

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

VOTER

November 2011, Volume 84, Number 3

General Meeting, Wednesday, November 9, 2011

The Federal Government's Role in Education: How it Impacts Monterey County

Our power panel of dedicated education specialists will tackle the timely topic of Public Education. Speakers will be **Dr. William Barr**, Former Monterey County Superintendent of Schools; **Ms. Toy Bryant**, Parent, School Volunteer and Retired Teacher; and **Mr. Curtis Parker**, Retired Teacher, Principal, and current MPUSD Board Member (see page 4 for speaker's biographies).

In the context of public education, the panel will explore: What does it look like today? What has changed over the years? What does it mean for our students, families and the community?

Issues under deliberation will include: funding and equity (for special needs, disadvantaged students, English language learners, early childhood education), and mandates vs. funding; where is the

money, and who is in control (local, state, or federal government); testing (common core standards and assessments); what we should make of **No Child Left Behind** (President G. W. Bush) and **Race to the Top** (President B. Obama); where Charter Public Schools, vouchers, and corporate influence come in to the debate; and what has happened to our local curriculum. Join us for what will be an informative and spirited discussion.

Our presentation coincides with the **LWVUS Public Education Study**. Immediately following the above panel our League will conduct the first half of its **Discussion and Consensus Meeting**.

We encourage all members to stay and participate!

Resa Foss resa.foss@sbcglobal.net

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

(hot/cold entrée, salads, beverages, dessert)

Reservations are a must for lunch!

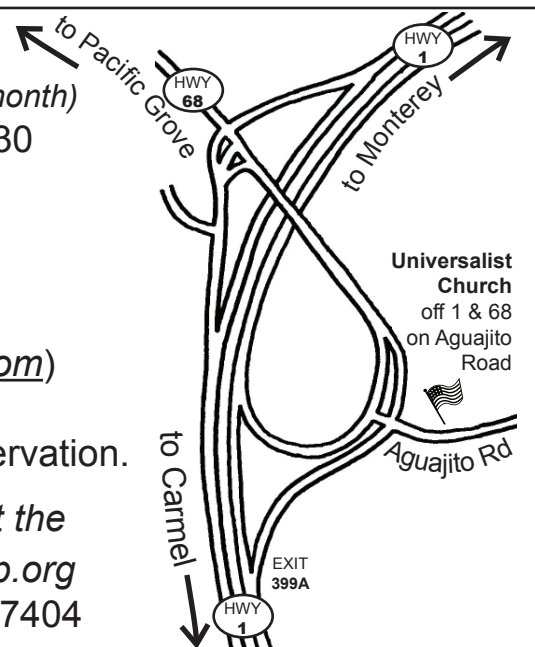
Contact Lorita Fisher

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



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The PRESIDENT'S Message

In November, my thoughts turn to elections. Election integrity was a priority for the LWVMP for several years as we studied the dangers of paperless voting and then undertook a campaign to educate the membership, first at the state and then the national level.

Our efforts resulted in adding transparency to the **LWVUS SARA Resolution** requiring secure, accurate, recountable and accessible voting systems.

In the LWV hierarchy, resolutions are at the bottom of the “to do” list and LWVUS has chosen to focus on opposing voter ID requirements rather than involving itself in the problems associated with the casting and counting of ballots. The resolution does allow state and local Leagues to advocate against paperless voting.

What is the State of the States with Regard to Paperless Voting?

There have been some improvements since the election integrity committee gave a talk on this topic in 2006. As of October 2010, VerifiedVoting.org reports that 25 percent of voters will use paperless electronic voting machines on Election Day. In eleven states, paperless voting accounts for most or all ballots.

Six states have paperless e-voting statewide: DE, GA, LA, MD, NJ, and SC. In five states, paperless voting counts for a heavy majority of votes: IN, PA, TX, TN, and VA. In KS, at least 40 percent of the vote is paperless. Four states are now mostly or entirely paperless but have enacted laws to end the use of direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines: MD, NJ, TN, and VA. Audits of machine tallies are essential to verify elections but only half the states conduct manual count audits. Some planned audits are weak, such as in Florida, where the audit will be conducted after the election is certified. New Mexico has strengthened its audit law, and California is planning robust risk-limiting audit pilots.

The Latest Threat to Election Integrity is Internet Voting

Thirty-two states and DC allow military and overseas voters to return their ballots via the internet. States such as MI, OH, and VA prohibit insecure electronic return of voted ballots. These states serve their military and overseas citizens by electronically transmitting blank ballots to voters and extending the deadline for accepting ballots from abroad.

In October 2010, DC's pilot Internet voting system was hacked by University of Michigan researchers who changed votes on submitted ballots, discovered voters' personal information—and

who observed users in Iran and China attempting to break into the system.

It is of great concern to me that election systems throughout the United States are not yet secure, accurate, recountable or transparent.

Beverly Bean BeverlyGB@gmail.com

The Voter: League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula

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November 2011

Program Calendar

Natural Resources Committee



THURSDAY, November 10

noon to 1:00pm*

(second Thursday of each month)

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090

JanetB@montereybay.com

**(ends early due to Education Consensus Meeting beginning at 1:00pm same room)*

Education Consensus Meeting



THURSDAY, November 10

1:00pm to 2:30pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **Vicki Gilfix**, 622-9510

gilfix@att.net

LWVMP Board Meeting



WEDNESDAY, November 16

(early due to Thanksgiving)

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **Beverly Bean**, 484-2451

BeverlyGB@gmail.com

LWVMP FORUM: THE FUTURE OF FORA

Should the Fort Ord Reuse Authority be Extended?

