



FEBRUARY UNITS LOOK AT FINANCIAL BASICS

San Diego Leaguers will be able to sharpen their knowledge of the financial terms we hear so often these days while discussing the following issues ...

- ◆ What does Wall Street have to do with banks?
- ◆ What is the difference between investment banks and savings and loans?
- ◆ How did the change in the laws for investment banks change everything?
- ◆ Are some banks really too big to fail?
- ◆ How does the Federal Reserve serve our needs... or does it?
- ◆ What do we mean by national or state banks?
- ◆ and more.....

Members have asked for some time that we take a look at some of these topics. It's hard to have an informed opinion if we don't have a clear knowledge of what are these terms mean and how regulations have changed.

Who are the 99% and who are the 1%? How does the present differ from other decades in our country?

Units in February will discuss banking and financial terms and institutions. When did these institutions begin and what was their mission? How have things changed for the better or worse? How do these matters affect our personal savings, investing, and voting today? What is being circulated in the media, and are we getting the big picture? What questions should voters ask candidates?



We know there is no way that we can do justice to this topic, but we will start with the basics and build from there. The League luncheon speaker for March, Ellen Brown, President of the non-profit Public Banking Institute.org and author of many articles on this topic, will be looking at possible improvements to the system. Attending the Unit meetings will help you better understand her talk. What we can't answer at the Units, you can ask at the March luncheon. You can check it out at www.webofdebt.org.

Come join in the discussion with your neighborhood Unit – see the calendar for time and place.

— Jody Tadder, Unit Coordinator



**NEWSLETTER
IN A
NUTSHELL**

Lunch with League: Sustainable Energy
Thursday, February 2, 11:30 a.m.-1:30
Tom Ham's Restaurant *p. 5*

**Common Cause Meeting:
Integrity in Politics** *p. 6*
Saturday, February 4, Noon-2 p.m.
Mission Valley Library

Forum on Local Governance *p. 6*
Saturday, February 11, 8 a.m. - Noon
Liberty Station, 2501 Historic Decatur Rd.

**LWVSDC
(ILO) Voter**
Colored Insert

Redevelopment: RIP
Funding set to expire
— what next?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month the League of Women Voters celebrates 92 years of being a respected and looked-to voice about government matters in the U.S.

We look back in appreciation for the dedicated and determined women who achieved universal suffrage for women in our country, then went on to organize the League of Women Voters. We continue to celebrate the many successes of the League which have followed since then.

But now is a time to be looking forward.

Our state League is preparing material for the local leagues to use in considering an update of the League's current position on the state's initiative and referendum process. Local League member Amy Hjerstedt is a part of the statewide committee doing research and interviews for LWVC.

The national League convenes for convention in Washington, DC in June. Our local delegates will carry suggestions from our January program planning meeting to the plenary sessions where the LWWUS program for the next two years will be discussed by League delegates from all over the U.S.



Local League delegates will be carrying our January program planning suggestions for the ILO for the coming two years to the ILO convention this Spring as well.

Here in San Diego we will be conducting our annual interviews with local members of the California State Assembly and Senate. Local Leagues throughout the state will be doing the same. This year the topics will be the California budget and the initiative and referendum process.

During the Spring and Fall, League teams will be moderating candidate forums for community groups who request our help. Several of them have already asked us to reserve a place on our schedule for them.

League may be 92 years old, but we still maintain the optimism of youth that we can make a difference. We are still vital to our community, our state, and our nation. It is you the members who make this so.

— Mary Jean Word, Co-president

**League of Women Voters
San Diego
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League of Women Voters of San Diego
4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg 100, Suite 104
San Diego, CA 92117



Photos of the December baby shower for Amy Hjerstedt (shown with three-year-old Gabe), hosted by Beryl Flom, are featured in our web/e-mail version of the Voter www.lwvsandiego.org.

