



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / January 2015, Volume 87, Number 4

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

**“Pesticides: Impacts on People and Pollinators”**

Community organizer **Mark Weller**, and local beekeeper **Dale Hillard**, will be our speakers. Mark will address recent studies on pesticide use near schools as well as the relationship of pesticides to cancer risks in Monterey County. A new round of air sampling data recently released by state officials shows that hazardous pesticides continue to be found in the air of California’s agricultural regions, including at cancer risk levels in **Salinas** and **Watsonville**. Dale will address the decline in bees and the effects of pesticides on pollinators.

Mark is a community organizer and staff member of **Californian’s for Pesticide Regulations**. He previously worked for 14 years as Projects Director for Monterey Bay based **UNITE HERE Local 483**, organizing community and political support for hospitality workers. Mark has a BA in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego and an MA in Sociology from San Jose State University. He is co author of **Dollars and Votes: How Business Campaign Contributions Subvert Democracy**.

Dale has operated **Hillard Hives & Wasp Removal** since 1981. He specializes in non-pesticide removal and relocation, honey, pollination, and apitherapy. Dale is past president of **LandWatch Monterey County** and is an active member of **Breathe California**.

**Eric Lauritzen, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner**, was invited but was unable to participate due to family illness. **Janet Brennan, [JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)**

**LWVMC January 14, 2014  
Lunch & Learn Meeting**

*(Held on the second Wednesday of the month)*

Lunch 12 noon / Presentation 12:30

\$15 per person for lunch

*(salads, beverages, and dessert provided by Café Athena)*

**Reservations are a must for lunch!**

**Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, 10 January.**

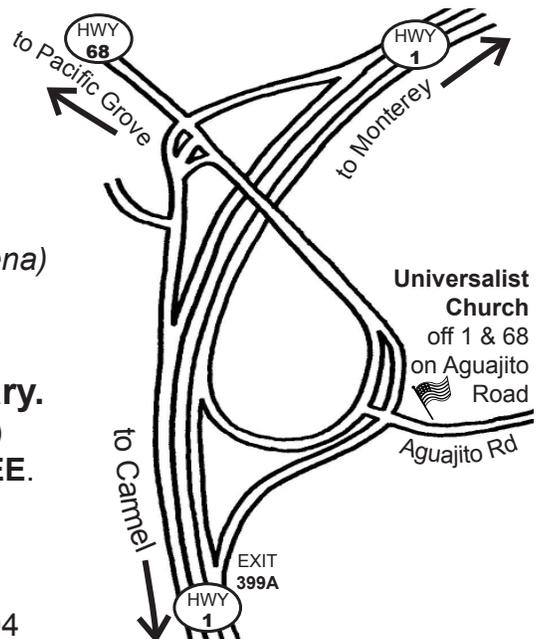
*(phone 375-8301 or e-mail [GLFisher@redshift.com](mailto:GLFisher@redshift.com))*

Pay at the door for lunch: meeting/presentation is **FREE**.

*LWVMC Lunch & Learn Meetings are held at the*

**Unitarian Universalist Church <http://uucmp.org>**

490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404





This is my second time around as President of our local League. I never cease to wonder at how smoothly this all volunteer organization runs. We have a very large sixteen-member Board of Directors—all dedicated and hard working members.

The League is typical of many non-profit organizations. It has bills to pay, audits to prepare, tax forms to file, a website to maintain, emails to answer, membership lists and the handbook to maintain, dues notices to be sent, minutes to be prepared and newsletters to be sent. These tasks are frequently done without any reminders from me or the Board. The silent hands keep working.

These typical activities are in addition to the League program which is not typical of most organizations—it is complex and multifaceted. From action on local, state and national issues, to studies, to voter service, the Board is a busy group. Because of its complexity, the Board has been receiving monthly orientations on various topics from our **State LWV Liaison Jackie Jacobberger** who travels from South San Francisco every month for our Board meetings.

I want to particularly acknowledge one of our more silent and dedicated members, **Dennis Mar**. For years he has administered the day-to-day functions of the League from answering phone calls, picking up mail, sending e-mails, and sending out *The*



**Voter**. In addition to these administrative functions, he is the **Voter Service Director for the Salinas Valley** and organizes members to work at precincts. Plus, he is never far from lending levity at our meetings.

