



Escondido Area VOTER

SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY, CENTRAL

Feb., 2008

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 second Saturday of every month. All members welcome.

March 8, 2008: Board Meeting:

Escondido Public Library, .248 S.Kalmia
10:15 AM to 12:00 noon.

President:
JUNE RADY

Vice President/Administration:
ELIZABETH GABRYCH

Secretary:
MAY FONG HO

Treasurer:
ARLENE MEADOWS

Education:
VIVIAN DOERING

Membership:
KATHLEEN CLOONAN

Natural Resources:
YOLANDA FLEET

Health Issues:
LORRAINE BOYCE

Voter Service:
PATRICK COONY
Asst: ALLAN 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 of San Diego welcomes

California's Secretary of State Debra Bowen

Speaking on

"Restoring Integrity to California's Electoral System"

A timely and thought-provoking "Lunch with League"
sponsored by
The League of Women Voters

Thursday March 20
11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.,
Tom Ham's Lighthouse Restaurant
2150 Harbor Island Dr.

Cost: \$25 per LWV members, \$30 non-members

Directions to Tom Ham's:

Harbor Dr. to the airport turn left at Harbor Island Dr. proceed two short blocks and veer right. Continue past hotels and marinas to the end of the island. Parking is free.

Lunch with League:
"Restoring Integrity to California's Electoral system"

Reservations must be received by March 17, 2008.

Mail check to LWVSD, 4901 Morena Blvd., #104, San Diego 92117

Questions: 858 483-8696

Name(s) _____
Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Enclosed:\$ _____ (\$25 per LWV member) _____ (\$30 non-members)
Donation\$ _____

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED:



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO
COUNTY
AND
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
(CCSE)

Invite you to

SOLAR WATER HEATER FREE WORKSHOP

Open to the Public

March 26, 2008, 10:00 AM to Noon

Location: CCSE

**8690 Balboa Avenue, Suite 100
San Diego, Ca 92123**

Legislative update with **Charlotte Fox**,
Natural Resource Director
League of Women Voters of California

San Diego County has a unique opportunity to participate in the "Solar Water Heating Pilot Program."

In California, water heaters account for 30% of a home's energy bill. Solar water heaters help reduce gas and electric consumption. Come hear the benefits and savings offered with this pilot program. Cash incentives are available. You will learn about different types of solar water heaters, design specifics and program requirements. The advantages of participating in this energy independent opportunity are great For you and the environment

Charlotte Fox will give an update on legislation pending in Sacramento
Fox is active in Green California, serving on water advisory teams for Riverside County and much more

RSVP to Shirley Vaine at 858.674.4889

IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS MEETING

By June Rady, President

As has been reported in previous editions of *The Voter*, the LVWUS is in the process of studying the U.S. immigration problem. As you know, the process of study and coming to consensus is a time-honored League process by which we arrive at a position on issues important to our democracy. It is vitally important that all leagues participate in the consensus process so that the League's position will be soundly based on our members' views. To that end your local league held a General Meeting on January 12, 2008 to consider the questions and options being studied. Attendance was very good with 35 members participating. League members Margaret Liles, Judge Patrick Coony, Fred Scott, Arlene Meadows and Elizabeth Gabrych did an excellent job in reviewing the immigration study papers that were provided by LVWUS. Following their presentations, we were then asked to assign "high priority", "lower priority", "disagree" or "no consensus" to each criterion that was being considered.

After much discussion and stimulating exchanges of ideas, the following results were recorded:

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following: (a) ethnic and cultural diversity – no consensus was reached; (b) economic, business and service employment needs – high priority was assigned; (c) environmental impact/sustainability – high priority was assigned; (d) family reunification of authorized immigrants and citizens with spouses and minor children – no consensus was reached; (e) history of criminal activity – high priority was assigned; (f) humanitarian crises/political persecution in home countries – no consensus was reached; (g) immigrant characteristics (health and age) – high priority was assigned; (h) rights of all workers to safe working conditions and livable wage – disagree; (i) right of families to remain together – disagree; (j) rights of all individuals in U.S. to fair treatment under the law (fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and humane treatment) – no consensus was reached; (k) education and training – lower priority was assigned.