UNIT CALENDAR — FEBRUARY — FINANCIAL BASICS

Saturday, Feb. 10 10 a.m.-noon	Southeastern	Malcolm X Library, Multi-media Room 5138 Market Street San Diego, CA 92105	Robin Loving 619-947-9717 La Quita Robbins 619-470-9095
Monday, Feb. 13 9:30-11:30 a.m.	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	The Gateway – TV Room 12751 Gateway Park Rd. Poway, CA 92064 858-487-1197	Claire Weiner 858-679-7350 Betsy Stephens 858-451-5653
Tuesday, Feb. 14 9:30-11:30 a.m.	La Jolla	Riford Center 6811 La Jolla Boulevard La Jolla, CA 92037	Joan Dahlin 858-454-5019
Tuesday, Feb. 14 1-3 p.m.	University City	North University City Community Library 8820 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Shirley Larson 858-272-9752 Mariette Kobrak 858-450-1521
Wednesday, Feb. 15 1-3 p.m.	Tierrasanta	Tierrasanta Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive San Diego, CA 92124	Carole Porter 858-279-5474
Wednesday, Feb. 15 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Mission Valley	Meeting Room, Mission Valley Library Fenton Pkwy., Ikea side of shopping center San Diego, CA 92108	Debra Blum 619-225-0353
Thursday, Feb. 16 9:30-11:30 a.m.	East San Diego	College Rolando Library 6600 Montezuma Road San Diego, CA 92115	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

LWVSD CALENDAR — FEBRUARY 2012

All regular meetings are held at the LWVSD office unless noted otherwise.

1st Tues	4 p.m.	LWVSD Board
1st Thurs	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Unit Council
1st Fri	10:30 a.m.	LWVSDC ILO Board
2nd Fri	9:30 a.m.	Public Policy

3rd Mon	10 a.m.	Membership*
3rd Wed	9:30 a.m.	Education
4th Fri	10 a.m.	Program

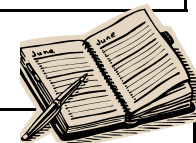
*There will be no Membership Committee meeting Mon., Feb. 20, or Mon., Mar. 19. Instead, we will meet Mon. Feb. 27, at 10 a.m. at the League office.

Special Events

Thurs, Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Lunch with League: Sustainable Energy, see page 5
Sat., Feb. 4, Noon-2 p.m.	Common Cause Meeting: Integrity in Politics, see page 6
Sat., Feb 11, 8 a.m.-Noon	Forum on Local Governance, see page 6

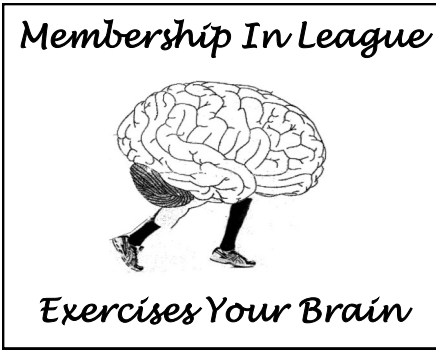
Save the Dates — Watch for More Information

Sun., March 11, 4 p.m.	Membership Social at Splash Wine Lounge, see page 4
Sat., April 28, all day	Community Conference to End Exploitation of Women and Children



MEMBERSHIP

Come Join Us for Some Fun



Ever wonder what a wine bar has to offer or what one looks like? Want to get away for a couple of hours to sample some tasty wine and dine on delicious food? Want to know more about what other organizations are doing for San Diego schools? The Membership Committee is teaming up with Up for Ed and the Splash Wine Lounge at 3043 University Ave in North Park on Sunday, March 11 at 4 p.m. for a meet-and-greet social where we will learn about Up for Ed and the LWVSD's Education Committee's work in improving education in San Diego. Members and friends are welcome.

Up for Ed will briefly describe their work in organizing parents at individual schools to get more involved in their children's education. A member of the League's Education Committee will summarize our work in promoting access to early childhood education and transitional Kindergarten. But mostly, we will enjoy wine tasting and snacks available at Splash, who is donating a portion of their proceeds to LWVSD.