Finally, a note of thanks to another unsung hero **Immediate Past President Beverly Bean** who has for the last few years organized the luncheons and brought serving utensils and other assorted dishes to make our luncheons both successful and affordable. She did this as President and continues on, relieving this President of another task. She has consistently been helped by **Joy Osborne** and other League members who readily step in.



I mention all of this to let you know that without the valuable participation of our Board and many other members, the job as President would be significantly more time-consuming than it is. Thanks to all of you who make the League the valuable organization that it is.

Janet Brennan, [JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)



**WHERE THE ACTION IS:  
LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**



*We sent to following letter to Monterey County Supervisors Dave Potter and Simon Salinas regarding limits on campaign contributions:*

The **League of Women Voters of Monterey County** has reviewed the referral submittal form for preparing an ordinance that provides for campaign contribution limits. The League has supported campaign reform provisions for many years and is pleased that the County will consider campaign limits.

The proposal submitted to County staff includes a limitation on campaign contributions linked to California State contributions. In 2014, those limits would be \$4,100 for a single person, business entity,

committee or PAC and \$8,200 for a small contributor committee.

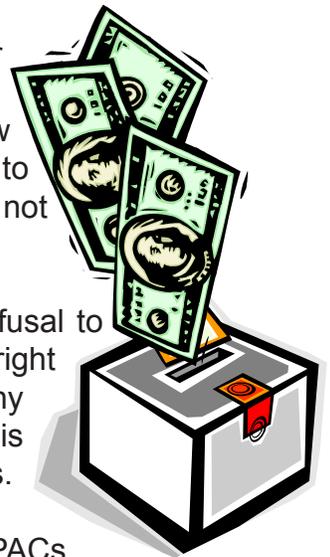
Since the geographic area that must be addressed by State legislators is significantly larger than the county or supervisorial districts, we think limits should be lower than those proposed. **Sonoma and Humbolt Counties** have a \$2,500 and \$1,500 limit, respectively. Several California cities have limits including **Pacific Grove** at \$500, Torrance at \$1,000, **Santa Ana** at \$1,000 and **Irvine** at \$470 per person; and **San Jose** at \$500 for council members and \$1,100 for mayor.

Additionally, we recommend the ordinance include the following provisions: reporting dates; recusal requirements; identification of offices and elections to be covered; enforcement and penalties for failure to comply. While we understand preparation has been referred to County staff, we think citizen participation in developing the ordinance is important. The **City of Pacific Grove** had a citizen committee including a League member that helped in preparing the ordinance later adopted by the City.

***In response to a Call to Action from LWVUS we sent the following letter to the Commissioners of the Federal Election Commission:***

**T**he **Federal Election Commission** must stop the dark money polluting our elections and the so-called “independent” spending by outside groups that is poisoning our political system. The FEC has authority under existing law to require disclosure of election spending and to rigorously define “coordination” to prevent millions of dollars of special interest spending by outside groups that is not really “independent.” Do your duty and enforce the law.

Our American democracy depends on having well-informed voters, and your refusal to require disclosure is undermining our representative democracy. Voters have a right to know who is funding political campaigns—whether it is corporations, wealthy individuals or labor unions. The **Supreme Court** has endorsed disclosure and it is unacceptable that the FEC is failing to restore transparency to political campaigns.



We are all tired of big-money special interests overwhelming our elections. Super PACs and other outside groups are raising and spending unlimited sums, which reached more than \$600 million dollars in 2014.

The rationale that allows this to continue is that the spending is somehow “independent.” But we know that Super PACs and others have many ways to coordinate with candidate campaigns – leading to inevitable corruption. FEC regulations need to rigorously define “coordination” to end the charade of “independent” expenditures.

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy – not big money from secret sources. As long as dark money groups hide their funders and outside special interest groups can spend unlimited amounts behind the mask of “independent” spending, our democratic principles are at risk.

I urge you to restore transparency and enforce robust disclosure rules.

