



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / November 2014, Volume 87, Number 3

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

“Common Core State Standards: What Are They? What Are the Pros and Cons?”

This month’s luncheon speakers are **Dr. Mary White, Associate Superintendent of Educator Services, Monterey County Office of Education**, and **Mr. Paul Karrer, Columnist for *The Salinas Californian* and 5th Grade Teacher, Castroville Elementary School**. They will discuss the pros and cons of the new **Common Core State Standards**.

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are the skills and knowledge (academic standards) students from kindergarten to 12th grade should know at the end of each school year. State departments of education began writing standards, which included academic expectations and assessments, in the 1990’s. In 2001 the **No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)** enacted theories of standard-based education with measurable goals at the federal level. These standards were set by the individual states.

In 1996 **Achieve Inc.** was founded by state governors and corporate leaders (www.achieve.org). In 2004 a report titled “*Ready or Not: Creating a High School Diploma That Counts*,” stated that American high school graduates were not provided with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in college and careers. It also suggested the United States needed more rigorous standards in order for our students to compete with students from other countries.

(continued on next page)

LWVMC November 12, 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)

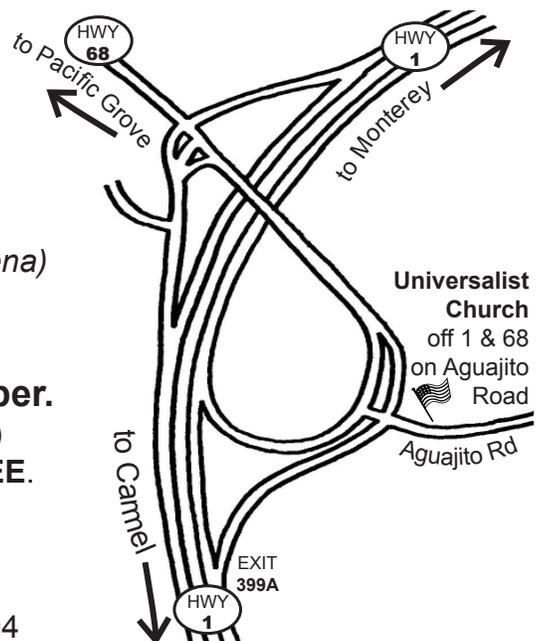
Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, 8 November.

(phone 375-8301 or e-mail 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



(continued from page 1)

The **National Governors Association** and the **Council of Chief State School Officers** began the development of what was to become the Common Core Standards in 2009. **California Assembly Bill 86** (Chapter 48/2013) established the funding for CCSS. Forty-four states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the **Department of Defense Education Activity** voluntarily adopted and are moving forward with the standards (“*What Parents Should Know*,” www.corestandards.org).

The standards themselves are complex, and interesting, and illustrate the depth and breadth of human development. Although the focus is upon what students should know in English language arts and mathematics at the end of each grade, the essential components include more: “*The stated goal of English Language Arts & Literacy In History/Social Studies, Science And Technical Subjects is to ensure that students are college and career ready in literacy no later than the end of high school.*” (http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_ELA%20Standards.pdf).

One cannot escape the implication that students also develop critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate these thoughts verbally and in writing.

For example, if we study the progression of the seventh standard listed under “*Reading Standards for Informational Text K-5*,” we find the appropriate growth each year reflected in the CCS Standards on **Integration of Knowledge and Ideas**:



Kindergarten

With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., what person, place, thing, or idea in the text an illustration depicts).

Grade 1

Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.

Grade 2

Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

Grade 3

Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

Grade 4

Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

Grade 5

Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

Paul Karrer taught in Korea, American Samoa, Western Samoa, England and Connecticut. He was the **2009 North Monterey County LULAC Teacher of the Year**. Karrer has been published in *Teacher Magazine*, *Education Weekly*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *New York Post*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Huffington Post*, and in 14 editions of “**Chicken Soup for the Soul**.” He has been interviewed by **CNN, First Edition**, and **National Public Radio’s “The Story with Dick Gordon.”**

Dr. Mary White has over 25 years of K-12 experience working in the field of **Transformational School Leadership**. White has a record of professional success “turning around” low-performing schools towards high levels of academic achievement based on the principles of results driven leadership. Before working for the County Office of Education, Mary was Principal of **Seaside High School** and worked her magic turning things around there.