If you have friends or family members interested in education or in either of these organizations, bring them along. No reservations or prepayment are necessary; you can purchase reasonably priced drinks and delicious food at Splash. Parking is free behind Splash near Grim St. on University Ave. Please spread the word and we hope to see you there!

We're Groowing!

We have several returning members this month:

Marion Masouredis, M.D.....92037
Phyllis Epstein.....92037
Pearline Hayes.....92120

Ann and Don Cottrell.....92115
Thomas Mullaney.....92103
Irene Lawrence-Conrady.....92110

It is always heartening to have this kind of support for our work; many of these people have been active members and contributors to our many causes. Please look for them at League meetings.

— Beryl Flom, Vice President/Membership, 858-459-4406 or edflom@sbcglobal.net



Do You Shop at Ralphs or Food for Less?

The LWVSD has joined the script program at Ralphs and Food for Less, but we need you to sign up so that a portion of your purchases is donated to the League automatically when you shop there. You need a paper with instructions and a bar code on it. If you do not have a discount member card, talk to the store's desk and bring the paper with you. If you do have a discount member card, you can register online after you have the instruction paper. In order to get a copy of the paper, please call 858-483-8696 and leave a message or email the LWVSD at lwwsd@san.rr.com. We will mail the paper to you or you can pick it up at your Unit meeting. This is an easy way to donate to League and costs you nothing extra.



Lunch with League

Thursday, February 2
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.



Tom Ham's Restaurant
2150 Harbor Island
\$30 at the door

How Can San Diego Create a Sustainable Energy Future?

Rochelle Becker from the Alliance for Nuclear Responsibility

Andrea C. Cook, Ph.D., Program Manager, Center for Sustainable Energy

Questions? Contact Jeanne Brown

jhisten.brown@gmail.com or 619-857-1807

LWV SAN DIEGO COUNTY ILO NEWS

There are so many special interest groups and individuals trying to pressure the San Diego Board of Supervisors that the few “good government” groups like the League are needed to draw attention to their actions. Please don't forget to read the County Voter inserted in this issue and find out what we're working on.



Before you participate in County League program planning you'll need to read the background information found in the County League Voter.

Several years ago, the LWV of San Diego County received a bequest to be used to help local Leagues with special educational projects that would also

make the League more visible in San Diego County. Recently the funds have been used to fund scholarships. The County League would like **all League members** to make suggestions for using these funds. The local League presidents

will forward input from their members to the County League Board.

By mid-February you will receive a packet for an “Opportunity Drawing” for valuable gift certificates. It is the County League's only fundraiser and your participation is greatly appreciated. It is also an opportunity to win something nice for yourself.

— Roni Seay, President, LWVSDC (ILO)



**Join Common Cause-San Diego
Saturday, February 4, Noon - 2 p.m.**



Mission Valley Library, 2123 Fenton Parkway

A Question of Integrity: Politics, Ethics, and the Supreme Court

A documentary film released by The Alliance for Justice narrated by Edward James Olmos

Followed by a panel discussion featuring

Alex Kreit, President of the San Diego Lawyer Chapter of the American Constitution Society

Co-Sponsored by The League of Women Voters

John Smith, California Common Cause, 562-237-3482 cell, jsmith@commoncause.org

**SAN DIEGO GOVERNMENT - IS IT MEETING OUR NEEDS?
FORUM ON LOCAL GOVERNANCE**

Saturday, February 11, 8 a.m. - 12 noon

**San Diego Foundation, Burnham Center for Civic Engagement
Liberty Station. 2501 Historic Decatur Rd., Ste. 200**

- Steve Erie, UCSD Professor and Author** **Donna Frye, Former City Council Member**
 - Mike Jenkins, Redevelopment Attorney** **Vladimir Kogan, Author and Ph.D. Candidate UCSD**
 - Ron Roberts, San Diego County Supervisor** **Vince Hall, Redistricting Expert**
 - Ruben Barrales, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**
 - Karen Scarborough, Invited, Undersecretary, California Natural Resources Agency**
- Moderated by Ken Sulzer - Former CEO of SANDAG*

Are we meeting the sustainability mandates of AB 32 and SB 375? Can the same old structures serve a changed world? How do we prevent authorities from serving parochial interests? Natural resources, the environment, jobs, social equity ... Can you tell me who is in charge?



