

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

VOTER

May 2011, Volume 83, Number 8

84th Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 11 **County Supervisor Parker on Social Issues**

Jane Parker serves as Monterey's **Fourth District County Supervisor**. Her priorities include responsible land-use policy, equitable healthcare access, high quality healthcare services, water and mass transit solutions, increased accountability and customer service for County services, and an emphasis on preventive policy as it pertains to social and law enforcement issues.

In her first two years, Supervisor Parker has initiated changes in the culture of County government. Board Agenda packets are now posted online increasing transparency in staff recommendations to the Board. The Board conducted and established an ongoing process for formal performance evaluations of the CAO and other direct reports for the first time ever. A portion of District 4 (Salinas) was selected as one of eight cities by the White House to participate in

a National Forum on Violence Prevention bringing much needed federal resources to bear. The County is now one of four in the state to claim a progressive Lactation Accommodation policy for its employees.

Parker grew up in Monterey (her father was the education beat reporter for the Monterey Herald and her mother was a local community activist and writer), graduated from **Monterey HS**, attended **UC Santa Cruz**, earned her BA in International Economics from the **Monterey Institute of International Studies**.

Prior to her election to Supervisor, Parker worked as Associate Director of the **ACTION Council of Monterey County** improving the quality of life for residents through the pursuit of economic
(continued on next page)

LWVMP 84th Annual Meeting and Luncheon - May 11, 2011

Annual Meeting starts at 11:15 am

Lunch 12:20pm / Supervisor Parker's Update 12:45pm

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

Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Tamara Harris

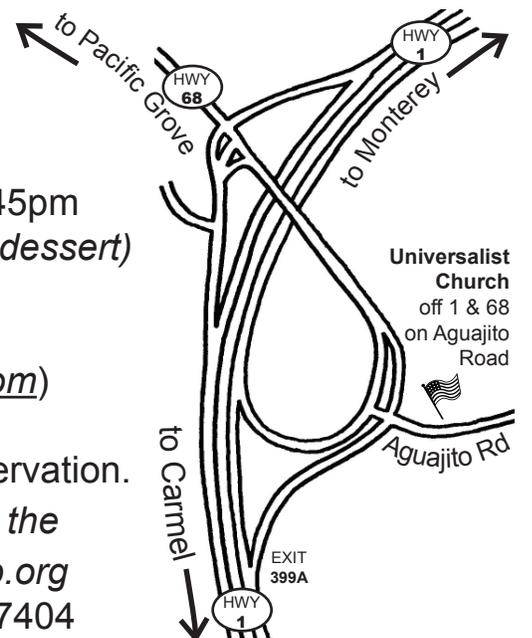
(phone 649-3865 or e-mail TBHarris146@aol.com)

Please pay at the door for lunch.

Lecture at 12:45 is **FREE** and does not require a reservation.

LWVMP General Luncheon Meetings are held at the

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



LWVMP

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and social justice. She worked to develop affordable housing solutions, to re-design the Child Welfare System working with the County's **Department of Social and Employment Services**, and to develop a strong financial base of support for **Girls Incorporated of the Central Coast**.



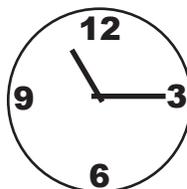
Before this, Parker served for over five years as **Vice President of Development for Planned Parenthood, Mar Monte**, the largest Planned Parenthood in the country, raising over \$5 million annually to support essential family, health, reproductive education counselling and medical services.

Prior to that, Parker founded and managed a healthy meal preparation service designed to serve working families and homebound seniors, building her understanding of the importance of neighborhood-serving businesses.

Parker was elected to the **Monterey Peninsula College Board of Trustees** from 1999-2003. She advocated for quality education—fighting cuts proposed by Sacramento, and leading efforts to attract and retain quality faculty and teaching staff. MPC continued to provide outstanding, affordable education protecting student services despite the state budget crisis. As Chair, she brought more responsible and accountable leadership. Parker continues to support MPC as a member of the **Presidents Circle of the Monterey Peninsula College Foundation Board of Directors**.

Parker is a member of the LWV Monterey Peninsula. She has also served as **President of the Charitable Council of Monterey; Volunteer Director for the Carmel Bach Festival; Board President of the Unitarian Universalist Church; on the Executive Committee of the Democratic Club of the Monterey Peninsula; and a President of the MPC Foundation Board of Directors**. She organized county-wide community engagement summits in 1997 and 2007, and served on the **Monterey County Social Services Commission** from 1994 to 2000, presiding as chair for two years.

