

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

VOTER

May 2013, Volume 85, Number 8

Wednesday, May 4, 2013

9am for a 9:30am start

Saturday Brunch / Joint 86th Annual Meeting

At what is sure to be an historic Annual Meeting we will merge with the LWV of the Salinas Valley to become the League of Women Voters of Monterey County.

Among other items for discussion will be the proposal that our dues be increased to \$60 per year for individuals and \$90 per year for a household membership.

We will also hear reports on important business, and discuss and vote on: the Bylaws for the new LWV of Monterey County, its Budget, Officer and Director Positions, and recommended Issues for Emphasis.

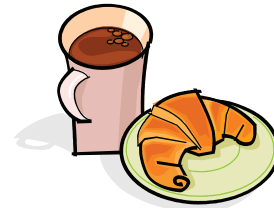
Above all, Members of the two Leagues will have a chance to meet each other in person, forge new alliances, exchange ideas, and hopefully form new friendships to advance the important work of the League!

Quorum Needed by 9:30am!

We need your participation to hold this historic meeting.

NOTE

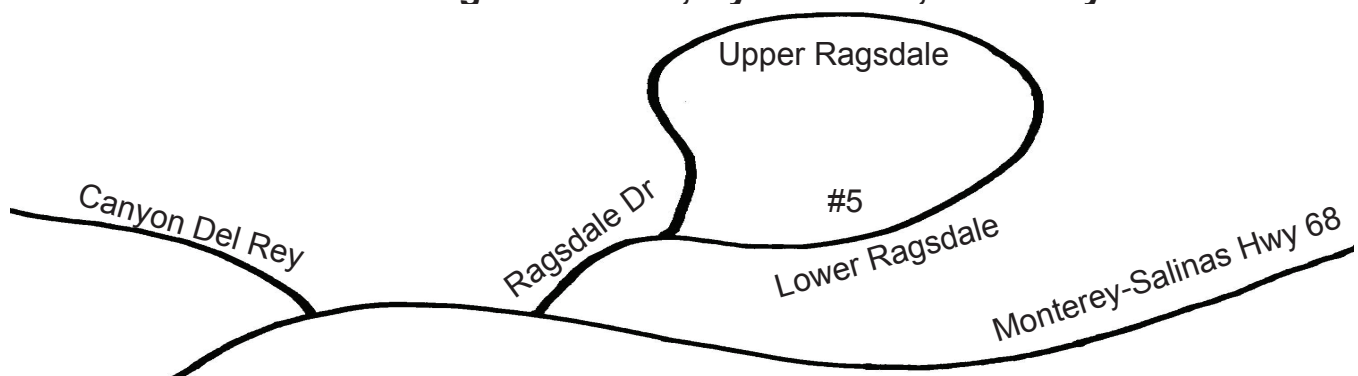
In order to vote at the annual meeting you need to have paid your **membership dues** for the current year (2012/13)!



FULL BRUNCH BUFFET AVAILABLE FROM 9AM ONWARDS

There will be plenty of coffee and tasty nourishment on hand to power us through the morning's deliberations!

**Joint Annual Meeting: Salinas Valley Health Care System building
5 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Ryan Ranch, Monterey**



Hwy 68 to Ragsdale Drive; Right on Lower Ragsdale Drive. Saturday - park anywhere. Enter main door, follow signs to Redwood / Oaks / Cypress Rooms

LWVMP

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The PRESIDENT'S Message

Thank You

This is my last President's Message for the League year so I must begin by thanking all the wonderful Board members who have contributed their time and energy to our efforts. Sadly, several of them will not return to the new Board and I will miss them very much.



Dennis Mar has been on the Board ever since I joined it in 2000 and probably before that. He has served as **Treasurer, Financial Planning Committee Chair, Budget Committee Chair, Vice President, Nominating Committee member, Membership Roster Chair, Voter Editor, President (2009-2011)** and **Voter Service Director**.

Dennis organizes our major fund raiser, the precinct poll work and he served as the election inspector for many of those elections. He is also the go-to person for any and all information, history, and anecdotes about our League and its members. He is the institutional memory, the computer expert, the innovator and the administrative backbone of our League. Dennis provides us with perspective, wisdom and clarity, and all of this is combined with a dry sense of humor and delivered in his dulcet baritone voice. I will still be depending on Dennis, as he will continue as Voter Service Chair, off Board.

Jean Donnelly has been a terrific **Board Secretary** since 2010 and her minutes are well written, concise and timely! She has responded to every request and has had a perfect attendance record. I hope she will return to the board when she and **Darryl** have had enough traveling.

Anne Bell came onto the Board as **Secretary** in 2005-06 and has served as **State and National Action Director** since 2006. She served on the **Nominating Committee** from 2007-2009 and has been a faithful and articulate Board member throughout the years. Anne kept us in the loop by providing the action letters whenever the state and national Leagues needed our help. We will miss her very much.