Sincerely Yours,  
**Janet Brennan, President, League of Women Voters of Monterey County**

# NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

## PART 3: PATHS TO CITIZENSHIP

### A League Objective

One of the objectives of the League of Women Voters is to register people to vote. California requires US citizenship, which is based on the **14th Amendment of the US Constitution**:

*“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside...”*

Citizenship is regulated by **Congress** and overseen by the **Department of Homeland Security, US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** ([www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)).

### Immediate Citizenship through Birth

The easiest way to become a citizen is to be born in the United States (the 50 States and the District of Columbia). Citizenship is automatically granted. However, birth in a US Territory (Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam) bestows citizenship on a child if one of the parents is a US citizen and the parent was continuously present in the US or its territories for one year any time before the child was born.



and the one or both of the parents lived in the US or its territories before the birth.

- One of the parents is a citizen and depending on when the baby is born, the US parent must have been in the US or its territories for at least 5 years or 10 years at some time in the parent's life before the birth took place (but 2 of those years had to be before the parent's 14th birthday).

- The child's grandparent is a US citizen, lived in the US for 5 years (but 2 years must have been before the grandparent's 14th birthday). If the grandparent is deceased, the same residential requirements must be met. This option may be used if the child's parent does not meet the residency requirements.

- The child is under 18 or born after 2/27/2001 and one of the parents is a US citizen and the child is currently under 18 and the child resides in the US in the legal and physical custody of the US citizen parent.

- The child is adopted by a US citizen parent and resides legally in the US in the legal and physical custody of the US citizen parent and meets the following conditions after 2/27/2001 but before his 18th birthday (other requirements also apply).

Some restrictions apply to children born in the Panama Canal Zone, Alaska, and Hawaii when they were former US territories. In the 2010 census, there were 308,745,538 people in the US. Of these 267,884,000 were native born or 86.7 percent of the total US population.

### Citizenship for Children Born Overseas of Citizen Parents

After being born in the US, the next easiest way is to be a child of married parents who are citizens but the birth takes place outside the US and its territories. Below are a sampling of various scenarios:

- Both parents are citizens at the time of birth

**Children born out of wedlock** have slightly different requirements. If the mother is the US citizen, then the mother must live in the US for one year at anytime before the birth. If the father is the US citizen, then additional requirements apply—including establishing paternity while the child is under 18 years of age, and agreeing to financially support the child.

### Citizenship through Naturalization

For persons not born in the US and its territories, there is a path to citizenship through naturalization. In general, to qualify you must:

- Be 18 years or older
- Be a permanent resident for a specified

period of time (usually five years)

- Pass a Civics test and an English test (with two opportunities to take the tests)
- Be of good moral character
- Support the Constitution and the United States by taking an oath of allegiance

In the **2010 US Census**, 16,801,000 people were already naturalized citizens or 5.4 percent of the US population. In the year 2012, according to the **Department of Homeland Security**, 757,434 people were naturalized. The leading countries of birth were, in order: Mexico, the Philippines, India, the Dominican Republic, and the People's Republic of China.

### **Naturalization for Military Personnel and Family Members**

Contrary to popular opinion that we have a citizen military, some of the personnel serving in the US Armed Forces are not citizens. Typically their spouses and children are not citizens. Congress has granted these service persons and their families' eligibility for citizenship through naturalization. They may be eligible for expedited and overseas applications unlike other applicants.

Why is citizenship important for the service person? Many jobs in the military require a security clearance and citizenship. Without citizenship, job opportunities in the military are limited.

At the time of recruitment, the recruit must be at a minimum a permanent resident. At present, the recruit may be eligible for naturalization at the end of basic training. The recruit must serve for 5 years and be honorably discharged, otherwise the citizenship will be revoked.

During "peacetime" the requirements include: one-year honorable service, 18 years of age or older, permanent resident at time of exam for naturalization, resided in the US continuously for 30 months out of five years before filing for naturalization. There is an exception if the service person files while still in the service or within six months of separation. Then the residence and physical presence requirements are waived.

During times of "hostilities" (*note: not declared war*), service personnel who serve honorably for any time, even one day, are eligible for naturalization. The other requirements as above apply although the age requirement does not apply. If the service person dies during hostilities, they are eligible for naturalization so long as the application is made within two years of death. The deceased service person will be declared a citizen as of the date of death.