Diane Cotton, onceandrosa@gmail.com

In a letter to the Monterey County Planning Commission on the Ferrini Ranch Project, the LWVMC wrote:

The LWV of Monterey County opposes the Ferrini Ranch Project. It is inconsistent with most of the land use planning principles the League supports. These include preservation of open space; planning to perpetuate scenic assets; protection of the physical environment including water quality and supply; development that is within the limits of water supply and road capacity.



“Transportation demands of proposed development shall not exceed an acceptable level of service for existing transportation facilities, unless appropriate increases in capacities are provided for.”

Additionally, we believe that the public need for development should be demonstrated and services required by existing population should be assured; development should be within well-defined and compact urban areas and designed to support higher density.

We believe that priority should be given to infill projects and that development should be contiguous to existing communities rather than leapfrogging. Finally, the League is a strong advocate for development of housing for low and moderate income persons including the dispersal of affordable housing throughout the community including on-site inclusionary housing.

The project does not have a long-term sustainable water supply. It would rely on water from the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin which is already severely overdrafted. Additionally, the already over-extended Salinas Valley Water Project did not plan for water for this project.

The project would exacerbate an already overtaxed transportation system with no mitigation in the foreseeable future. While widening Highway 68 from Toro Park to Coral de Tierra is identified as potential mitigation, the highway project has no source of identified funding until 2035, and that funding depends on development fees. The project violates the 1982 General Plan policy on transportation. Policy 37.2.1 provides:

The project is in a high fire hazard area, further intensifying the problems of an urban/forest interface. County regulations would require extensive vegetation removal further degrading visual impacts and damaging biological resources including wildlife corridors. Further, the EIR failed to address the impacts of vegetation clearing on biological resources.

The project is an extension of urban sprawl requiring use of single family vehicles for shopping, work and recreation. It is the antithesis of policies supporting compact communities. Sprawl further contributes to climate change impacts by increasing GHG emissions from motor vehicles. The project would have a significant impact on climate change and fails to include all feasible mitigation measures to reduce GHG emissions.

There is no need for the project. There are over 10,000 residential units that have been approved countywide but remain unconstructed. Further, where there is a need for affordable housing, one of the preferred alternatives actually reduces the total number of dwelling units at the expense of low and very low housing units. They would be replaced with workforce housing and a contribution of in-lieu fees. As noted previously by County Planning staff, there is no assurance that in-lieu fees will actually result in the construction of housing.

Because we see no mitigation measures available to offset the project’s significant impacts and no public need for the proposed development, we urge the Planning Commission to reject the project.

Sincerely, **Janet Brennan, President**

NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

PART 2: IMMIGRATION IN CALIFORNIA AND MONTEREY COUNTY

Of all the US states, California has more immigrants, legal and illegal, than any other. There are 10 million immigrants in California. One quarter of California's population is foreign born as of 2011. Half of the children in California have at least one immigrant parent. California's immigrants are concentrated in seven counties: Santa Clara, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Mateo, Imperial, Alameda, and Orange.

While some people in California fear the immigrant population will grow exponentially, the fact is that immigration into California has slowed from 2.4 million immigrants in the 1990s to 1.3 million immigrants in the 2000s. As a result, California's overall population growth is slowing. This may possibly affect California's representation in Congress.

Changes in Immigrant Origins

Previously 53 percent of California's immigrants were from Latin America while 37 percent came from Asia. However between 2007 and 2011, the ratio flipped--now half of recent immigrants are from Asia and a third are from Latin America.

Differences in California Immigrants from US-Born Californians

In 2011 81 percent of adult immigrants were of working-age compared to 57 percent of native-born adults (e.g., a third of all working-age adults were immigrants). In addition to being of employable age, immigrants are more likely to actually be in the labor force than native born residents (66 as opposed to 62 percent). However, the median income of immigrant households are 20.9 percent lower than the US-born resident household. And immigrant residents are more likely to live in poverty (18.9 vs 15.7 percent).

