis Mar, George Riley,  
Robin Tokmakian

### Luncheon Logistics

Lorita Fisher 375-8301  
GLFisher@redshift.com

### Video Webmaster

Bob Evans 372-8323  
BobEvans13@me.com

# Help the League Inform Voters this Fall "Voters Service Committee Needs Volunteers"

A Voters Service Committee is being organized for the fall election season. The Committee will help organize candidates' forums, distribute the **Easy Voter Guide**, promote the **Smart Voter** and be available to present pros and cons on the ballot measures.

We have already agreed to co-sponsor a candidates' forum on September 14 for the Pacific Grove City Council election. We now need timers, question sorters and moderators for this and other forums to follow.

This is a League activity that does not involve a great deal of time while still contributing to one of the most important League functions. Join other members who have already signed on to help inform voters this fall: the **next meeting is September 15, 2010** starting at noon at Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue, Monterey CA 93940.

To join the Committee, contact Janet Brennan, LWVMP Voters Service Director, [janetb@montereybay.com](mailto:janetb@montereybay.com) or 659-2090.

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**Voters and Candidates:  
Visit Smart Voter**

Smart Voter ([www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)) by LWV of California  
**Education Fund** is where smart voters go for  
comprehensive nonpartisan information about candidates,  
and where smart candidates publish information  
on themselves directly to voters (e.g., biographies,  
endorsements, top priorities, position papers).

Look for links on local contests: relevant news, articles by  
online local media, and other nonpartisan information.

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**The League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula  
Monterey Peninsula VOTER**

published monthly September through May  
**Submission deadline: second Saturday of the month.**  
Send e-articles information and/or updates to Regina Doyle,  
LWVMP Voter Editor [ReginaDoyle@aol.com](mailto:ReginaDoyle@aol.com)  
or mail to: LWVMP, PO Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942-1995

General Meeting, Wednesday, September 8, 2010  
“**Sharon Farr: Caring for our Parents**”

by Linda Agerbak, LWVMP Public Relations Director

**A**ging well requires preparation and planning so that we can make choices about what we want and have better control over what happens. It has been **Sharon Farr’s** mission to help families plan and prepare for aging well. Ms Farr is the Director of **Partners for Transitions** ([www.partnersfortransitions.com](http://www.partnersfortransitions.com)), a consulting service on aging which works with seniors and their families to plan for later life.

With people living longer and longer, many adults are finding themselves caring for their even older parents. One in four older people will develop dementia, yet live for years or decades longer.

Although each of us would like to think we can handle these and other issues on aging with dignity and foresight, most of us are unprepared until suddenly a phone call summons adult children.

One such person recalled, “*Within 24 hours of the phone call, we began careening from crisis to crisis, grasping for solutions to problems we only half understood, all the while being undermined*

*by a medical and financial system that was as woefully unprepared to manage long-term care as we were. It would be at once the most difficult and the most rewarding thing I have done in my life.*”

This is a topic of major concern to our community, with public policy and family dimensions. It raises many questions such as: What resources are available to support the process of aging? How can families come together to plan ahead? How do we help parents who don’t really want to be helped? Where can we find household help for the aging? What happens when seniors can no longer drive safely? What happens when our parents can no longer live in their own homes? How are our choices shaped by our and our parents finances? What elderly care options and services are available here in the Monterey Bay area? How can we improve services? What is the role of government and at what level?

Ms Farr will be prepared to help answer these and many other questions.

[linda@agerbak.com](mailto:linda@agerbak.com)

**LWVMP General Meeting Luncheons**

(2nd Wednesdays of month)

