



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

December 2009

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In This Issue

Bay Area League Day	4
Board Briefs	2
Calendar	4
Digital Voter	1
League News	3
Membership News	2
President's Message	2
Volunteer Opportunities	3

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 5
 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
 Thai Basil Restaurant
 101 S. Murphy Street, Sunnyvale
 Cost \$20.00
 RSVP lwvcseditor@comcast.net

The League's Holiday Luncheon is anticipated by members as a time to get together with old friends. This year not only will we have the opportunity to greet each other but also to learn about the plans being made to celebrate the League's 90th birthday in February.

Come, join other members and give your ideas as to what we should do to honor the League on this important milestone. Do you have League stories we can put in our storybank? Do you have memorabilia to show at our February meeting? The planning committee would love to hear your ideas. You could even become part of the committee.

We look forward to seeing you on the 5th.

DIGITAL VOTER

Most of you are receiving this issue of the VOTER via email. We hope you will enjoy the convenience of being able to store it online and not have to fumble through stacks of papers looking for the information you knew you had read in a previous issue and you will know that you are helping our League contribute to sustainability by not using paper.

Of course if you want to receive a printed copy by mail, just let us know at lwvcseditor@comcast.net and we will put you on the regular mail list.

LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale Board of Directors

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a very productive workshop hosted by League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) in Palo Alto on Oct 24, 2009.

Jenny Waggoner, LWVC Communications Director, spoke about the public Website, the members only Website, the use of Facebook, etc. She reminded us that all members should sign up for E-news on the topics of interest to you. The main Website is lwvc.org. The members only site has more detailed info on the things like workshops, convention, calls to action, etc. If you do not know how to get to this site, please contact Roberta or me. Jenny explained that if you use Facebook or Twitter, you want to post only things that you'd be ok seeing on the front page of a newspaper. These are not secure and the rules continually change. The privacy settings are not consistent so even if you think it's private it may not stay that way. She also discussed YouTube and how we can use short videos with candidates and issues.

Linda Craig, an off-Board consultant for LWVC, explained Redistricting and Constitutional Reform. As you recall, the League was instrumental in helping to pass Redistricting. The 14 person Commission to do the work is in the process of being formed. They will process the Federal census data and draw initial district maps. There will be public comment meetings held throughout the state and then a final vote will be made to adopt the district maps. As League members, we can have Observers at the hearings, testify about the maps, send letters to editors, and several other actions. Please contact lwvcseeditor@comcast.net if you are interested in getting involved in this project.

You may have heard there is a movement underfoot for a Constitutional Convention. The first constitution was written in 1848. The second was done in 1879. Since then, there have been 512 amendments! California has one of the oldest and longest constitutions of any in the nation. Several groups are working on this: www.repaircalifornia.org, www.caforward.org, and www.cgs.org. The League's goals are to change the two-thirds vote on budgetary issues under all circumstances and taxes to a majority, extend term limits, and require campaign finance limits and transparency. More information will be coming out. The most efficient way is to sign up for the e-newsletter at lwvc.org.

Bonnie Hamlin, LWVC Membership Director, presented the Membership Recruitment workshop. She suggested we break the tasks down to:

1. Data collection and database maintenance
2. Renewals
3. New members and social events
4. Greeters or Ambassadors at events
5. Highlight new members in the Voter
6. Have a "Hot Topics" meeting once in a while for people to get together to discuss current hot topics.

As you talk with people that you think would be interested, just say, "You ought to be a member of the League" and hand them a brochure to join or get their contact info and email them a link to our website membership form.

Last but not least, we heard from Carol Watts who is the Webmaster for the local League Websites. She showed examples of some of the best sites and ours was the first one featured. Thank you Webmaster, Laurel Stell! Be sure to look at our website and share the link with friends. Our site is <http://www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org/>.

Elaine Manley

Board Briefs

At its November meeting your board:

- Made plans for the December lunch.
- Heard plans for the League's 90th Anniversary event on Feb 13th, 2010.
- Received a report on Voter Service activities for the November election. In addition to having a record number of candidates post their information on Smart Voter, we held the first forum for candidates for the Cupertino Sanitary District.
- Heard a report on the LWVC Regional Workshop.
- Decided to hold our Program Planning meeting on January 20, 2010.

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Donna and Scot Austen, Jane Kroll, Margaret Quillinan, and Albert and Joan Wehde.

Thank you for including a donation with your dues: Eileen and Richard Grindeland and Pat and Jim Jackson.

The Cupertino-Sunnyvale VOTER

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LEAGUE NEWS

National – LWVUS praised the U.S. House of Representatives for passing health care reform with a strong public option, but condemns the reach of the Stupak-Pits Amendment. The LWVUS Lobby Corps was very active on Capitol Hill.

State – LWVC announced that League Easy Web (LEW) is partnering with LWVUS. “LEW is going to help all Leagues nationwide have a Web site by 2012! This growth will help fund our work with you on new features, training, and support.”

League Websites

National	www.lwv.org
State	www.ca.lwv.org
Bay Area	www.lwvba-ca.org
County	www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org
Local	www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

See if there is a job that fits your talents and interest and volunteer by contacting the editor at: lwvcseditor@comcast.net.

One-time or once a year jobs - In the one-time category we could use some help planning our **90th Anniversary Event** - We could use a coordinator but if that seems to be more than you want to undertake, consider helping with some of the planning. A once-a-year job is helping with the **Community Appeal**. Each year we send a letter soliciting funds for the League. This year our target is to send this letter out just prior to our celebration of the 90th Anniversary in February. Jobs that need filling are: arranging for printing of envelopes and letters and helping stuff the letters which is a two hour task.

KUDOS TO OUR WEBMASTER

At the State League’s Regional Workshop on October 24, our Website was recognized as an excellent site by Carol Watts the state Leagues Webmaster. Thanks to Laurel Stell, our Webmaster, for her continuing support of the site.

If you haven't seen the site lately go to www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org and have a look.

Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to LWVCS to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

___ \$60 Individual member

Name(s): _____

___ \$90 Two members in a household

Address: _____

___ \$30 Student

City: _____ State: ___ ZIP: _____

___ Contribution \$ _____

Phone(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Membership checks are made out to LWVCS and are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWVCS Education Fund.

CALENDAR

WHO REPRESENTS YOU

December

Sat 5 11:30 - 1:30 **Holiday Lunch**
Thai Basil Restaurant
101 S. Murphy Street, Sunnyvale

January

Mon 11 7:30 PM **Board Meeting**
Board Room at Pacific Business Center
19925 Stevens Creek Blvd. Cupertino

Wed 20 10 AM - Noon **Program Planning**
7:00 - 9:00 PM Locations TBA

Sat 30 9 am - 2 PM **Bay Area League Day**
“Big Steps, Little Steps to Addressing climate Change”
Metro Center
101 Eighth Street, Oakland
Next to Lake Merritt Bart Station

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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 influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters
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FIRST CLASS