For service persons who are already citizens, their spouses and children who are not citizens may be eligible for naturalization. The military immigrant spouse must meet similar requirements to those required of a spouse of a US citizen. Citizen service persons who have children born overseas may apply for the child's citizenship with similar requirements as a citizen parent above.

How many military personnel became naturalized citizens? Since 2002, 89,095 service persons were granted citizenship, 10,719 of them while serving overseas. 1,898 spouses and 76 minor children were naturalized overseas.

### **Permanent Residence through Family**

Until 1965, people applying to immigrate to America were pooled by country. Each country was assigned a quota. This has been replaced by a family reunification system. This means a visa with eligibility to become permanent residents (getting a "green card"), requires varying amounts of time until application for naturalization, and finally citizenship through naturalization.

The first category is Spouses of US Citizens. Just a marriage license is insufficient. The spouse must be:

- 18 or older
- Married to a US citizen spouse who was a US citizen for the three years the naturalization application was active
- Be a permanent resident continuously for at least three years before applying for naturalization.
- Live in the state for three months before filing

the application

- Be present in the US for at least 18 months out of the three years before applying for naturalization
- Live in the US from the date of application until the time of naturalization.

Other categories are adult US citizens who apply for their unmarried children under the age of 21 (as opposed to those under the age of 18), who apply for their parents, for their unmarried children over the age of 21, for their married children of any age, and for their brothers and sisters.

“Green Card” holders may apply for permanent residence for a spouse and unmarried children. In addition there are special categories for a battered spouse or child of a US citizen, a “K non-immigrant” (fiancé and minor children), a person born to a foreign diplomat in the US, a “V non-immigrant” (spouse of child of a permanent resident who filed before December 21, 2000), or a widow(er) of a US citizen.

Recently the **Supreme Court** ruled that children who turn 21 while in the naturalization process are no longer eligible to apply as part of the family. They must reapply as adults. They will be assigned a new priority number, and thus must go to the “back of the line.” ([www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/12-930\\_4g18.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/12-930_4g18.pdf)).

### **Permanent Residence through a Job**

Employment may be a path to permanent residency, but not necessarily citizenship. Each one of these categories has quotas and each requires a special skill. These jobs are completely different from jobs for temporary non-immigrant workers, such as fashion models, agricultural workers, registered nurses, the foreign press, famous entertainers and artists, religious workers.

### **Permanent Residence through a Job Offer**

You and/or your employer can apply for a “green card” if you are offered permanent employment in the US. You may be overseas or you may be in the US already.

### **Permanent Residence through Self Petition**

You may not need a job offer if you have an extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics. Very few people qualify for this category. Or you may qualify for a “National Interest Waiver.” No employer is needed but you must show you have a specific skill which will serve the national interest. In either case, you may be overseas or you may be in the US already.

### **Permanent Residence through Investment**

Entrepreneurs willing to make an investment in a business in the US and plan to create or preserve 10 permanent full time jobs for qualified US workers. The investment must be \$1 million anywhere in the US, or \$500,000 in an area of high unemployment or a rural area. The spouses and children (who are unmarried and under 21) of these entrepreneurs are also eligible for a green card. There is a cap of 10,000 visas.

### **Permanent Residence through Special categories of Jobs**

A past or current job may make you eligible for a green card: Afghan/Iraqi translator, Iraqi who assisted the US government, NATO-6 non-immigrant, broadcaster, international organization employee, physician national interest waiver, Panama Canal employee, religious worker.

### **Permanent Residence through Refugee or Asylee Status**

A refugee is a person who is outside the US and the US wishes to grant entry on humanitarian grounds. Usually they were persecuted because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or a member of a social group. The refugee is required to apply for a green card within one year of admittance.

An asylee has already arrived in the US seeking asylum because of persecution. The asylee is not required to apply but is encouraged to apply. The asylee must not resettle in another country.

Both must be physically present in the US for at least one year after admittance. Both may have their status revoked for cause. Both can apply for admittance for their spouse and qualifying children.