Coffee and light refreshments at no charge, provided by Starbucks.

Space is limited, so reserve by Feb. 6 at <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2762963097/eseach?srnk=8>
Questions? nickmarinovich52@gmail.com e-mailing joandahlin@yahoo.com

Sponsored by: League of Women Voters-LWVSD Citizens Coordinate for Century 3
Common Cause San Diego Partners for Livable Places

REDEVELOPMENT: R.I.P.

Redevelopment – the power of cities to revitalize older neighborhoods, a fixture of almost every California city since 1945, is scheduled to officially expire February 1.

On December 29, 2011, the California Supreme Court ruled that ABX 26 was constitutional. That bill was passed last summer in conjunction with the California state 2012 budget, eliminating redevelopment agencies and transferring any redevelopment funds that had not been committed by contract before January 1, 2011, to schools and other state government purposes. The court also ruled that ABX 27, a companion bill to allow agencies to continue to operate if they transfer significant parts of their funding “voluntarily” to the state, was not constitutional.

Unless the state assembly passes a bill soon – and the governor signs it – redevelopment agencies will cease to exist. That means that hundreds of professionals will lose their jobs, and millions of dollars in projects will be halted. A large number of the projects that will be stopped are affordable housing projects. The cities and counties that created redevelopment agencies are being asked to take over management of obligations made prior to 2011, such as paying off existing bond debts and managing projects that were already under contract. Some cities, notably Los Angeles, have refused to take on that responsibility, so local boards and state agencies will take on those duties.

ABX 26 and ABX 27 were adopted as a means to help the state meet its general fund obligations to schools. The irony is that the “voluntary” agency transfers in ABX 27 would have provided roughly \$1.7 billion in 2012 and \$400 million per year thereafter to schools, while the total elimination of the agencies means a probable transfer of less than \$400 million in 2012, with gradually increasing amounts in future years.

One bill is under consideration to delay redevelopment’s final date from February 1 to April 15. This probably makes sense because there are a lot of technical questions about closing down the agencies’ operations that, unless worked out, might result in litigation. On the other hand, some critics of redevelopment argue, probably rightly, that the delay is intended to provide cities and redevelopment’s beneficiaries with time to convince lawmakers to pass a bill that restores redevelopment, at least in part. Another pending bill



proposes to restore redevelopment funding for affordable housing projects that were in the pipeline.

For his part, Governor Jerry Brown seems pleased that the California Supreme Court decision resulted in eliminating redevelopment agencies. So any replacement legislation seems likely to be vetoed.

How will cities go about revitalizing the oldest and neediest neighborhoods? Critics have long argued that redevelopment benefits primarily a few insider developers and improperly allows cities to keep funds that should go to schools. While there are abuses around the state, there are also numerous redevelopment projects that truly do benefit those most in need, such as in City Heights and Southeast San Diego. Absent state authorizing legislation, cities have few options.

The conflict over redevelopment dollars reflects what is really a larger issue of both the state and local government having structural budget deficits. Starting with Proposition 13 and following with numerous ballot measures that have limited how state and local governments operate, it is no longer possible for them to pay for the service requirements that other laws require, such as Proposition 98’s mandate on school funding.

— Michael D. Jenkins, Redevelopment Attorney (retired),
LWV member



LWVSD members at the January 20 Occupy the Courts protest in San Diego — for more photos see our web/e-mail version



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN DIEGO

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LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff, and programs.

JOIN THE LEAGUE

Individual Membership \$50 (for rest of year) Additional Household Memberships \$35

I am unable to join at this time, but I am enclosing a tax-deductible* contribution of:

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 Other Please contact me with more information

Name(s) Address

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How did you hear about LWV?

Please make your check payable to: League of Women Voters of San Diego
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