

LWV[®] League of Women Voters *of the* Monterey Peninsula

VOTER

February 2011, Volume 85, Number 5

General Meeting, Wednesday, February 9, 2011

“Should the Community Buy CalAm?”

Lunch & Learn with the League this month will host a forum of speakers in favor of a public agency buying out the California American Water service.

A new coalition of business and other interests has formed, called **WaterPlus**. It is proposing the reorganization of the **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District** under state law in order to set in motion the buy-out effort.

Long-time water activist and LWVMP Natural Resources Committee Director **George Riley** will moderate the forum, allowing about 15 minutes for each speaker, with audience Question and Answer session at the end.

Adam Scow will give an overview of other efforts

in California. **Barbara Sprenger** will review the successful experience in Felton. **Ron Weitzman** will present the activities of WaterPlus.

Adam Scow is the California Campaigns Director at **Food & Water Watch**, developing strategy for local, state, and national campaigns. He currently serves on the planning committee for the annual California Water Policy Conference, sponsored by Public Officials for Water and Environment Reform. Previously, Adam researched California irrigation subsidies and water transfers in Washington DC.

Barbara Sprenger, CEO of **Satellite Telework Centers**, was a leader in **Felton FLOW's** (Friends of Locally Owned Water) six-year effort to gain public ownership of Felton's water system from CalAm. Barbara, a long-time local activist in social

LWVMP General Meeting Luncheon

(General Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month)

Lunch begins 12 noon / Presentation starts 12:30

\$20 per person for lunch *(salad buffet, beverage, dessert)*

Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Lorita Fisher

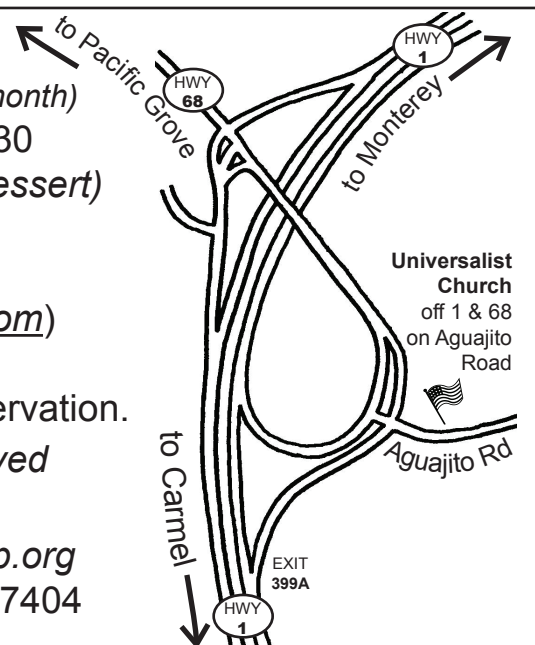
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)

Please pay at the door for lunch.

Lecture at 12:30 is **FREE** and does not require a reservation.

LWVMP General Luncheon Meetings have moved from the Elks Lodge in Monterey to

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



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Appointed Positions

Executive Committee

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

Luncheon Logistics

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justice issues, focused on the strategy, negotiations and financial aspects of the process. She holds a Bachelor's Degree with Highest Honors in Economics from UCSC and a Master of Public Policy degree from the **Panetta Institute** and **CSUMB**.

Ron Weitzman is one of the original members of **Monterey FLOW** that began advocating for public ownership almost seven years ago. He is a founder of the **Monterey Bay Symphony**, and its unpaid executive director for more than 25 years. He has been on the **Salvation Army Advisory Board** since 1988, and has been active on the boards of other local non-profit organizations and local activist groups for many years. A retired professor of psychology, he has degrees from Stanford and Princeton universities.