Lunch begins 12 noon / Presentation starts 12:30

\$20 per person for luncheon

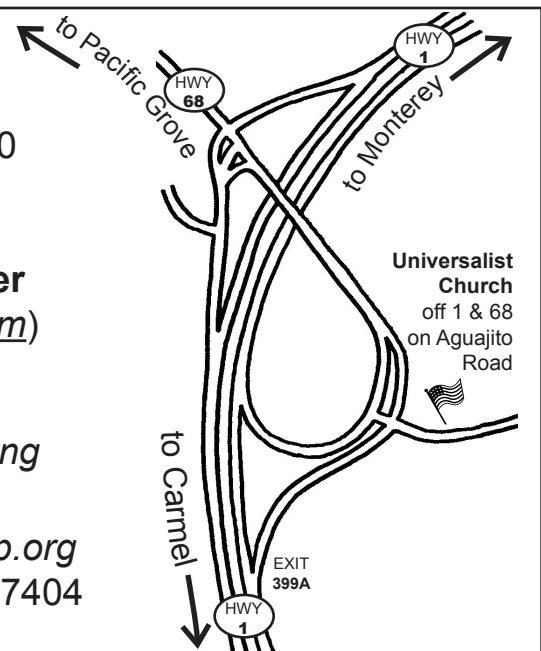
(salad buffet, beverage, dessert)

**Reservations are a must! Contact Lorita Fisher**  
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail [GLFisher@redshift.com](mailto:GLFisher@redshift.com))

Payments at the door.

*LWVMP General Luncheon Meetings are moving  
from the Elks Lodge in Monterey to*

**Unitarian Universalist Church** <http://uucmp.org>  
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



## Report: National LWVUS Convention June 2010

# “Score One for the Local League”

*by George Riley, Natural Resources Director*

The LWV Monterey Peninsula’s campaign for transparency as a guiding principle in electronic voting systems was successful at the **National League of Women Voter’s United States Convention**, held June 12 to 14 in Atlanta, Georgia. Transparency has been added to existing League principles of security, accuracy, recountability and handicap accessibility, which were developed after irregularities in the 2000, 2004 and 2006 elections.

Confidence in election results has been undermined after widespread privatization of vote tabulation whereby secret proprietary electronic software is used to process ballots and produce results.

### **Security Vulnerabilities, Accuracy Failures**

The California Secretary of State conducted a full review of electronic systems in 2007 and documented security vulnerabilities and accuracy failures, mainly in touch screen systems.

Ohio conducted a similar review and came to similar conclusions. Additional university and “think tank” studies have also called attention to the lack of reliability with touch screen systems, noting that all electronics are vulnerable to manipulation and corruption.

### **Champions of Openness, Transparency**

The League of Women Voters has long been a champion of openness and transparency in government throughout its 90-year history. It has also advocated for voting rights for all, and that all votes be counted.

Our local League merged these issues and began advocating for transparency at the National Convention in 2008, but failed. We tried again at the State Convention in 2009 and succeeded (to read a complete copy of the resolution adopted by

delegates at that convention, go to [www.lwvmp.org/newsletter/v200906transparency.html](http://www.lwvmp.org/newsletter/v200906transparency.html)).

Now has come this big win at LWVUS in 2010. Though we have a long way to go, this is a critical step: the lack of public access to the tabulating process means that the vendor has to be trusted without definite verification or audit provisions. This lack of transparency is felt to undermine the very principles of democracy as we know it.

### **National, State and Local Comparisons**

Nationally, many jurisdictions use touch screen electronic systems without any way to conduct recounts in close or challenged elections, and without audit verification requirements.

In California, many jurisdictions use voter-marked paper ballots that are processed by electronic tabulators. These use secret proprietary electronic software that has some vulnerability to outside hacking and insider manipulation: paper ballots and required audits would add a level of protection.

In Monterey County, both touch screen and optical scan systems are used. The primary use of optical scan allows greater safeguards. The touch screen systems are the most highly criticized and are used only marginally here.

### **Thanks to LWVMP Team**

Our hardworking team at the Convention included **Beverly Bean** of Corral de Tierra (LWVMP Government Director), **Amy Anderson** of Carmel Valley, and **George Riley** of Monterey (LWVMP Natural Resources Director). Other League members who contributed to our success and have also worked for years on this issue, were **Janet Brennan** (LWVMP Voter Service Director), and fellow LWVMP Members **Nancy Pratt**, **Sylvia Shih**, and **Valerie Lane**.

