



Escondido Area VOTER

SAN DIEGO NORTH COUNTY, CENTRAL

Jan., 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.

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: ALLEN 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



GENERAL MEETING IMMIGRATION STUDY CONSENSUS

**January 12, 2008
10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon
Turrentine Room
Escondido Public Library**

In order to establish our position on this hot-button issue, the National League has sent every local League a series of questions upon which to reach consensus. These questions are available, on line, at www.LWV.org. Different members of our League will be presenting a synopsis of each of the League's background papers (also available at www.LWV.org.) at the meeting. After their presentations, we will discuss and vote on each of the questions. If you have any questions, or would like a copy of the questions or background papers, please call Margaret Liles at 760 749-9513.

Please join us for refreshments and a thoughtful, intelligent discussion of this volatile issue.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED:

February 9, 2008: Board Meeting:

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

League of Women Voters of Escondido Financial News

by Arlene Meadows, Treasurer

The LWV of Escondido will end the 2007 calendar year with approximately the same amount of money in our accounts as in the past two years. This is due to not having spent a lot on programs this past year as we have been very frugal in putting together our meetings, and the generosity of our members. However, the picture for the future is not as rosy. Our membership has declined significantly in the past 18 months, which is likely to cause a shortfall and possible deficit by the end of 2008.

Over 80% of dues that LWV Escondido collects from each member are sent to National, State and the County organizations to fund their activities. The approximately \$10 that is retained locally pays for our local publications, such as this issue of the *Voter*, as well as some of the newsletters that we get from the State organization such as *Pros and Cons*. Each issue of the local *Voter* costs about \$0.75 per person, and we send this to all members and other organizations at least six or eight times per year. Our fixed costs include insurance, phone, our Post Office Box and fees to host our website. You can see that there isn't a lot left over for our main purpose, which is Voter Education.

While we sometimes complain about how much of our dues get sent to the National and State organizations, they are doing a lot of great things in the way of education and advocacy. They publish a number of newsletters, and provide information on their websites about candidates and issues. They sponsor in-depth studies, and publish the results to educate all members and non-members. And on issues that the League covers, they will, after careful study, take a stand and advocate their position. The subjects

on which the California League takes stands include:

- Government
- Natural Resources
- Social Policy
- Sustainable Communities
- Growth Management
- Children and Family Issues

At the national level, the League studies and advocates for:

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Liberties
- Election Administration
- Ethics and Lobbying Reform
- Global Climate Change
- Health Care Reform

The reason for listing all of these is to show that the League does a lot of work and provides a lot of resources, all of which take money. When we look at the amount and quality of the work being done by the League, our annual dues of \$60 is certainly reasonable. However, it isn't enough to cover all the activities that we do. We will be organizing some fundraisers in 2008 to cover our shortfall – please join us, and be generous so that we can continue our important work, especially in this pivotal Election Year.

Happy New Year!

League of Women Voters of Escondido Voter Service News

by Pat Coony, Director of Voter Service

With the election season approaching, there will be new demands on voter service. There are seven propositions on the February 2008 ballot. As usual, we will make presentations when asked by community groups regarding these measures. We are also in the process of finalizing our local web site to keep voters informed on key local issue. We will be delivering Easy Voter Guides in January.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

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



Not Recycled Water? Yuck!

By John D. Sullivan, LWVC Water Consultant

People often joke about water consumed today having once been in Alexander the Great's latrine. The joke does have a point: water is a flow resource that moves through the air, over the surface of the earth and underneath the earth as ground water. As it moves on the surface and beneath the earth, it is often cleaned of various impurities. Nonetheless, there is still a considerable "yuck" factor when people discuss the issue of recycled water. (See High Country News, September 17, 2007 at http://www.hcn.org/servlets/hcn.PrintableArticle?article_id=17227.)

The way that water flows and cleans itself on the surface and beneath the earth is important. As people in the state of California, and elsewhere in the country, cope both with the current drought and the increased demand for water, it will become increasingly important to consider using more recycled water. Soon, it will be come vital for us to accept that our water supply can be augmented by making use of sewer water that is currently flushed to the ocean, where it comes back to us as part of the hydrological cycle. Treated sewer water is currently reused in parts of Los Angeles and Orange counties for the irrigation of industrial parks and golf courses. Some treated sewer water is returned to ground water aquifers where it ultimately is withdrawn for human consumption. Of course, it is retreated both by passing through layers of earth and by treatment plants that prepare water for distribution to homes and businesses.

As California considers additional use of recycled water, it is important to focus on the quality of that water and on the emergence of new contaminants, particularly endocrine disruptors. On the quality issue, it is important that sewer water be treated to the highest degree possible before it is returned to the water environment.

On the endocrine disruptor issue, it is important to realize that our bodies do not

utilize every molecule of the drugs that we take and we eject the residue back into the environment. There is some evidence that these endocrine disruptors are causing problems for fish and could cause problems for humans. So any policy on increasing our use of recycled water would have to take such contaminants into account. It is also important to remember that the sources for some of our water (the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Colorado River) already receive output from sewer treatment plants. Of course, such treated water flows some distance through natural and constructed channels and is treated again before it is distributed for human consumption. There have been both chemical and epidemiological studies done on treated, recycled water (National Research Council, Issues In Potable Reuse at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=6022#toc).

The general conclusion is that research to date does not suggest there is any danger in the consumption of such water but that there is considerable need for further research. The State Water Resources Control Board has issued a draft policy for a statewide Water Recycling Policy to establish more uniform requirements for recycled water projects (http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_recycling_policy/index.html). The adoption of such a policy will lead to an increased use of treated water to augment existing supplies. As the state copes both with drought and with population growth, it will be important to pay close attention to these quality issues and to deal with the "yuck" factor.



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.