Linda Agerbak linda@agerbak.com

February 2011

Program Calendar

Natural Resources Committee

February 2, noon to 1:30pm

(first Wednesday of each month)

Guest Speaker: Steve Shimek, Monterey Coastkeepers

Mariposa Hall, Monterey

Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

General Luncheon Meeting

February 9, noon to 1:30pm

(second Wednesday

of each month)

Unitarian Universalist Church

Junction Hwys 1 & 68, 490 Aguajito Road

Contact: Lorita Fisher, 375-8301

LWVMP Board Meeting

February 23, 1pm to 2:30pm

Mariposa Hall, Monterey

Contact: Dennis Mar, 372-9388

DennisRMar3@yahoo

The League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula

The Voter is published monthly September through May

Deadline: second Saturday of the month

Send e-articles information and/or updates to Regina Doyle,

LWVMP Voter Editor ReginaDoyle@aol.com

or mail to: LWVMP, PO Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942-1995

The PRESIDENT'S Message

When asked about my prior experience as a member of the nominating committee, I like to say that it reminded me of when I was single and still dating because it involved calling a lot of women who then would say "no."

I'm not on the committee this year, so please say "yes" when **Melanie Billig, Barbara Bass Evans, Janet Brennan** or **Tamara Harris** call you this. As the nominating committee, they must assemble the slate of board members plus committees such as budget, audit, investment, and nominating itself.

To continue its good works, the League needs an energetic and knowledgeable board. While the League has its own way of talking ("studies," "positions," "political but nonpartisan") and its own way of doing things, all this can be learned. The state and national League websites have lots of instructional and reference documents on how to do all of the League jobs. Plus the LWVMP is fortunate to have many members with decades of

League experience to mentor new board members.

If you can't wait for a phone call, submit your name to the nominating committee for consideration (lwwmpca@yahoo.com), or submit the name of someone who should be a League leader with a few sentences explaining why. You'll have a chance to learn, to grow, to challenge yourself. Plus you get to hear political gossip that makes reading the newspaper a lot more fun after you have heard the inside story!

Program Planning Meeting Update

On January 26 we agreed on the following as LWVMP suggestions to the state League for its 2011-13 program: (1) survey the local state Leagues for their views of the California budget priorities; (2) keep advocating for single payer health insurance; (3) continue to advocate on climate change issues based on League positions; and (4) continue to monitor events regarding state water projects.

We also proposed topics for advocacy and education for the 2011-12 program: (1) evaluation of privatization of local water distribution based on present positions; (2) continue to follow the development of local water supplies; (3) concentrate on recruitment of new League members; and (4) take an in-depth look at local K-12 education. No new study was put forward. The local program will be voted on at the May annual meeting.

Dennis Mar

DennisRMar3@yahoo.com



Welcome New Members



We appreciate members who actively recruit new members whenever possible! Please welcome our newest members, and add them to your handbook:

Nancy Sand

197 Del Mesa, Carmel CA 93923
phone 624-4111

Ann Smallwood

PO Box BB, Pacific Grove CA 93950
BoxBB@comcast.net / phone 595-1727

Mary Ann Snedeker

2845 Ribera Road, Carmel CA 93923
phone 620-1367

Tamara Harris

TBHarris146@aol.com or 649-3865

THE LEAGUE REMEMBERS



Jessie Bray

Longtime League member Jessie Bray, 86, passed away in December 2010. Jessie spent 25 years as a public school teacher in Pacific Grove. In 1997, she was elected to the Pacific Grove Unified School District board. She was successfully re-elected and was serving her fourth term at the time of her death.



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Lunch & Learn with the League

Date: **Wednesday, February 9, 2011: 12 noon lunch / 12:30 panel**

Topic: ***"Should the Community Buy the CalAm Water System?"***

Moderator: **George Riley**
LWVMP Natural Resources Committee Director

Forum moderated by George Riley featuring speakers in favor of a public agency buy-out of California American Water. **Adam Scow** will give an overview of other efforts in California. **Barbara Sprenger** will review the successful experience in Felton. **Ron Weitzman** will present the activities of WaterPlus.

See page 1 for speaker's profiles and details for attending the lecture & luncheon.