[GeorgeRiley@hotmail.com](mailto:GeorgeRiley@hotmail.com)

## September 2010 Program Calendar

### Natural Resources Committee

September 1, noon to 1:30pm  
(first Wednesdays of the month)  
Mariposa Hall, Monterey  
Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

### General Luncheon Meeting

September 8, noon to 1:30pm  
(second Wednesdays of the month)  
Unitarian Universalist Church  
Junction Hwys 1 & 68, 490 Aguajito Road  
Contact: Lorita Fisher, 375-8301

### Voters Service Committee

September 15, noon to 1:30pm  
(third Wednesdays of the month)  
Mariposa Hall, Monterey  
Contact: Janet Brennan, 659-2090

### Board Meeting

September 22, 1pm to 2:30pm  
(fourth Wednesdays of the month)  
Mariposa Hall, Monterey  
Contact: Dennis Mar, 372-9388

## League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula

### Office / Board Meetings

Mariposa Hall  
801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving)  
New Monterey CA 93940

### Mailing Address

PO Box 1995, Monterey CA 93942

### Telephone / e-Mail

(831) 648-8683 [LWVMPca@yahoo.com](mailto:LWVMPca@yahoo.com)

### Website

[www.lwvmp.org](http://www.lwvmp.org)

### Luncheon Meetings

Unitarian Universalist Church  
490 Aguajito Road, Carmel CA 93923  
<http://uucmp.org>



Join the League of  
Women Voters of the  
Monterey Peninsula



*Any person of voting age, male or female,  
may be a member of the League!*

### Renew Your LWVMP Membership

*Thank you to members who recently renewed.*

*Timely responses are appreciated as they  
help keep our local chapter strong.*

*Renewal letter and form gone astray?  
Uncertain of your membership due date?  
Wish to make a donation?  
Want to become a member?*

Use the form below or contact:  
*Tamara Harris, Membership Director*  
[TBHarris146@aol.com](mailto:TBHarris146@aol.com) or 649-3865

Checks payable to **LWVMP**  
Mail to **LWVMP PO Box 1995**  
**Monterey CA 93942**

### Membership Levels

- \$250 Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 75 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 50 Single membership
- \$ 25 Young persons or non-US citizens

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons

*Because we lobby on public policy issues,  
membership dues & contributions to LWVMP  
are not tax deductible. However, donations  
to the League of Women Voters of California  
Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.*



**Monterey Peninsula VOTER**

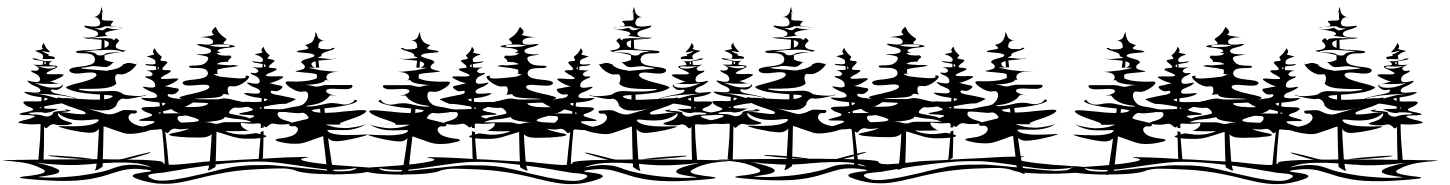
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## **Lunch & Learn with the League**

**Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2010: 12 noon lunch / 12:30 speaker**

**Topic: "Caring for Our Parents"**

**Speaker: Ms Sharon Farr, Partners for Transitions**

One in four people will develop dementia as they age, yet live for years or decades beyond diagnosis. What are the care options? How can families come together to plan ahead? How should we help our parents? What services are available? What is the role of government and at what levels? Ms Farr will address these and other related issues.

**NEW LUNCHEON LOCATION:** Starting with this first lunch, the League moves its luncheons to **Unitarian Universalist Church**, 490 Aguajito Road, off junction of Hwy 1 and Hwy 68. Catering by Jeffrey's (see page 3 for reservations, cost, map, directions, more details).