Janet Brennan JanetB@montereybay.com



REMEMBER: May 11
Annual Meeting starts at 11:15am
*(45 minutes earlier than regular
Lunch & Learn events)*

The *PRESIDENT'S* Message

With Gratitude

The League of Women Voters has a long and respected history. But its presence in the future is required. Our democratic institutions require protection and enhancement. Who else is so dedicated to these tasks but the League?

My last President's Message is the easiest one to write because I get to thank everyone for their efforts in making this year so successful. In particular, I am fortunate to have had a dynamic board.

The League has credibility because we study before we speak. Fortunately, we have board members **George Riley, Beverly Bean, Janet Brennan,** and **Robin Tokmakian** who stay on top of city and county issues. Their knowledge and experience help them decode those EIRs and jargon-filled government reports. It can be an onerous task that few others have the persistence for.

Thank you to **Anne Bell** for preparing the LWVMP letters on state and national issues. **Linda Agerbak** wrote press releases that became op-ed articles in the local newspaper. **Regina Doyle** brought a new format to The VOTER and photographs, too! **Jean Donnelly's** board minutes approach the level of literature.

Marilyn Maxner not only managed our finances but also kept my writings grammatically correct.

Tamara Harris has kept pursuing new members one lead at a time. How could some people be indifferent to handwritten notes?

Carl Pohlhammer took over Social Policy when no one else would.

Janet Brennan had a goal of increasing the League's voter service activities in Seaside. She succeeded with two successful candidates' forums: one for the Seaside City Council and

another for an elected Director of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), Division 1: Seaside.

The job description of the Director-at-Large only includes attending the board meetings and participating in the discussions. However, both **Vicki Gilfix** and **Carole Dawson**, volunteered to take on various significant tasks during the year.

I am also grateful for the wise counsel of our LWV of California Advisor **Jackie Jacobberger**. Her knowledge was won from hard experience.

If all goes as proposed by the nominating committee at the May 11 Annual Meeting, I hope to be the first to congratulate **Beverly Bean** as our new incoming President, and to wish her good luck!

Candidates Forum

As previously mentioned, in April our Voters Service Director **Janet Brennan** arranged a forum for candidates hoping to represent Seaside on the MPWMD. The LWVMP partnered with **Sustainable Seaside** (thank you, **Kay Cline**) to sponsor and publicize the proceedings. The forum was well attended.

Thank you to the League members who worked at the event: moderator **Marilyn Maxner**, timer **Philomene Smith**, question sorters **Candy Ingram** and **Cynthia Hall**, and of course, organizer **Janet Brennan**.

Dennis Mar DennisMar3@yahoo.com

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

Local Government Will Have to Do More with Less

Our April “Lunch & Learn with the League” hosted a discussion with local officials on whether Monterey Peninsula city services should be consolidated. The current budget wrangles in Sacramento and Washington bring home the painful reality that at every level of government we need to do more with less. Our local forum revealed that, in the process of change, opportunities as well as dangers abound for our local cities and districts.

The Local Budget Squeeze is Permanent

This is according to **Kate McKenna, Executive Officer of LAFCO** (Local Area Formation Commission of Monterey County), the independent body tasked with supervising the formation and effectiveness of local government. In response, cities and districts are going to have to find ways to streamline their services.

Cost-saving benefits can be significant. Staffing and overheads can be saved, training can be improved, services can become more effective and timely, best practices can be introduced, performance can be measured and compared.

Perhaps most significantly, the process of change requires elected officials and local staff to re-think the nature of the services they offer. What is the local entity’s core mission? What services can be spun off? How can local entities co-operate? And how can the public help shape those decisions?

How Many City Managers Do We Need?

The six Peninsula cities together make up a population of only 105,000 people. “That’s just a medium sized city,” pointed out **Tom Frutchey, Pacific Grove’s City Manager**. He quipped, “We don’t really need six city managers.” In response, a member of the audience suggested getting rid of Sand City altogether: “Seaside could use some of Sand City’s commercial tax income!”

Seriously, collaboration can yield big benefits, the panel agreed, so long as agreements are carefully tailored to meet local needs, and stakeholders

are fully educated about the process. There’s an emerging smorgasbord of forms and techniques for local agencies to choose from, such as contracting services out, forming a joint entity, or simply sharing staff and resources.