Comparing education attainment, California immigrants are more likely not to have completed high school (37 percent) compared to native-born residents (9 percent). The same holds true for

college degree holders---a quarter of California immigrants hold college degrees compared to a third of native-born residents. The exception is immigrants from Asia---almost 60 percent of recent California arrivals had bachelor's or higher degrees (www.ppic.org/main/publication_show.asp?i=258).

Undocumented Immigrants in California

A distinction should be made between documented and undocumented immigrants in California. A documented immigrant in California can be a naturalized US citizen, be a legal permanent resident, or have a visa for legal entry into the US. In California, almost 47 percent of immigrants are naturalized citizens and another 26 percent have some other legal status. About 27 percent of immigrants in California are undocumented according to the **US Department of Homeland Security**.

While there are no accurate direct counts of undocumented/illegal/or unauthorized immigrants, it is estimated that in 2010 there were 2.6 million in California. This is a quarter of all undocumented immigrants in the United States (in comparison California makes up only an eighth of the total US population). In July 2011, the **Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)**, an independent, nonpartisan research foundation, published a report "**Unauthorized Immigrants in California, Estimates for Counties**" (www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=986).

Because the **US Census** does not ask respondents to state their immigration status, the PPIC looked at federal income tax returns. Persons who do not have social security numbers can obtain an Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITINs) which allows unauthorized immigrants to have a financial presence in the US. The ITINs construct a paper trail in the event the unauthorized immigrant attains legal status.



Undocumented immigrants live in every California county with Los Angeles having the highest number of any county. The workforce in California includes 1.85 million undocumented immigrants or 10 percent of the population in California. ***This is the highest concentration of undocumented workers in the US.*** Some industries have a disproportionate ratio of undocumented workers: agriculture, construction, production, services, and transportation/moving services.

Evolving Public Opinion

A January 2013 survey by the PPIC found that 70 percent of Californians across all parties said, "... *illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years should be given a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status.*" (www.ppic.org/content/pubs/atissue/AI_711HJA1.pdf).

Unauthorized Immigrants in Monterey County Monterey County plus San Benito County have the highest percentage of undocumented immigrants of all counties in California

according to the Public Policy Institute of California report of July 2011. The combined population for the two counties is 463,000 with an estimated 62,000 unauthorized immigrants, or 13.5 percent of the population (www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=986).

Challenges for Undocumented Immigrants in Monterey County

Access to Assistance Programs

Before 1996, undocumented immigrants were denied access to federal programs including **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP, or "food stamps"), **Supplemental Security Income** (SSI), **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** (TANF/welfare). After 1996 the number of programs denied was expanded to include: **Medicaid** (except in emergencies), the **Children's Health Insurance Program** (CHIP), **Medicare**, foster care, adoption assistance, the **Child Care and Development Fund**, and **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program**.

Available to undocumented immigrants are short-term emergency disaster assistance, public safety programs (such as child and adult protective services), and public health programs such as immunization and treatment of communicable diseases (www.nilc.org/overview-immeligfedprograms.html).

In Monterey County, undocumented immigrants are not eligible for some public assistance programs such as **CalWORKS** ("welfare"), **CalFRESH**, ("food stamps"), **MediCal** (California's Medicaid), **Monterey County Medical Services Program** (for indigent persons), and unemployment programs. They do have access to child and adult protective services and to emergency hospital care at **Natividad Medical Center** (which is paid for by MediCal). Undocumented immigrant children have access to school breakfast and lunch programs, the special milk program, WIC (supplemental nutrition for women, children, and babies), and summer food programs (www.benefits.gov/benefits/browse-by-state/state/CA).



Access to Health Care

Undocumented immigrants in Monterey County are not eligible for its **Low-Income Health Program** nor the **Indigent Care Program** (although the Indigent Care Program does provide them emergency dental care). Limited health care services are available to undocumented immigrants at **Natividad Hospital**, at clinics, and through the **US Health Department** (www.health-access.org/files/expanding/California%20Uneven%20Safety%20Net%20-%20A%20Survey%20of%20County%20Health%20Care.pdf).

