



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / January 2016, Volume 88, Number 4

Wednesday, January 13, 2016

“Challenges and Successes in College”

LWVC Study of Public Higher Education in California

Personally, I value my education because it has made a major contribution to my personal and professional life. On a broader scale, education contributes to our country’s social, cultural and financial wellbeing. As **Nelson Mandela** said, “An educated, enlightened and informed population is one of the surest ways of promoting the health of a democracy.” We need to do better at supporting ALL students through their higher education.

Our first Lunch & Learn of 2016 will be presented by a panel of successful young adults who have overcome obstacles on the higher education path and are now helping others do the same. The current **LWV of California study** examines “... access to quality public higher education in California including funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities and barriers to student success.” (*LWVCEF Study of Public Higher Education in California 2014-2016*, p1). Panel members will share experiences of going through the **California Community College** and the **California State University** and **University of California** systems. They will share about their difficulties and how they were able to overcome them.

Panel member, **Jasmine Do** is a graduate of **Seaside High School**. She graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Services from **CSU Fullerton** last year. Fullerton’s **Upward Bound Program** was extremely supportive of Jasmine. She has reciprocated by initiating the **Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) Upward Bound Scholarship**. Jasmine is currently working at MPC with the **TRiO/SSS** program (<http://www.mpc.edu/student-services/specialized-programs/trio-programs>), while also a graduate student at **San Jose State University**. *(continued on page 2)*

LWVMC January 13, 2015 General Meeting

Lunch 12 noon / Presentation 12:30 / \$17 per person for lunch

(main course, salad, beverages, and dessert provided by Café Athena)

Reservations are a must for lunch!

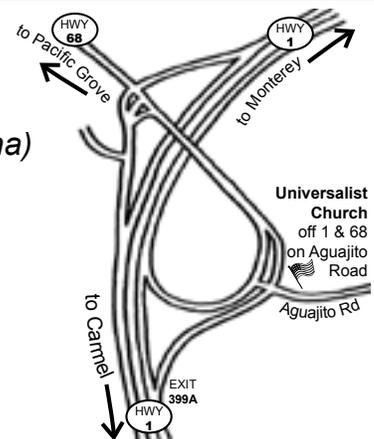
Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, January 9.

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

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

L&L meets at: **Unitarian Universalist Church** <http://uucmp.org>

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



LWVMC MEMBER ALERT! Those who have not renewed by January 15 will become inactive and deleted from our Membership List! Renewal information on page 7.

(Lunch & Learn Panelists, continued from p1)

Panel member, **Curtis Harrison** is also a graduate of **Seaside High School**. Basketball was a focus for Curtis along with his higher education. Curtis attended and played basketball at **MPC** and **Sacramento State University**. Curtis was injured his senior year at Sacramento and finished the following year at **Sonoma State**. He earned his graduate degree in **Communications** at **Sacramento State University**. Curtis now works at MPC as **Categorical Services Coordinator**.

Panel member, **Yuliana Vasquez** received her **AA Degree** from **MPC**. She then transferred to **UC Santa Cruz** to complete her **BA in Sociology** after just two additional years. She continued on to **San Jose State University** to earn her **Master's Degree in Counseling**. She is currently working for The Evans Project a new program at MPC. She advises **English as a Second Language** students and works with **Extended Opportunity Programs & Services**.

Our Panel will provide real life experiences illustrating the issues addressed in the **League of Women Voters of California's Higher Education Study**. **Kemay Eoyang** has written an article about the study, Part One of which starts on the facing page. Part Two will follow in February.

After our **April 2016 Lunch & Learn**, all members will be invited to participate in rating the **Study Consensus Questions** (to be held in a separate room at the **Unitarian Universalist Church**).

Diane Cotton, onceandrosa@gmail.com

Janet Brennan, JanetB@montereybay.com

CONSENSUS MEETING "MONEY IN POLITICS"
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016, 12 NOON
We will respond to Consensus questions from LWVUS on "Money in Politics"
 (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/money-politics-consensus-questions-links-background-papers>)

The questions were distributed at our October General Meeting when guest speaker **Zack Friend** addressed Santa Cruz County's local campaign finance ordinance. At this meeting members will engage in informative and thought-provoking small group discussions. We urge you to read the Consensus questions, the related article on page 8, and to attend!