## Is There a Legal Shortcut?

In rare cases, Congressmen can submit a “private bill” which benefits an immigrant or a group of immigrants or corporate entity. In the past Congressional session of 2011-2013, 85 private bills were submitted and referred to committee. Of these, only seven passed the House of Representatives. And of these, only one passed both the House and the Senate, and was signed into law by the President.

For example, a Nigerian teenager was brought to the US by missionaries for medical treatment for the elephant man disease. By the time he was cured (after seven surgeries and the loss of his eye), he had overstayed his visa. In the meantime he had completed college and was admitted to medical school on the condition that he be a permanent resident. It took almost two years for his private bill to be granted (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/subjects/private-legislation/6278#congress=112>).

## Statistics on Petitions for Permanent Residence

According to the **Congressional Research Service**, 4.4 million petitioned to enter the US legally by the end of 2012—most were a family member of US citizens. 55 percent were a brother or sister, 24 percent were adult children. While these people have been approved for a visa, they were not granted visas to enter the US because the category they fell in was oversubscribed.

1.1 million people became US Permanent Residents in 2011, 65 percent on the basis of family ties, 13 percent because of employment, and 16 percent were refugees and asylees.

## Hurdles to Naturalization

Assuming the applicant meets the naturalization requirements, there are still hurdles to surmount: the money to pay for the application fees (USCIS is funded by the fees not the federal government), collecting the necessary paperwork, transportation to the USCIS office, navigating the USCIS bureaucracy, persistence tracking the case, and being persuasive in the interview.

## National League of Women Voters Position (adopted April 2008)

*“The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimum or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the United States.”*

## Recent Executive Orders on Immigration

In November 2014, **President Obama** announced a series of Executive Orders to deal with illegal immigration.

When announced, the Orders ended deportations for a limited group of illegal immigrants—children who were brought to the US illegally before the age of 16 and arrived before January 1, 2010, and who have lived in the US continuously since then. They expanded the number of persons eligible by now including persons born before June 15, 1981.

Parents of US citizens and legal permanent residents could defer deportation if:

- They lived in the US continuously since January 1, 2010
- Their child was born on or before November 20, 2014
- Were not an “enforcement priority for removal from the US”

The Orders also extend protection from deportation and expand work authorization from 2 years to 3 years. The Orders do not mention eligibility for visas, legal permanent residency, or citizenship for these two groups of people.

## Additional Relief

The Orders offer relief in the form of “provisional waivers of unlawful presence.” In the past, if a US citizen had a spouse or minor children who were in the US illegally for over 180 days, these relatives were required to exit the US and apply for a visa while abroad. In 2013, a program began to grant “provisional waivers of unlawful presence” which the US citizen’s relatives had to apply for before they left the US. The waiver could help shorten the time spent abroad.

## VOTING & HEALTH: 5 REASONS IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

**N**onprofit VOTE whose mission is to help other nonprofits “... *integrate voter engagement into their ongoing activities and services,*” provides a way we can talk to our communities about voting. They ask us to consider the health benefits of voting, which:

**1. Strengthens social ties.** Voting helps to strengthen our social ties, and feeling part of a close-knit society is in turn linked with greater quality of life and longevity.



**2. Is linked with reports of greater health.** People are more likely to self-report “fair” or “poor” health in states where there’s below-average voter turnout.

**3. Is good for mental health.** Among people who are at risk, voting could help to lower stress and even ward off future mental health conditions.

**4. Sets a good example for kids.** Children may not be able to actually cast a ballot, but they can see their parents vote, which could help to open dialogue about issues affecting society today.

**5. Boosts well-being and life satisfaction through political activism.** Being politically active is linked with greater well-being and life satisfaction.

This factsheet is the first in the “***New Benefits of Voting***” Series from Nonprofit VOTE that highlights the benefits of voting for individuals, nonprofit organizations, and their communities. The full series can be found in the **Nonprofit Voter**, [www.nonprofitvote.org](http://www.nonprofitvote.org) and [info@nonprofitvote.org](mailto:info@nonprofitvote.org).

Under the new Executive Orders, the program is expanded to include the spouse, minor children and adult children of US citizens as well as legal permanent residents. The catch is that “extreme hardship” suffered must be proven, and visas must be “available.”