In May 2014, the **UCLA Center for Health Policy Research** published a study in its journal "**Health Affairs**" (www.content.healthaffairs.org/content/33/5/840.abstract). It found that undocumented immigrants see the doctor and visit emergency rooms significantly less often (one in ten) than US citizens and documented immigrants (one in five). ***This is contrary to popular belief that undocumented immigrants are overusing hospital emergency rooms.***

The study also found that undocumented immigrants seek out preventive health services less often than US citizens and documented immigrants. The result is potentially more advanced disease and higher expenditures.

Why are they on the fringes of health care? Because they lack health insurance. And the **Affordable Care Act** prohibits undocumented residents from obtaining health insurance coverage.

Access to Housing

The **Monterey County Housing Authority** has affordable housing, however an application requires that all persons residing in their units must have a social security number. To obtain a number, the applicant must have proof of citizenship or legal immigration status (www.hamonterey.org/index.html).

Access to Education

The **Monterey County Office of Education** has a federally funded program of **Migrant Education** for migrant children in preschool, school, school dropouts, and children who have never been in school. In addition to academic services the program offers health services including vision, dental, hearing, and diabetes screening and care, referrals to local health care providers, health insurance programs, and health awareness workshops (www.montereycoe.org/student-services/migrant).

Undocumented Immigrants and the Law

In 2008 under the **Secure Communities Program**, a federal-state partnership, suspects residing in California arrested on suspicion of a crime were fingerprinted and the fingerprints were sent to the **FBI** and then to **US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**. ICE could ask for an immigration hold upon the suspect's release. This led to tens of thousands of deportations in California. In October 2011 the **California Prisoner Realignment Program** mandated redistribution of jail beds to solve the problem of overcrowded state prisons. This policy had the affect of moving prisoners to county jails

and between county jails. It also reduced ICE immigration holds in some California counties. In Monterey County there were 284 "non-criminal" ICE holds per quarter before realignment went into effect in October 2011. After realignment, there were 134 ICE holds. In October 2013, **Governor Jerry Brown** signed into law a ban on ICE immigration holds of suspects for minor crimes (ICE can still hold suspects of serious and violent felonies).

In February 2014, **Monterey County Sheriff Scott Miller** announced that Deputies would no longer aid ICE agents with immigration holds for minor crimes. In addition, they would no longer stop residents or detain them for suspicion of being undocumented, and would not participate in ICE roundups of residents. Miller said that they would however, continue to assist in emergencies, officer-safety situations, criminal investigations, and deportations for serious crimes (www.ilrc.org/files/documents/monterey_general_order_14-01.pdf).

Not only do undocumented immigrants fear ICE holds, federal law requires that if an undocumented immigrant applies for SSI, public housing, and TANF (welfare), the responsible agency must report the person applying for benefits to the **Department of Homeland Security**. However, relatives or household members who apply on behalf of the undocumented immigrant will not be reported. The definition of "undocumented" requires a formal determination of that status (such as a "Final Order of Deportation"): mere suspicion of status is insufficient (www.nilc.org/overview-immeligfedprograms.html).



Access to Drivers Licenses

At present, undocumented immigrants cannot apply for a **California Driver License**. They therefore cannot legally drive to work, school, the doctor, or anywhere else. **On January 1, 2015, undocumented immigrants will be eligible to apply for a driver's license under a new law signed by Governor Brown in October 2013.** The

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Dear Members: Those of you who have not yet renewed PLEASE do so now! Complete and send in the renewal form on the right.

Welcome New Members

Meg Giberson, Catherine Crockett,
and **Tama Oliver**

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Amy Anderson and **George Somero**
renewed at the \$200 level

Linda Gin and **Doris Auerbach**
renewed at the \$100 level

Susan West gave a \$20 donation to the
Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund

Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net

new law had bipartisan support from Republicans who defied national Republican leaders. The licenses will conform to federal law and differ in appearance to indicate that the driver did not present a birth certificate or social security number. However the California law prohibits discrimination against people with the special license. The special license will only entitle the driver to drive a motor vehicle and does not establish eligibility for employment, voter registration, or public benefits (www.leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClint.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB60).

League of Women Voters Position, April 2008

"In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity."

Kemay Eoyang, CKEoyang@msn.com



**Join the League of
Women Voters of
Monterey County**



*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 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.