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula
Thursday, December 1, 2011 from 9:30 to noon
Oldemeyer Center, 986 Hilby Avenue, Seaside CA 93955-5308

FORA will sunset on January 1, 2014. The forum will provide background information on FORA's history and responsibilities and provide perspectives on its future.

- Welcome* **Beverly Bean**, President, LWVMP
- Introduction* **Bill Monning**, California Assemblymember 27th District
- History* **Alex Arago** (representing **Sam Farr**, California Congressman 17th District)
- Issues* **Michael Houlemard Jr.**, Executive Officer, FORA



Perspectives
A panel including **Dave Potter**, Monterey County Supervisor 5th District; **Kristi Markey**, Chief of Staff for **Jane Parker**, Monterey County Supervisor 4th District; **Bruce Delgado**, Mayor, City of Marina; **Felix Bachofner**, Mayor, City of Seaside (invited); **Gail Morton**, Member ForU (Fort Ord Recreation Users); and **Tom Moore**, Sierra Club Ventana Chapter, will provide their respective perspectives on FORA.

Questions from the audience will be welcome: all speakers to participate in answers. Questions? Contact Janet Brennan, JanetB@montereybay.com

PUBLIC EDUCATION SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Here's a bit of background on the distinguished panelists who will speak at our November 9th General Meeting (see page 1).

Dr. William (Bill) Barr

In his 44-year professional career, Barr has been dedicated to school, district, and county leadership focusing on school reform and educational change. He remains a leader in educational administration, particularly where student populations are diverse in culture, language, and social-economic status. During an attempted State takeover of the MPUSD District, Barr was noted for saying *"Not on my watch."*

Retired in 2007 from a 16-year career as the elected Monterey County Superintendent of Schools, Barr has since been: instructor/advisor to MA candidates (San Jose State U) and PhD candidates (UC Berkeley); financial advisor to various school districts; and advisor to Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Ms Toy Bryant

Bryant is a retired teacher, a school volunteer, and a member of LWVMP. She graduated from San Jose State in 1956, briefly taught Kindergarten in the Alum Rock School District, then moved to Monterey with her late husband Bill (also a teacher and administrator in MPUSD for 22 years).

Bryant was a substitute teacher for MPUSD, took a break before her first child was born, went back to substitute teaching, and finally became a full-time MPUSD kindergarten teacher in 1976, where she worked until retirement in 2003. During that time Bryant was active in the Monterey Bay Teachers Association. She networked with kindergarten teachers to improve working conditions and inform the board and administration about the importance of a positive first year experience for students.

Bryant is a founding member of the Monterey State Historic Park Association (which works with Monterey State Historic Park), serving as president three times and is now its treasurer. In

1984, she became a founding member of the City of Monterey's Historic Preservation Committee, serving as its chair for four years. Somewhere along the way Bryant was also appointed to the Planning Commission, where she has served for 22 years! She currently volunteers at Olson School (where she taught for 24 years).

Bryant has two daughters, one an MPUSD teacher and one with a degree in exotic animal training and management. Bryant says, *"Retirement is wonderful as it gives me the freedom to travel to the east coast to visit my grandchildren."*

Mr. Curtis (Curt) Parker

Parker was first appointed Trustee to the MPUSD School Board in May, 2009. Before then, he worked primarily as a teacher (1st through 8th) in the MPUSD for 34 years. Four of those years were as an assistant or school principal at Patton, Ord Terrace, and Bay View, all elementary schools. He says, *"Once a teacher, always a teacher."*

Parker served with Dr. Jim Harrison, former MPUSD Superintendent, on the Fort Ord Task Force Education Committee (responsible for recommendations for educational reuse of the Fort) when the Fort closed. The committee recommended a state university be approached about a possible site and proposed a scientific research park. Both ideas were among the first projects to be accepted and developed.

Parker is on the board of the Monterey County Community Human Services (mental health and substance abuse counseling and recovery; and outreach, counseling and transitional housing for run-away and homeless youth). In addition to serving on the Education Coalition for Monterey County, Parker is also a Lay Leader and Head Usher in his church.

Parker's wife, Lori, just retired after 30 years of service as an MPUSD elementary teacher. They have four children and five grandchildren.

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Lunch & Learn with the League

Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport

Date: **Wednesday, November 9, 2011**

Time: **12 noon lunch / 12:30 panel speakers**

Topic: **The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: How It Impacts Monterey County**

Panel Speakers: **Bill Barr, former Monterey County Superintendent of Schools; Toy Bryant, Teacher and LWVMP Member; Curt Parker, Teacher, Principal and MPUSD Board Member.**

The panel of education specialists will discuss Public Education: What does it look like today? What has changed over the years? What does it mean for our students, families and the community?

The topic coincides with the current U.S. League's Public Education Study and the LWVMP consensus meeting, the first half of which will follow this Lunch & Learn meeting.

See page 1 for luncheon venue and details.