While some illegal immigrants will have protection from deportation for a limited time, there is another category of persons who may qualify for a visa. For foreign investors, researchers, inventors, and skilled foreign workers needed by US businesses, visas will be allocated by a method devised by the Department of State and authorized by Congress. Spouses of some H-1B visa holders will be granted work authorization. Foreign students will have the opportunity to gain “optional practical training”.

In mid-December 2014, *The New York Times* reported that immigration advocacy groups in Los Angeles organized informational sessions providing initial assessments whether the illegal immigrants qualified under President Obama’s Executive Orders ([http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/15/us/politics/undocumented-immigrants-line-up-for-door-opened-by-obama.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/15/us/politics/undocumented-immigrants-line-up-for-door-opened-by-obama.html?_r=0)).

***It is important to note, that the Executive Orders are subject to change: none have been implemented at the time of writing this article.***

USCIS is not accepting any requests or applications at this time. The office warns against immigration scammers who may promise help filling out the new forms. The office has not issued new forms. The scammers may charge fees for their submission of forms to USCIS, promising expedited services. The USCIS does not have expedited services. USCIS estimated that forms for children brought illegally into the US might be available mid-February 2015. Forms for parents of US citizens and legal permanent residents might be available mid-May 2015. For the latest information, check the USCIS website at <http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationaction>.

*This concludes the series “Nation of Immigrants”*  
**Kemay Eoyang, [CKEoyang@msn.com](mailto:CKEoyang@msn.com)**

# MEMBERSHIP MEMO

PLEASE renew your membership now if you haven't yet done so, using the form on this page!

## Welcome New Members

*Regina Gage and Alis Gumbiner*

## Thank You to Our Generous Member Volunteer Donors

*Many dedicated people worked the polls in the last election, then voluntarily donated their poll worker fees to the League. We are very grateful for their generosity!*

## Election Work Donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund

**Diane Cotton \$25 / Mary Ellen Dick \$135 /  
Arlene Guest \$25 / Ann Helms \$25 /  
Dennis Mar \$185**

## Election Work Donations to LWVMC

**Beverly Bean \$135 / Elizabeth Benoit \$25 /  
Brielle Bumba \$135 / Mary DeBartolo \$25 /  
Jean Donnelly \$25 / Robert Evans \$25 /  
Linda Gin \$25 / Alice Glenn \$25 /  
Tamara & Reuben Harris \$50 / Lynn  
Santos \$35 / Candace Ingram \$25 /  
Alison Schwyzer \$25 / Sylvia Shih \$25 /  
Judy Lind & Darold Skerritt \$270 /  
Jeanne Turner \$35 / Heidi Zamzow \$25**

Lisa Hoivik, [LHoivik@comcast.net](mailto:LHoivik@comcast.net)

## LWV EDUCATION ISSUES BLOG

The League of Women Voters Education Team blog promotes the exchange of information on school reform. We do fact-based studies and encourage posts with reference citations that contribute to understanding different views about school choice issues.

Subscribe at <http://lwveducation.com>.  
Members and non-members welcome!

**Sue Legg, LWV Education Coordinator,**  
[smlegg@latam.ufl.edu](mailto:smlegg@latam.ufl.edu)



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

## Renew Your LWVMC Membership.

*If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. 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 new member?*

Use the form below or contact:  
*Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director*  
[LHoivik@comcast.net](mailto:LHoivik@comcast.net) or 375-7765

Checks payable to **LWVMC**  
Mail to **LWVMC PO Box 1995**  
**Monterey, CA 93942**

## Membership Levels

- \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 65 Single membership

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

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

*Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.*

**P**ast Chapter President and current Director-at-Large **Lorita Fisher** first joined the League of Women Voters more than 60 years ago, when her late husband, **Glen**, was earning his PhD at the **University of North Carolina**.



Born 92 years ago in India of missionary parents, Lorita earned her BA degree from Indiana's **Manchester College**, where she met Glen. The couple moved to the Monterey Peninsula at the end of 1984, when Glen became an adjunct professor at the **Monterey Institute of International Studies** and Lorita became what she terms a "professional volunteer."