Carole Dawson came onto our Board as **Treasurer** in 2011 and she has been a dynamo at her job, from moving our account to a more advantageous bank to volunteering her time on the **Financial Planning Committee, the Budget Committee** and the **By-laws Committee**. Carole found us a second volunteer **Videographer, Joe Asling**, whose skills have much appreciated and she served

as coordinator with our videographers. I have greatly valued her “new” perspective on our League. Carole has been forthright in sharing her opinions and her knowledge and I hope she will continue to be an active League member in the future.

Many thanks to the rest of the Board for continuing to serve. Our **At-large Director** position continues to work well (thanks to Dennis for the idea) as **Judy Lind** will move up to **Treasurer** and **Kemay Eoyang** will continue on the Board and has become very active on the **Election Integrity Committee**.

LWVC Convention

Speaking of that committee, we will be going to the **LWVC Convention** in **San Jose** on **May 17 to 19** to promote a **resolution against internet voting**. Your delegates are **George Riley, Janet Brennan, Kemay Eoyang, Carson Eoyang** and myself. Our League is sponsoring a caucus on Saturday evening at 8:30 pm titled **“I Can Bank Online, Why Can’t I Vote Online?”** This is the caucus description:

Is Internet voting the wave of the future? Is it Secure? Accurate? Recountable? Accessible?

Transparent? Will internet voting save money or increase voter participation, especially by young people?

Internet voting is currently being used in some states for voters with disabilities and for members of the military and civilians living abroad. Other states are considering it. Come and learn about Internet voting and how it relates to the League’s position on election systems.

The main speaker is **Barbara Simons, PhD Computer Science, UC Berkeley**; a member of the **LWV of San Francisco** and of the **Board of Advisors of the US Election Assistance Commission**. Simons was one of the main authors of the **LWVUS Task Force Report on Election Auditing** (2009) and was the leader of the **SARA** resolution efforts which began at LWVUS Convention in 2004.

I hope that I can report success with the resolution in our next Voter. Please plan on attending the Annual meeting on May 4 and have a great summer!

Beverly G. Bean beverlygb@gmail.com

LEAGUE COMMENTS ON FRACKING

On February 12, 2013 the **LWV of California** made public comments to State Senate committees on environmental quality, natural resources and water regarding **“The Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing in Oil and Gas Production in California.”**

Our representative **Dr. Linda Phillips** said that the discussion draft regulations are a start but are not yet either strong or effective enough to protect public health and safety and the environment, it is absolutely necessary for government agencies—including local agencies that might need to respond to hazardous materials spills or accidents—to have information immediately available on the hazardous materials in their community. To protect water quality and supplies, it is necessary for water agencies, such as regional water quality

control boards and water suppliers, to have access to such information. Under California law since 1985, the public also has a right to know.

Phillips said that the disclosure must be timely; we support prior notification of where and when fracking (hydraulic fracturing) is planned, and of any hazardous materials that will be brought to the site and injected underground. The disclosure must be complete; hazardous materials, including those considered trade secrets, should be disclosed in a manner consistent with that for the same hazardous materials in other situations.

Disclosure and oversight have been needed for years; in addition to any safety measures that might be needed, the first step is to begin gathering data so that we will know the size and scope of fracking

in our state, and what hazardous materials and toxic chemicals are present.

Scott Detrow (KQED.org) reported the following: *“Fracking isn’t new in California. It’s been a standard step in oil drilling here for decades. Recent surveys indicate that Monterey Shale, the country’s largest shale oil resource, stretches under a large part of Central California, including southern Monterey County, where new oil leases are being offered and the battle for fracking is heating up. Extracting oil and gas from shale rock is a much larger undertaking than California’s traditional oil operations. Shale wells can stretch miles underground, and use millions of gallons of water.*

A public meeting was held on March 21 by the California Department of Conservation to discuss draft regulations. California’s proposed regulations require companies to provide the state with information at least ten days prior to beginning fracking operations. That wasn’t enough time for the people who spoke during the workshop—several called for 30-day notice. Workshop attendees also asked the state to take a more proactive approach to notifying people about fracking operations near their homes.

Environmentalists and drilling skeptics in the audience were less satisfied with officials’ answers on language requiring energy companies to publically disclose chemicals used during the fracking process. California’s regulations would allow these trade secrets to be kept confidential. If medical professionals or other emergency responders need the proprietary information, they would be required to sign a confidentiality agreement. The Department of Conservation will hold two more public hearings, in Monterey [see page 5] and Santa Barbara...and it will be another 16 months before California’s fracking regulations go into effect.”

The good news from the **Center for Biological Diversity** is that on April 8, a federal judge ruled that the **Obama Administration** violated the law when it issued oil leases in Monterey County

without considering the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing. The ruling came in response to a suit brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and the **Sierra Club** challenging a September 2011 decision by the **Federal Bureau of Land Management** to auction off about 2,700 acres of land in Monterey and Fresno Counties.