We were then asked to choose the three most important criteria we had marked as high priority. We chose (1) history of criminal activity; (2) environmental impact/sustainability and (3) economic, business and

April 12, 2008: Board Meeting

Escondido Public Library, .248 S.Kalmia
10:15 AM to 12:00 noon.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://escondido.ca.lwvnet.org>

**and the new LWV San Diego County
Website:**

www.sdcilo.ca.lwvnet.org



service employment needs.

Question 2 discussed enforcement issues for illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. This problem was discussed at length with varying degrees of concerns being expressed but we were unable to reach consensus on any of the options presented. However, we were in unanimous agreement that members of Congress must be vigorously lobbied to resolve the problem of what to do with the current illegal immigrants residing in this country since that is a job for which they were elected to do.

Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are: (a) immediate family members joining family member already admitted for legal permanent residence in the U.S. – no consensus was reached; (b) entering the U.S. to meet labor needs – high priority was assigned; (c) entering the U.S. as students – lower priority was assigned; (d) entering the U.S. because of persecution in home country – high priority was assigned.

Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with illegal immigrants, Federal Immigration law should include: high priority was assigned to requiring a social security card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.

Question 4b: Federal immigration law dealing with illegal immigrants should be enforced by – high priority was assigned to establishing a more effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the county; verification of documents, such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers; improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status; improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies; a program to allow immigrant workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs; and significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees.

Question 5: We reached consensus that federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefits from immigrants with the financial costs borne by state and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Question 6: We were unable to reach consensus regarding whether or not federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education, job opportunities and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

The deadline for submitting the consensus question responses was February 1, 2008. Our league's response was submitted electronically to LWVUS on January 14, 2008. It is my understanding that the

LWVUS Immigration Study Committee will formulate the League position from February 1 to March 20, 2008. In early April 2008, it is anticipated that the LWVUS Board will consider the committee's recommendation and formally adopt the League's position; it will then be announced to members and the public.

REDISTRICTING INITIATIVE:

The LWVC has joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California Common Cause, AARP, and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in launching a campaign to place a redistricting initiative on

the November 2008 ballot. The California Voters FIRST initiative will reform the process of redrawing district line for the state Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization following each census.

At a press conference on December 3, LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama said:

"This proposal meets all the criteria that the League of Women Voters wants to see:

- **An independent citizens commission that has members who are qualified, balanced among the major parties while providing for others to participate, and representing the diversity of our state's population.**
- **Clear criteria, in priority order, for establishing districts – not only abiding by the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act, but also recognizing communities of interest and the political boundaries of cities and counties**
- **An open and public process.**

She concluded, "League of Women Voters members around the state will work enthusiastically to help qualify this initiative and see that it is passed by the voters next November."

For details about the initiative, go to <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/redistrict/action/>

Share Your Story!

How has being a member of the League of Women Voters shaped your life?

The League is seeking stories from members across the country that highlight the value of membership in the League, especially personal stories of achievement and leadership. The National League (LWVUS) is collecting these stories, sharing them with the media and highlighting them on the national Web site. If you would like to add your voice to the Storybank log-on to the LWVUS web site at lwv.org, click on "Our Stories" on the sidebar, then click on "Tell your Story". Stories should be less than 300 words. If you are not a computer fan you can mail stories to: Elizabeth Gabrych, 2149 Emberwood Way, Escondido, 92029.

The Interfaith Community Services In North County is out of food

to pass on to needy families and individuals. If you can, please bring canned and boxed food to

550-B West Washington Ave., Escondido.

For more information call

760 489-6380.

They also have an office in Oceanside at **2195 Oceanside Blvd, 760 721-2117**