



Escondido Area VOTER

SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY, CENTRAL

Spring, 2009

LWV of Escondido Area

Serving the communities of Escondido, Fallbrook, Pala, Pauma Valley, Rainbow, Ramona, San Marcos and Valley Center

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meetings are generally held on the first Saturday of every month. All members welcome.

May 2, 2009: Board Meeting:

Escondido Public Library, .248 S.Kalmia
10:15 AM to 12:30 PM.

President:

ELIZABETH GABRYCH

Secretary:

MAY FONG HO

Treasurer:

ARLENE MEADOWS

Education:

VIVIAN DOERING

Natural Resources:

YOLANDA FLEET

Health Issues:

LORRAINE BOYCE

Voter Service:

PATRICK COONY
Asst: **ALAN LENEFSKY**

Voter Editor:

MARGARET LILES

Honorary Director:

HELEN POLATCHEK

Directors Emeritus in Perpetuity:

ELIZABETH KORNHAUSER
1908-1998

MARGE WEST
1928-2006

League voicemail:
760 599-3211



**The League of Women Voters
San Diego North County, Central
Present:**

A Pro and Con Forum on State Propositions 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, and 1F, on the May 19, 2009 Special Election Ballot

**Monday, May 11, 2009
7:00 PM**

**Escondido City Council Chambers
201 North Broadway
Escondido**

**Our League's Board Members, led by our own
economy expert, Pat Coony, will argue both
sides of these critical state budget propositions.**

June 6, 2009: Board Meeting:

Escondido Public Library, .248 S.Kalmia
10:15 AM to 12:30 PM



OUR LEAGUE PRESIDENT, SENDS A MESSAGE TO THE CITY: CREATE AN “E-BULLETIN BOARD”

The following letter was sent to the Mayor and each of the members of the Escondido City Council on March 9, 2009

The week of March 15th-21st marks Sunshine Week, a non-partisan National initiative started after 9/11 to promote open government and freedom of information. One of the stated goals of Sunshine Week is “to enlighten and empower people to play an active role in their government at all levels, and to give them access to information that makes their lives better and their communities stronger.”

Historically, the League of Women Voters has supported the informed and active participation of voters at all levels of government, and has recently been an active supporter and co-sponsor of Sunshine Week activities. The League believes that “government bodies should give adequate notice of proposed actions, hold open meetings and make public records accessible.”

In keeping with League principles and the goals of Sunshine Week, the League of Women Voters of Escondido and Neighboring Communities would like to propose a way for the City of Escondido to better serve and inform its residents.

Currently, Escondido provides a variety of information about city services, including live video streaming of City Council meetings, and several online registration forms on its website. However, many Escondido residents have noticed a gap in the information provided on the city’s website when it comes to the advance posting of Modified Agendas, Meeting Cancellation Notices, Notices of Scheduled Vacancies, Board and Commission Appointment Lists, Special Appointments, etc. These items are always posted in advance in “hard copy” form on the bulletin board that stands in the City Council Chamber’s rotunda but do not appear in advance (some not at all) on the website.

Our suggestion is that the City of Escondido establish an “E-Bulletin Board” on its website that effectively carries the same information

as that which is posted in hardcopy on the bulletin board outside Council Chambers. This “E-Bulletin Board” will provide a virtual “snapshot” of any and all posted announcements and will keep residents informed in a timely manner. It will also save them time and gas, and a trip to city hall in this rough economy. A dynamic “E-Bulletin Board” will mark Escondido as a city of progress with an enhanced interest in strengthening community outreach and civic engagement.

We hope you will accept this idea in the spirit of good government. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Gabrych
President, League of Women
Voters of Escondido and
Neighboring Communities

EASY VOTERS NOW AVAILABLE:

If you want information about the May election, you can now find it on the web at: www.easyvoter.org. Your local League members have also distributed hard copies of the Easy Voter at the Valley Center High School, The Valley Center Library, East Valley Pkwy. Escondido Library, and at Palomar College.

OVERSIGHT, IT’S IMPORTANT

You could be a part of keeping public officials on their toes.

You could become an observer for the League. It’s easy, interesting, and often very entertaining.

If you are interested in becoming an observer, please call Margaret Liles at 760 749-9513, or e-mail her at

mmliles@aol.com.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Arlene Meadows, Acting Membership Chair

The Escondido League numbers have been increased by eight new members in the past year. They have transferred to our beautiful area from states outside California or have been recruited by our National organization. During the next issues of the *Escondido Voter* we will introduce our new members. And we hope to see all of you at our upcoming events!

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Arlene Meadows, Treasurer

March 31st marked the end our 2008-09 Fiscal Year, and as your Treasurer I will be providing our membership with an accounting of our expenditures and assets at our Annual Meeting in the next couple of months. While we have lost a number of members, we have also gained some new members to maintain our League's population. Our goal is to grow, and we look forward to meeting and working with new members and increasing our League population with folks who want to work to make sure that the voters in Escondido and its surrounding communities have all the information they need to make informed voting choices.

This year marked a change in our accounting period as we voted a by-laws change during last year's Annual Meeting to move this League's Fiscal Year from April 1st through March 31st to July 1st through June 30th. This puts us in alignment with the rest of the San Diego County Leagues as well as the majority of the rest of the Leagues in the U.S.

This year's Budget Committee, chaired by Phil Stone and consisting of Helen Simmons and Treasurer Arlene Meadows, will present two budgets during our Annual Meeting. These will cover the interim period of April 1st to June 30th of 2009, and the annual budget from July 1st of 2009 through June 30th of 2010. Please provide any input on program or other expenditures to Treasurer, Arlene Meadows at afmeadows@vcweb.org, 760-751-2049.

See you at the Annual Meeting.



Announcing
**The League of Women Voters
Escondido and Neighboring
Communities**
is sponsoring a

2009 Scholarship Contest

Win \$500.00 for your 500 word
Essay!

Topic:

"Disappearing newspapers, cable news spinners, blogs, YouTube; How will you approach the challenge of being a well informed voter?"

Rules:

At least 500 Words. Contest open to graduating public high school seniors of Escondido, San Marcos, Fallbrook and Valley Center. Entries must be double spaced. Include name, address, phone number and high school.

Deadline:

Essays must be postmarked by **May 15, 2009**

Mail entries to:

League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 921,
Escondido CA 92033

Contact for questions:

Elizabeth Gabrych, 760/489-9068