★ ★ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ★ ★
★ ★ **JANUARY 2016** ★ ★

I hope you had a **Happy New Year**. We are looking forward to some excellent and informative programs in 2016.



Our January meeting will give us our first look at the **State LWV study on Access to Higher Education** with an excellent panel of young people addressing their difficulties of getting into California colleges.

This meeting will be followed up with small group discussions and consensus in April (see column at left). Many thanks to the committee headed up by **Diane Cotton** for working on the study. Other committee members include **Lynn Santos, Kalah Bumba, Jeanne Turner, and Sherry Mermis**.

At our **February Lunch & Learn**, we will hear about the roundabout planned for the intersection of Highway 68 and the Pebble Beach entrance. We also will hear about projects for a sales tax initiative for the fall of 2016.

In **March**, **Mike Weaver** of the **Highway 69 Coalition** will identify all of the projects along this corridor from proposed **Monterey Peninsula Airport** plans to **Ferrini Ranch**.

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

*In a letter to **Eric Lauritzen, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner**, regarding his Staff Report of October 23, 2015 to the Board of Supervisors, we said:*

Based on available data and studies, the LWVMC is concerned that **school children throughout the Salinas Valley are being adversely affected by pesticide applications**.

We have previously communicated with you and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors urging you to establish wider buffer zones than currently required and to assure that school personnel receive adequate notification regarding pending pesticide applications.



Our Board has reviewed the October 23, 2015 staff report and has the following comments and recommendations:

1. We urge you to reconsider your position on local authority to establish local buffer zones based on actions by 14 California counties which have done so. In your review of these counties,

please identify why their actions may or may not be applicable to Monterey County.

2. Please direct us to information on the procedures for notifying school personnel and parents when pesticide applications are to occur adjacent to schools.

3. Because of your concern regarding the adequacy of air monitoring data and its timeliness, we urge you to work with the Monterey Bay Unified APCD to establish an air monitoring network and schedule for monitoring adjacent to schools affected by pending pesticide applications. A joint effort including cost-sharing by your two agencies would result in reliable and timely data.

We look forward to your response.

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

★ ★ **ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION** ★ ★
★ ★ **IN CALIFORNIA: PART ONE** ★ ★

While the League of Women Voters California has a position on California community colleges, it does not have a position on higher education in California covering the University of California, California State University, and the California community colleges. As a result, LWVC is unable to comment on or advocate for or against proposed policies and legislation.

LWVC prepared study materials on access to higher education in California.

The following article is Part One of a summary of the study materials from LWVC.

Part Two will follow in February.

In the 1950s, California drifted toward the arrival of baby boomers on college campuses. Community colleges, the state colleges, and the university were uncoordinated and competed for funding and programs. In 1960, California adopted the **"Master Plan for Higher Education"** which segmented higher education. University of California would be the state's primary academic research institution, grant doctoral degrees, and

have schools of law, medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. UC would accept the top 12.5 percent of high school seniors. California State University (CSU) campuses would have a more limited scope—the only doctoral degree would be in education—but they would grant undergraduate and master degrees. CSU would accept the top 33.3 percent of high school seniors. Finally, community colleges would provide academic

and vocational classes to "... any students who would benefit from..." instruction regardless if they are high school graduates or not. If they were not prepared for college level instruction, the community colleges would provide remedial classes, English as a Second Language classes, workforce training classes, and non-credit classes. Students from community colleges could transfer to UC and CSU as slots would be reserved for them at a ratio of 40:60. That meant that each year, one third of the students arriving on a UC or CSU campus could be new transfers. The Master Plan provided that tuition at all institutions would be free but students could be charged fees for non-academic costs such as room and board and student services. Over time, the California legislature reviewed the Master Plan but made few changes (<http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july02/302attach1.pdf>).

55 Years Have Passed

Much has changed. California's population has grown in size and diversity. The percentage of whites has decreased while the percentage of persons of color has increased. These changes have ramifications for colleges: more high school graduates, more women, more minority students, more part-time and older students. But California's higher education system is not producing enough graduates to meet demand. By 2025, 41 percent of California's jobs will require a bachelor's degree but only 35 percent of working adults will have bachelor's degrees.