The City of Monterey, for example, provides contractual services such as fire protection (to Carmel, Pacific Grove, and Sand City), building inspection (to Del Rey Oaks, PG, and Sand City), and street sweeping (to Sand City and the Airport District). Carmel and PG share some traffic and animal control services.

Joint powers agreements were needed to create various wastewater districts and sanitation services. Mutual aid agreements bring together most districts and cities for fire protection. Several agencies share the services of one attorney; Monterey and PG share a library computer system. Actual consolidations, in which LAFCO plays a formal role, have swept separate small fire service areas into one larger department, such as Cypress, based at the mouth of Carmel Valley.

Sharing Services is not Limited to Cities

CalFire provides contractual fire-fighting services to Carmel Highlands, Pebble Beach and several other fire districts within the county. According to local **CalFire Chief Rick Hutchinson**, each service is tailored to the special requirements of the district, whether they be rural all-volunteer districts, or urban staffed services. The process of tailoring such fire contracts typically takes about eight months of consultation and negotiation.

Fairness, Transparency are Issues

For any agreement, it’s important to take time to get it right, emphasized **Alvin Edwards, Seaside City Councilmember** and former Fire Captain. Staff need time to educate themselves for change. Employees often fear being made to work differently, and fairness is an issue: who benefits? Transparency is also important: citizens and employees need to see and discuss the draft contract before the city signs it. “Education is

the key," Edwards repeated. The City of Carmel, for example, will be holding a series of public workshops on the options for contracting out its fire services.

Both Frutchev and Edwards cautioned that such changes can be arduous. They take time and expense to establish. The services to be provided and the costs to be shared have to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. At present, according to Frutchev, the state offers no assistance or incentives, only barriers.

Staff may lose their jobs, noted Edwards, and remaining salaries may be squeezed. More fundamentally, it is difficult to shift entrenched interests; sometimes a key staff person has to retire before change can move forward. As city manager, Frutchev noted that the local entity risks losing control or even its identity, as for example when a contract specifies that disagreements must be solved through external binding arbitration.

Start Small and Involve Stakeholders

Edwards suggested that cities might best start with contracting out minor support services as a means to test out concepts and procedures, and build momentum in low-risk areas. Frutchev named five design principles: shape the service agreement to meet the needs of constituents; all parties should benefit; each party should retain policy control over its own area; and all stakeholders should be involved in the process of change.

LAFCO Helping to Smooth the Path of Change

McKenna said that LAFCO was developing its role as advisor: "We provide informal assistance to help our local agencies find creative new ways to provide core services in this time of fiscal stress."

McKenna also organizes several professional development courses a year throughout California. "In my volunteer capacity with CALAFCO [the state-level organization formed from county LAFCOs], I learn about statewide trends and bring home some good ideas." Several of their recent courses have focused on sharing of fire services. Fire chiefs and LAFCO staff present case studies of models of

May 2011 Program Calendar

Natural Resources Committee

May 4, noon to 1:30pm
(first Wednesday of each month)
Mariposa Hall
801 Lighthouse, Monterey
Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

LWVMP 84th Annual Meeting and Luncheon

May 11, 11:15am* to 1:30pm
(second Wednesday of each month)
Unitarian Universalist Church
Junction Hwys 1 & 68
490 Aguajito Road
Contact: **Tamara Harris**, 649-3865

**Regular Lunch & Learn meetings
begin at 12 noon: early start time
due to Annual Meeting*

LWVMP Board Meeting: No Board Meeting in May

Next meeting August 2011
Watch this space in the August
issue of The VOTER
Contact: **Beverly Bean**, 484-2451
BeverlyGB@gmail.com

shared service arrangements in California.

Counties themselves are also beginning to step up to the plate. McKenna noted that Orange County provides a "dating service" that brings local agencies together to share services.

Going Forward

It will be interesting to scrutinize how local government gains experience and invent strategies to handle these challenges. Is this a future study area for the League?

Linda Agerbak linda@agerbak.com

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

COMMUNICATIONS

March 2011 ***Favor Televised Board Meetings of the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD)***

LWVMP wrote to the MCWD board of directors urging that it televise its meetings on a public access channel for increased transparency and as a convenience for people affected by their decisions. *The Board has so far rejected televising its meetings.*

April 2011 ***Support Placing State Tax Proposals on a Ballot***

LWVMP wrote to local **State Senator Sam Blakeslee** in favor of placing Governor Brown's proposed tax measures on a statewide ballot as propositions.