Fracking for oil and natural gas threatens to unlock vast reserves of previously inaccessible fossil-fuel deposits that would contribute to global warming and bring us closer to climate disaster. Fracking has also been tied to water and air pollution in other states. Fracking routinely employs numerous toxic chemicals, including methanol, benzene, and trimenthylbenzene. A recent study from the **Colorado School of Public Health** found that fracking contributes to serious neurological and respiratory problems in people living near fracked wells, while putting them at higher risk of cancer at the same time.

The court held that the Bureau of Land Management violated the **National Environmental Policy Act** when it leased roughly 2,500 acres of land in Monterey County by failing to consider the impacts of fracking. The ruling indicates that full consideration of fracking will be required before production occurs on an additional 240 acres leased in Fresno County at issue in this suit, although the court held that the government was not yet required to analyze the environmental impacts regarding these leases. The ruling further supports the challenges the Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity have brought regarding leasing of nearly 20,000 additional acres in the region.

The court has asked for a joint recommendation on next steps in the case. The Center and the Sierra Club believe the lease sale should be set aside. At a minimum, no drilling or fracking on the leases will be allowed before a thorough analysis of the environmental risks has been completed. **Attend the Workshop on April 30** (details on facing page) **to express your opinion on this issue.**

Beverly G. Bean beverlygb@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

A big "Thank You" to Members **Amy Anderson, Lorri Lockwood, and Tamara Harris** for their early renewals at the \$100 level. Though our annual renewal letters aren't sent until late June or early July **we welcome early renewals at any time.**



Lisa Hoivik, Membership Chair
LHoivik@comcast.net

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- **Comment On Fracking in Monterey County at "Discussion Draft" Hydraulic Fracturing Regulations Workshop**
- **Tuesday, April 30 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1000 Aguajito Rd, Monterey, noon to 8 pm with dinner break**
- Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources draft regulations for oil and natural gas fracking (including provisions for pre-fracturing well testing; advance notification; monitoring during and after fracturing operations; disclosure of materials used in fracturing fluid; trade secrets; and storage and handling of hydraulic fracturing fluids), will be discussed by industry, the environmental community, other regulators, and interested members of the public in preparation for the more formal regulatory process.
- Agenda available soon.
- Contact **Gary Karnes**
- gary.karnes@comcast.net (831) 402-9106
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The Voter: League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula
 Published monthly September to May: SUMMER BREAK from June to August. **New writers are welcome!**
 Send articles related to current or historic League issues, positions and priorities, updates and suggestions to:
Regina Doyle, Editor ReginaDoyle@aol.com
 PO Box 1995 Monterey, CA 93942-1995

LWV® Join the League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula 

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

Renew Your LWVMP Membership

Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships ahead of our summer renewal campaign.

If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member, bring them along as a guest to the next Lunch & Learn meeting. Then give them a copy of this application!

Use the form below or contact:
 Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director
LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to **LWVMP**
 Mail to **LWVMP PO Box 1995**
Monterey CA 93942

Membership Levels

- \$250 Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 75 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 50 Single membership
- \$ 25 Young persons or non-US citizens

 Name(s)

 Address

 City State Zip Code

 Phone e-mail

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

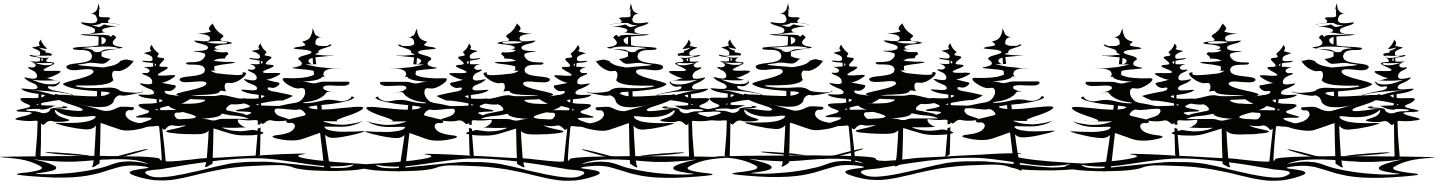
Because we lobby on public policy issues, membership dues & contributions to LWVMP are not tax deductible. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**May 2013
 Program Calendar**



**Natural Resources Committee
 THURSDAY, May 9**

noon to 1:30pm

(second Thursday of each month)

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

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

JanetB@montereybay.com



**First Board Meeting of the
 LWV Monterey County
 SATURDAY, May 11**

10:30am

Meeting & Brunch

at the home of **Beverly Bean**

(invitations with directions,

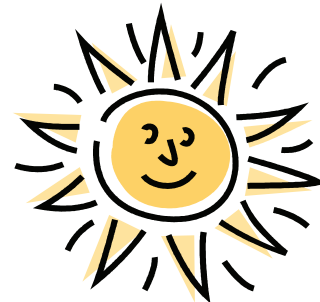
map and agenda to be mailed)

**Lunch & Learn Programs, Committee
 Meetings, and The Voter Newsletter**

Summer Break

June / July / August

"Happy Summer"



**Next Board Meeting
 after the Summer Break
 will be in August**

Date and Time

*to be determined at the
 May 11 Board Meeting*