Funding Problems and their Consequences

Over time, the number of state operated campuses grew. One would think the California legislature would increase funding but the opposite is true. Over the past 10 years, state funding for CSU has dropped 40 percent and state funding for UC has dropped 50 percent. Why is funding for higher education in California decreasing? First, there are few protections by statute, judicial mandate, or federal requirement. UC and CSU rely on the state legislature for their basic funding. The community college system also relies on state funding but has some protection due to Proposition 98 which

guarantees funding for K-14. Second, there is the assumption that higher education has access to other sources of income, namely tuition and fees paid by students and their families. Third, downturns in the California economy have led to downturns in the state budget. The unpredictability of tax revenues has led to tremendous volatility in state funding for higher education.



How California Public Colleges and Universities Responded to Cuts

First, the cost of college has effectively been shifted from the state to students and their families.

UC and CSU raised tuition and fees—tripling at CSU since 1990 and quadrupling at UC since 1990. How to pay for college? Some students receive financial aid through the Cal Grants program which covers tuition but not housing, books, lab fees, or transportation. Students and their families have increasingly turned to student loans. The size of the student loans is increasing. Today, students graduate with an average of \$19,750 in student debt at UC, and \$17,150 in student debt at CSU (http://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/140506_From_State_to_Student_BB.pdf).

Second, UC and CSU reduced enrollment.

What happens to students? At UC, the leading campuses (i.e., UC Berkeley and UCLA) have become more selective. Students not accepted into their preferred campus are placed in a "referral pool" and admitted to a less selective campus even if they have not applied to that campus. Students who are accepted to campuses they do not want to attend often do not enroll there. At CSU, the practice is to designate some campuses as "impacted." Those campuses have two applicant pools: those students who live in the "local" admission area, and those who do not (**Note: South Monterey County is considered a "local" admission area for CalPoly.**)

Those students who live outside the "local" area face higher eligibility criteria (SAT scores and grades). Even if the "local" student meets the minimum eligibility criteria, the student may not be

offered admission. Unlike UC, CSU does not refer eligible students to other CSU campuses.

At California's community colleges, the state funding situation is different. Community colleges are squeezed between the inability to increase tuition because the state sets the tuition rate per credit, the fact that many students qualify for waivers which allow them to forgo fees, and the inability of the community colleges to refuse admission to applicants. To control costs, community colleges increase class sizes, reduce programs and course offerings, and limit the time in which students can apply to enroll in courses. The net effect is to ration enrollment. To acquire the credits needed to transfer to UC or CSU, some students enroll in more than one community college (http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_215HJR.pdf).

Third, UC has aggressively increased the number of out-of-state and international students in the past 5 years.

Each of these students pays an additional \$23,000 per year in tuition, providing UC with an estimated \$400 million in extra revenue to offset the state's cutbacks in funding. More than a fifth of UC's freshmen come from out-of-state and abroad. In 2014, the highest percentage of out of state freshmen were at UCLA (30.1 percent), UC Berkeley (29.8 percent), and UC San Diego (28.4 percent). UC officials claim that no California residents were pushed out to make room for these students.

Access to higher education in California is more than the cost of attending college. California families are less able to fund college because they have less purchasing power, lack the information and resources to prepare students for college, and need help in filling out financial aid forms. A student from a low income family is less likely to graduate from college (30 percent do graduate) than a student from a wealthy family (80 percent).

Unprepared Freshmen

Funding is not the only problem California's institutions of higher learning face today. Many students arriving on campus are unprepared for college level courses. The problem begins with high

school graduation requirements. An example is the math requirement. The state requires students to take two years of math, complete Algebra I, and pass the California High School Exit Exam to graduate from high school. Students and their families may think that math courses in the junior and senior years of high school are not necessary. Even if the high school student completes college-prep courses, the student may not be prepared for college level courses. At CSU, 68 percent of freshmen were assessed as needing remedial classes. At California's community colleges 70 to 90 percent of students needed at least one remedial class. Being prepared for college level courses has an impact on whether a student graduates. A community college student who arrives on campus prepared to take the first college level English or math class is more likely to graduate in six years (69.7 percent) than a student who is unprepared (39.2 percent). These differences hold true for all demographic and ethnic groups.