April 2011 ***Oppose Current Corral de Tierra Shopping Village Proposal***

LWVMP and LWVSV wrote to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in opposition to proposed Shopping Village. Objections included an unproven groundwater recharge scheme, traffic congestion that already exceeds county level service standards, and development outside of designated Community or Rural Areas. *The Board rejected the current proposal indicating it might approve a smaller project.*

April 2011 ***Question County Redistricting Criteria***

LWVMP and LWVSV wrote to the Monterey County with serious concerns (see complete text at right). *The Committee supported existing criteria with only two opposed.*

Complete text of all above communications can be found at www.lwvmp.org/recent.html.

NEW VIDEO

A video of the January general meeting panel, ***"Should the Community Buy CalAm?"*** is available at www.lwvmp.org/lunch_videos.html, or on DVD by request at LWVMPca@yahoo.com or phone (831) 648-8683.

CARMEL ELECTION OUTSOURCING

Conduct of the April 13, 2010 Carmel municipal election was outsourced to a private firm. While not unusual in other locales, our interest was piqued because outsourcing had not been seen here before. LWVMP formed a committee to observe the election. The committee's final report is at www.lwvmp.org/Carmel_election_rpt.pdf.

**TO: The Monterey County Citizens
Redistricting Advisory Committee Members**

**FROM: The League of Women Voters of the
Monterey Peninsula and the League of Women
Voters of the Salinas Valley**

We have serious concerns about the criteria being used in the local redistricting process. According to the Monterey County Redistricting website (www.co.monterey.ca.us/redistricting), one of the criteria for redistricting is *"Protection of incumbents and other 'political' factors."*

The national League of Women Voters and the California League have both studied redistricting and developed standards for any redistricting plan. One major point is that the *"...plan should not allow the goal of protecting incumbents..."*

Furthermore, paragraph (e) of Section 2 of Article XXI of the California Constitution states that the *"... place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered in the creation of a map. Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring or discriminating against an incumbent, political candidates, or political party."*

We believe that inclusion of the "protection of incumbents" criterion is inconsistent with the unbiased drawing of supervisorial districts. We urge you to remove "the protection of incumbency and other political factors" from your list of redistricting criteria.

**Janet Brennan JanetB@montereybay.com
with Dennis Mar DennisRMar3@yahoo.com**

LWV Monterey Peninsula Special Members

*Thank you to the following supporters
who renewed their membership during
2010-2011 at levels above the basic rate.*



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(\$200)

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Karin Strasser Kauffman



Other Donation Membership Level
Bessie Linvill

*If we inadvertently missed anyone,
please let us know!*

Dennis Mar DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Lilyan Eldred

*died in March 2011, shortly before her
92nd birthday. One publication described
her as one of the iconic names in the local
community.*

*She served multiple terms on the board of
trustees of Monterey Peninsula College
among many other activities. Lilyan was
President of the Community College
League of California in 1977.*

*Lilyan was honored as a **Life Member of
the League of Women Voters**, signifying
more than 50 years of membership. She was
LWVMP President in 1957-1959.*

*Lilyan was predeceased by her husband
Judge Richard Eldred and is survived by
three children and one grandchild.*

Membership Renewal News

Membership renewal letters will be mailed
sometime in early July. As always, we
encourage a prompt response as this
makes our job so much more satisfying and less
stressful.

Have a wonderful summer and when you receive
your letter, put it on the top of your stack of bills to
attend to.

Thank You!
Tamara Harris
LWVMP Membership Director

LWVC Convention May 13-15, 2011
Crowne Plaza Hotel Ventura, California
450 E Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001

Hotel discounts, registration, and more
details at [http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/aboutlwvc/
convention/2011/index.html](http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/aboutlwvc/convention/2011/index.html) or contact
Trudy Jarratt, tjarratt@lwvc.org



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84th Annual Meeting and Lunch & Learn with the League

Date: **Wednesday, May 11, 2011**

Times: **11:15 Registration / 11:20 LWVMP Annual Meeting
12:20pm Luncheon / 12:45 Speaker - Supervisor Jane Parker**

Topic: ***“An Update on Social Issues in Monterey County”***

Speaker: Directly following the **LWVMP Annual Meeting** (*for which we need a quorum, so please attend if you can*), **4th District Supervisor Jane Parker** will provide an update on land-use, healthcare, water, mass transit, and other issues of importance to Monterey County.

*Check your separate “Call to Annual Meeting” mailer for detailed agenda; see page 1 for venue and speaker details. PLEASE NOTE: for lunch reservations contact **Tamara Harris** (temporary substitute for Lorita Fisher).*