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League of Women Voters of Santa Monica

VOTER

June/July 2011

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Our Mission

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

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Santa Monica in

It is July and this month we are celebrating the 163rd anniversary of the First Women's Rights Conference at Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848. This October is the 100th anniversary of women having the right to vote in California. We will celebrate all of this on August 21st, when we have our annual Women's Equality Day Tea. Yes, we are having a Tea at 3:00 on a Sunday afternoon. A recently emerged group that has claimed a "Tea Party" name has no rights to the name of a Sunday afternoon party we have held for many years. Your invitation is [here](#).

The Equal Rights Amendment is again in the news as new legislation has been proposed to move it forward. Passed out of Congress in 1972 and ratified by 35 states, with this legislation only three more would make it law. 72 years for women to get the right to vote nationwide. 39 and counting for the ERA. Will it take 72 years?

Annual Meeting and Convention Reports

June 11 was our Annual Meeting where we elected new officers, adopted a budget for the year, approved a by-laws change and an updated housing position by concurrence. All of the local positions are now posted on our [local website](#). You can also download a PDF of our local positions [here](#).

Our lunchtime speaker was Dr. Ilene Straus, recently appointed member of the State Board of Education and former site administrator in SMMUSD. She provided valuable insights on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, one of our current national studies. (See Below)

In May Barbara Inatsugu and Joanne Leavitt attended LWVC State Convention in Ventura. LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara was our guest of honor and speaker at the banquet, Jennifer Waggoner was elected president for the 2011-13 term, and an update of our position on Initiative and

both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Referendum was adopted as a new study (see below). A highlight for many of us was the final report from outgoing President Janis Hirohama which is available [here](#).

League Studies

Studies are the heart of League work. This is where we delve into an issue, come to consensus (or not) on the various aspects of the issue and form the positions which inform our advocacy. We are looking at three studies right now.

First is the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education. This was the first study adopted at National Convention in 2010. All of the study materials are now on the [national website](#). We are now putting together our local committee to present the information to our membership. If you are interested in helping contact [Barbara Inatsugu](#).

The second national study which we will be discussing in early 2012 is the Privatization of Public Services. Materials will start being posted in November and we will be putting our study team together soon after the first of the year. Those of us who attended the SMC Public Policy Institute meeting in June got an unexpected early taste of this. The call for committee members will go out this winter.

The LWVC update study of Initiative and Referendum is just getting started and the study committee has yet to be appointed. All information will be posted on the LWVC website and updates and links will be [here](#).

Fall Calendar

Not fall, but first and important is the L.A. County Inter League Organization annual [Popovers in Pasadena](#). All members are invited and the lunch time speaker is excellent!

The fall Calendar is still being finalized. Our [Women's Equality Day Tea](#) will be in August. In September we will have our annual Membership Luncheon. On Monday, September 19th, we will be presenting *New Lines for a New Decade-What Redistricting Means for Our Community*, an evening meeting to help explain redistricting and the what and why of all that is happening. Networking will be at 6:30pm and the program will be 7:00pm to 8:30pm. We have some excellent presenters invited. October will be the Consensus Meeting on the Education Study.

All will be posted on our [website](#) as dates and locations are finalized. If you have issues you think we should address or other program ideas contact league@lwvsantamonica.org.

Did You Know?

Judy Hopkins went to a presentation at the library on June 25, the third and last of a series in which the Urban Forest Master Plan Task Force solicited input from all residents. After a slide presentation by Susan McCarthy, the meeting broke up into small groups and someone from the task force recorded individual comments. The purpose of the task force is to identify replacements for existing street trees as they die or sicken, keeping in mind aesthetics, maintenance requirements, diversity (to keep the urban forest healthy), and the desires of the people living in the neighborhoods.

You can see the slide presentation and the tentative street-by-street plan for replacing trees as they die on the [Santa Monica Urban Forest website](#) . It's amazing how much work, thought and knowledge has gone into their planning, but it's still not cast in concrete and is intended to be a living document as conditions change.

Our Website

We are currently in the process of updating and refreshing our website. Any input would be greatly appreciated so if you have any suggestions for what information you would like to see, please email our [webmaster](#).

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