Difficulty Transferring and its Consequences

The Master Plan does not work for students who are prepared to transfer from community college to CSU, or from CSU to UC. Students experience logjams: transferring credits when the classes they took did not match those at the next level, finding no space at the next level, increased tuition and fees, distance from one campus to the next segment's campus. It has been suggested that the size of the student bodies at CSU and UC be expanded, or that high school graduates apply both to a local community college and to the CSU of their choice in one application so the transition would be smooth, or that upper division university classes be offered on community college campuses so bachelor's degrees could be earned at the community college campus, or that community colleges turn into satellites of universities, or allow community colleges to grant college degrees in fields UC and CSU do not.

For further information see LWVC's "**A Study of Public Higher Education in California**" (<http://lwvc.org/sites/lwvc.org/files/downloads/studies/Higher-Education-Study-Guide-Complete.pdf>).

Kemay Eoyang, ckeoyang@msn.com

★ **LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: DENNIS MAR** ★

The League's current **Voter Service Director for the Salinas Valley, Dennis Mar**, has been a most active member. In addition to his current position, Dennis has served our chapter as **Treasurer, Secretary, Editor of the Voter** and **President**. He also does the mailings and answers the telephone.

When he attends community events in which the League is involved, he often wears a button stating, "LWV—Not for Women Only." And he has stock answers for the two questions he's most often asked:

Question 1: *What is it like belonging to a predominately women's organization?*

Answer: *You have to be comfortable being around strong women.*



Question 2: *Do you think the League should change its name to be more inclusive?*

Answer: *Not until the ERA passes.*

Dennis has lived on the Monterey Peninsula since 1971, when he served in the **US Army**. Two weeks before he left active duty, he was jogging at the PG High track. He started talking to another jogger. They exchanged some of their work histories and this fellow said, "You should interview with our company. We hire people with your training." Dennis did and got hired by a defense contractor at **Fort Hunter Liggitt** for his first civilian job. It just shows you the value of exercise!



Dennis spent the majority of his working career at the **Naval Postgraduate School Computer Center** as a civil service programmer and statistician. He met his wife **Susan** at a higher education computing conference. For the first ten years they got together only on weekends as Susan worked at **San Diego State**. After both

retired they bought their house in Monterey.

With the rhetoric about "anchor babies," Dennis recently realized that he is an anchor baby. Both his parents came to the US from other countries to attend college at **Iowa State University**. They met and married. Dennis was born in Iowa and the family wanted to stay in the US.

Fortunately, they got good advice from an immigration attorney. "When their student visas expired, he told them to argue at their deportation hearing that they were willing to leave the country, but that their son Dennis was born in Iowa and, as an American citizen, he wanted to stay. I think I was one month old at the time," Dennis says.

Luckily, the agency ruled in his family's favor. He still remembers his folks quizzing each other at the dinner table

as they prepared for their naturalization exams. After becoming citizens, they never missed voting, with the exception of one school board election.

Dennis has always been interested in government and politics. He joined the League, he says, because "... the League was the only organization following county government. When I attended my first meeting, it was as if the **Letters to the Editor** section of the paper had come alive. The first name I recognized was **Liz Leeper's** and it went on from there. I was hooked."

Dennis believes that "... the League is the most patriotic organization in this country. Others can claim patriotism, but the League actually works every day to make our democracy better." So his main goal is to continue providing excellent voter service activities to the public.

Nancy Baker Jacobs, PGAauthor@comcast.net

LWV 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.

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Thank You to Our End of Year Donors!

Thank you very much, **Mary DeBartolo** for donating at the \$150 membership level (\$65 for her membership with a generous \$85 donation).

We appreciate **Jane DiGiralamo** and also **Safwat Malek** for each donating at the \$100 membership level (\$65 for membership with very kind \$35 donations).

Please Note Members Changes of Address in Your Handbook

Max Chaplin is now at:
8548 Carmel Valley Road
Carmel, CA 93923-9556

Lin Blaskovich can now be contacted via:
PO Box 188
Pacific Grove, CA 93950-0188

Barbara Stokely has moved to:
200 Glenwood Circle,
Apartment 431
Monterey, CA 93940-6746

Are You In Danger of Losing Your Subscription and Your Membership to The League of Women Voters?

We regret to say that we will be removing all unpaid members from our mailing list and suspending subscriptions to The Voter on January 15. **Check to see that you have paid your dues for 2015-2016.**

If you're not sure, please call or e-mail me and I will confirm your status.

Need Help Paying Your Annual Dues?

Upon request, LWVMC considers in complete confidence, "scholarship requests" to pay part or all Membership dues.