After Glen graduated, the couple spent 25 years overseas with the US Foreign Service, but "I reconnected with the League when we got back to DC in the late 1960s and 70s—the **League of Montgomery County**," Lorita says. "That chapter was very strong because it was in the capital area and we could influence politics."

That's when Lorita joined our local LWV. She served two stints as President of the chapter, in 1984-7 and in 1996-9, and has been a longtime board member.

The ways in which Lorita exerted her political influence in those days included marching against the Vietnam War, picketing in favor of **Cesar Chavez** and farmworkers, encouraging nuclear disarmament and working with **Suburban Maryland Fair Housing**.

She'll also be remembered for writing and producing parodies of Broadway musicals that were presented at the League's annual meetings. "**The Mayor and I**," "**Voter in the Booth**," "**Annie Gets Our Vote**" and "**East Pacific**" were just a few of her projects.

"We were trying to get blacks into the suburbs," Lorita explains. "What a number of us did is pair up with a black person and answer ads for rentals and purchases of housing. We would go independently and see how we were treated. When we found examples of unfair and unequal treatment, we complained to the county commission."



In addition to her work for LWV, Lorita's also served on the local boards of the **Reproductive Rights Coalition**, **Planned Parenthood**, the **I-HELP** program for homeless men, the **World Affairs Council**, **Gateway Center for the Developmentally Disabled**, the **United Nations Association**, and the **Democratic Women's Club**.

Last month, Lorita received the **35th Annual Baha'i Human Rights Award** in honor of her long and impressive history of working for human rights. And this is not the first local award she's earned—she was recognized as one of **1991's Outstanding Women** by the **Monterey County Commission on the Status of Women** and she received the **Ralph Atkinson Civil Liberties Award** from the local **ACLU**.

Lorita is proud of the League's great reputation and name recognition. However, she believes that non-members often don't understand why the organization works only on non-partisan issues.

"Partisan? No way! Political? You bet!" she says. "We have to get the people to understand there is a difference here."

**Nancy Jacobs**, [PGAuthor@comcast.net](mailto:PGAuthor@comcast.net)



# LWVMC PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING JANUARY 21, 2015:12 NOON, MARIPOSA HALL



**D**o you care about voting? Never miss an election? Then you need to come to this important meeting where we all set the agenda for the upcoming year through the Program Planning process.

You vote because you care about who will be setting our political future: make your voice heard about what you want the future of our League and LWVC to be. We will discuss State and local League policies and positions, including where the League should focus its energy over the next year.

Do you think there should be a particular State or local study? Was there an issue on the ballot this year on which you wished the League had been able to take a stand? What should we focus on?

We'll discuss whether we should have new studies or update one or more positions. It's the start of the grassroots process, and the place for each of us to express opinions. A summary of State League Positions is in your Handbook. LWVMC positions are available at <http://lwvmryco.org>.

Janet Brennan, [JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)

## **League of Women Voters of Monterey County**

**Office / Board Meetings** Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

### ★ **Officers**

#### **President**

Janet Brennan 659-2090  
[JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)

#### **Vice President**

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**January 2015**  
**LWVMC Calendar**



**LWVMC Board Meeting**  
**Monday, 12 January, 5:00pm**  
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey  
Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090  
[JanetB@montereybay.com](mailto:JanetB@montereybay.com)



**Lunch & Learn with the League**  
**Wednesday, 14 January, 12 noon**  
*"Pesticides: Impacts on  
People & Pollinators"*  
(see details on front page)



**Natural Resources Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, 8 January, noon to 1:30pm**  
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey  
Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914  
[GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com](mailto:GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com)

★ ★ **LWVUS POSITION ON** ★ ★  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**

*In preparation for our February 11, 2015  
Lunch & Learn Program on Climate Change,  
the following is the League's position:*



Global climate change is one of the  
most serious threats facing  
our nation and our planet today.

Increasingly severe consequences are  
projected for more people and more regions of  
the world unless we act now—as individuals,  
as communities, and as a nation.

For its part, the League is calling for prompt  
action to cut this country's GHG emissions,  
freeze construction of new coal-fired power  
plants, invest in a new clean energy economy,  
and help the world's poorest countries tackle  
the challenges of climate change.