Jeanne Turner has been on the League's Board in charge of **Voter Service, Monterey Peninsula** only since this fall, but she hit the ground running. Luckily since she was new to this job, she had the help of **Dennis Mar** who handles **Voter Service, Salinas Valley** and has a great deal of experience. **Janet Brennan** was a huge help as well.



"My duties this fall consisted of organizing and being at four forums on this side of the county—and that ended up taking hours," Jeanne explained. *"An organization will approach the League, requesting that we co-sponsor a forum. That organization secures the venue and usually sets it up, including a sound system. We have a sound system if there is not one available."*

Jeanne contacted candidates to set dates and arranged for League volunteers to handle such duties as moderating, clerking, timing, and sorting questions. Now that she's managed her first election season, Jeanne says she has *"... materials created so that for future forums, I will not have to reinvent the wheel!"*

Two years ago Jeanne joined the League at the urging of past President **Beverly Bean**. *"She's a friend of mine,"* she said. *"I knew her and many others in League and I figured if they're members, I should be too."*

Jeanne is also **Treasurer and Administrative Manager** for **Public Water Now**, the organization behind the unsuccessful "Yes on O" campaign. *"We haven't given up on public water,"* she says. *"We're working on it from other angles,"* including

trying to help elect candidates sympathetic to public water.



Also active in the **Monterey Peace and Justice Center** and the **California Retired Teachers Association**, Jeanne says her hobby is genealogy, *"... when I have time."*

Retired after 39 years as an elementary school teacher, 34 of them in the **Monterey Peninsula Unified School District**, Jeanne became interested in politics relatively late in life. *"I went on my first peace march when I was 60,"* she reports. *"It was an anti-Iraq invasion march in Santa Cruz. I'd never been with such a huge group of people who were so motivated about something and it was exciting to find so many other people who felt the same way I did. That was the beginning of my activity with the Peace and Justice Center."*

Jeanne says her husband, retired dentist **Daniel Turner**, was always *"... the political force in in the family. If I hadn't married him, I probably wouldn't be that politically active."*

The Turners have two daughters now in their thirties. Their older daughter is pursuing a master's degree in Women's Studies at **San Diego State University** and teaching a beginning course in that subject. *"She's finding that some younger women are not very interested in hearing about white privilege,"* Jeanne reports. *"She was taught about this since childhood, mostly by her father."*

The Turners younger daughter is a high school teacher in Sunnyvale, teaching advanced placement American and world history courses.

Perhaps now that her November election duties for the League are finished, Jeanne can find time to pursue her genealogy hobby. Given how politically active she's become however, that's probably pretty unlikely.

Nancy Jacobs, PGAuthor@comcast.net



LWVUS ACTION ALERT: EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN COMMENT DEADLINE EXTENDED



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the deadline for public comment on the proposed regulation to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. The new deadline is December 1. League members interested in supporting the EPA's proposal to set the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants can go to www.LWV.org and click on the "Defending the Environment" button.

Power plants are responsible for 40 percent of the carbon pollution in the US—making them the single largest source of carbon pollution in the country. Unlimited dumping of carbon pollution is the chief cause of climate change. Reducing the amount of carbon pollution from power plants is a life-saving measure that will protect our children, our nation and the world from its devastating effects. We must allow big polluters to continue to drop unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into the air without penalty or regard for public health.

League of Women Voters

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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

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November 2014
LWVMC Meeting Calendar



LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 10 November, 5:00pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

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

JanetB@montereybay.com



Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 12 November, 12 noon
"Common Core Curriculum"
(see details on front page)



Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 13 November, noon to 1:30pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

NO MEETINGS OR VOTER
IN DECEMBER:
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

★ ★ **NOVEMBER 2014** ★ ★
LWV PROPOSITION
RECOMMENDATIONS

NEUTRAL on Proposition 1
"Water Bond."

YES on Proposition 2
"State Budget.
Budget Stabilization Account."

YES on Proposition 47
"Criminal Sentences.
Misdemeanor Penalties."
Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act

LWVC is taking no stand on
Propositions 45, 46, and 48
because League positions do not
cover the issues.

For a copy of the complete *"Pros & Cons*
General Election November 4, 2014," go to:
<http://cavotes.org/vote/pros-cons-pdf>.

Measure Q is at <http://lwvmryco.org>.