Lisa Hoivik, lhoivik@comcast.net

OPTIONS FOR REFORMING MONEY IN POLITICS

Following is a summary of options to address decisions made by the US Supreme Court since 1976 that have weakened procedures that regulate spending and giving to political campaigns.

To read the complete paper from the US League of Women Voters, go to:
<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/options-reforming-money-politics>.

Legislative Approaches

Disclose sources of contributions and expenditures (action by Congress and states). The Supreme Court has upheld disclosure as a means of providing information to the electorate and avoiding corruption or the appearance of corruption.

Tighten rules governing coordination in order to limit "independent" spending such as Super PACs (action by Congress and states). Supreme Court decisions allowing unlimited campaign spending by outside groups are premised on the notion that such spending is truly independent and not coordinated with a candidate in any way. But, current rules are weak and allow coordination.

Adopt public funding for all candidates (action by Congress and states). Congress could extend public funding to candidates for all federal offices and more states could adopt public financing.

Prohibit members of Congress from fundraising from the interests they most directly regulate (action by Congress). For example, Congress could prohibit contributions from PACs and lobbyists associated with federal government contractors.

Change the makeup of the US Supreme Court by including more justices friendly to reform (action by the Congress and/or the President). Congress could expand the court, adding additional justices to change the majority opinion on campaign finance regulation.

Use or expand state corporate law (action by states). There are efforts to use or expand state corporate laws to regulate the behavior of



corporations (e.g., require directors to obtain shareholder approval and public disclosure before making campaign donations, and/or require noninterference in state/local elections to obtain a state business license.

Regulatory Approaches

Enforce campaign finance laws (action by the Federal Election Commission and state regulatory agencies). The FEC could be much more effective at enforcing remaining federal campaign finance laws, such as disclosure requirements and coordination rules.

Adopt a Securities and Exchange Commission rule governing corporate political expenditures (action by the SEC or Congress). In 2011, a the SEC was petitioned to require public companies to disclose their political activities, including campaign donations and lobbying efforts.

Strengthen and enforce 501(c)(4) political activity rules (action by IRS). To be tax-exempt as a social welfare organization, an organization must not be organized for profit and must be operated exclusively to promote social welfare.

Other Approaches

Overturn Buckley and/or Citizens United rulings by the Supreme Court. Move the existing Court using a case with an originalist justification for broadening the definition of corruption. Lawrence Lessig submitted an amicus brief along these lines in the case of McCutcheon v. FEC. New state laws can be passed that seek to plug loopholes or continue to challenge the Court's decisions.

Wait for the ideological makeup on the Court to change (action by the President and Congress).

The Court will likely change in time, and the closely divided decisions of the recent Court may be overturned by Justices appointed by new Presidents.

Work for a Congress comprised of members committed to reform (grassroots action). Ultimately, the voters decide.

Amend the US Constitution to overturn rulings (action by Congress and the states).

1. Restore the authority of Congress/states to limit campaign spending. Some proposed amendments are limited, allowing Congress/states to regulate only corporate entities. But most propose that Congress/states have power

to regulate anyone. Some specifically say that regulation must be "content-neutral" while others explicitly protect freedom of the press. Some mention only elections of candidates, while others include ballot measures.

2. Assert that the rights protected by the Constitution are those of natural persons only. Some of these proposals address First Amendment speech rights only. Those that are broader argue that the privileges of corporate entities and other collective entities are created by statute and, unlike the rights of natural persons protected by the Constitution, are not inalienable.

League of Women Voters USA, lwv.org

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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LWVMC The VOTER

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LWVMC 2016 Calendar



January

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 11 January, 5:00pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

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

JanetB@montereybay.com

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 13 January, 12 noon

"Challenges & Successes in College"

(details on front page)

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 14 January, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

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

GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVUS Money In Politics:

Consensus Questions Response Meeting

Wednesday, 20 January, 12 noon

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

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

JanetB@montereybay.com

February

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 10 February, 12 noon

"Hwy 68 / Pebble Beach Roundabout"

plus "Sales Tax Initiative for Fall 2016"



March

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 9 March, 12 noon

"Highway 68 Corridor Proposed Projects"

Guest Speaker: **Mike Weaver**



April

WVCa Higher Education

Study Consensus Questions Rating

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

(immediately following Lunch & Learn)

Contact: **Diane Cotton**, 521-7416

onceandroas@gmail.com