



THE VOTER

The League of Women Voters®, a non-partisan 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

President's Letter by Joan Eisenhower

As we begin the New Year I want to take a minute to thank all of our members for their continued support of our East County League. As we move forward with the merger with the San Diego League I would like to remind everyone to look for updates in our Voter and on our website.



A big thanks to Donna Bartlett-May for maintaining the website and publishing our Voter each month. With so many members unable to attend our unit meetings the Voter is our main means of staying in touch.

I look forward to the work ahead of us. I hope we continue to see an increase in our member participation. We have benefited from having more members attend our November and December Unit meetings.

At our December unit meeting we participated in the LWVUS program planning for 2011-2012. Marietta Lassaline will be presenting our recommendations to our Board at our January meeting before submitting them to LWVUS. In general, it was agreed that all current positions should be maintained.

One last reminder to any members who have not yet paid their dues for 2011. All dues must be paid by January 1st or your name will be dropped from the League roster.

Happy New Year to you all!

CALENDAR

Jan 12 @5 pm
Board Meeting at Helix Water District

Jan 11 @6:30 pm
screening of film on human trafficking. See page 3.

Jan 19 @ Noon
Unit Meeting at El Cajon Library



SMARTVOTER, your resource for election information at smartvoter.org



JANUARY UNIT MEETING

The January Unit Meeting will be held Thursday January 19th, at the El Cajon Library, 201 E. Douglas.

I am excited about our January Unit on “the Future of Oil and Gas”. There is so much misinformation out there that I am anxious to hear from an expert whom I trust completely, my brother-in-law, Roy Davis.

Topics to be discussed are: 1) conventional oil, the increasing difficulty in producing it and when it is projected to run out, 2) the plentiful supply of unconventional oil and gas (examples: the oil sands of Venezuela and Canada, 3) hydraulic “fracking” of gas containing rock, oil shale, coal bed methane, etc.) and the associated economic, environmental, and social costs, the mili-

tary cost of oil, 4) why US oil independence is a myth and 5) why one does not want to live and work in a country with low gas prices.


LWVUS Convention 2010 agreed that “fracking,” where high pressure water is pumped underground to fracture geologic formations in order to release natural gas, poses a threat to drinking water and other water resources. State Leagues took the lead in working to block these mining processes that release contaminated and polluted waters.

Come and bring friends. We need to be able to make informed decisions.

Marietta Lassaline
Program Planning

In preparation for this meeting, please read the League’s Water Resources position inserted in this newsletter which addresses fracking. It is important that we use the League’s existing positions when addressing issues at the local level.




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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

<p>At the December Unit Meeting, the group in attendance discussed issues that might need to be addressed in League positions.</p> <p>Anita Reith informed the group of the Soroptomists' involvement in an event scheduled for January 11, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. where a film entitled "Indoctrinated: The Grooming of our Children into Prostitution" at various locations.</p> <p>Indoctrinated is a documentary film about child sex trafficking in San Diego County. This film exposes the scope and destructive nature of child sex trafficking and uncovers the tactics used by pimps.</p> <p>This important film is being screened at five locations</p>	<p>around San Diego. At each location the 30-minute film will be followed by a question and answer session with local experts in the field of commercial sex trafficking.</p> <p>Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the film will begin at 6:30.</p> <p>There is no charge to attend the screening.</p> <p>Invite your friends, family and colleagues.</p> <p>The locations are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Mesa First United Methodist Church • Alvarado Hospital • UCSD • The Church of Rancho Bernardo • Thomas Jefferson School of Law 	<p>There is also an event entitled "1000 Breaths II" to be held Saturday, December 31, 2011, New Year's Eve Day at 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Marks Sanctuary, 3502 Clairemont Drive, San Diego.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to gather in the community to view the film. At this event the film will be shown and some surprise guests from the film as well as the filmmaker will attend. They will also have music by Karl Anthony.</p> <p>The cost for this event is \$15 if you get tickets at www.1000Breaths.com and \$20 at the door.</p> <p>If you are unable to attend the event, you may view a future screening in January by visiting Indoctrinated.org.</p>
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BE PART OF SHAPING OUR FUTURE

League members may already be aware of the [Greater San Diego Vision](#) project undertaken by the San Diego Foundation. Topics include jobs, growth, education and the environment, among others. To participate go to www.ourgreatersandiegovision.org/vision

The survey is rather fun to take and makes you imagine different future scenarios. It will take less than 30 minutes if you don't get caught up watching all the videos. This is your chance to participate in an important survey which will be widely cited by planners for years to come.

Please watch for the County League Newsletter inserted in your February VOTER. It will contain articles about the ILO's makeover, regional issues and ILO program planning.

In February the County League is also creating an "Opportunity Drawing" fundraiser with gift certificates worth \$50 or more-watch for your letter in the mail.

If you have questions or are interested in pursuing regional issues either as an observer or board member, contact me at: RoSeay@aol.com

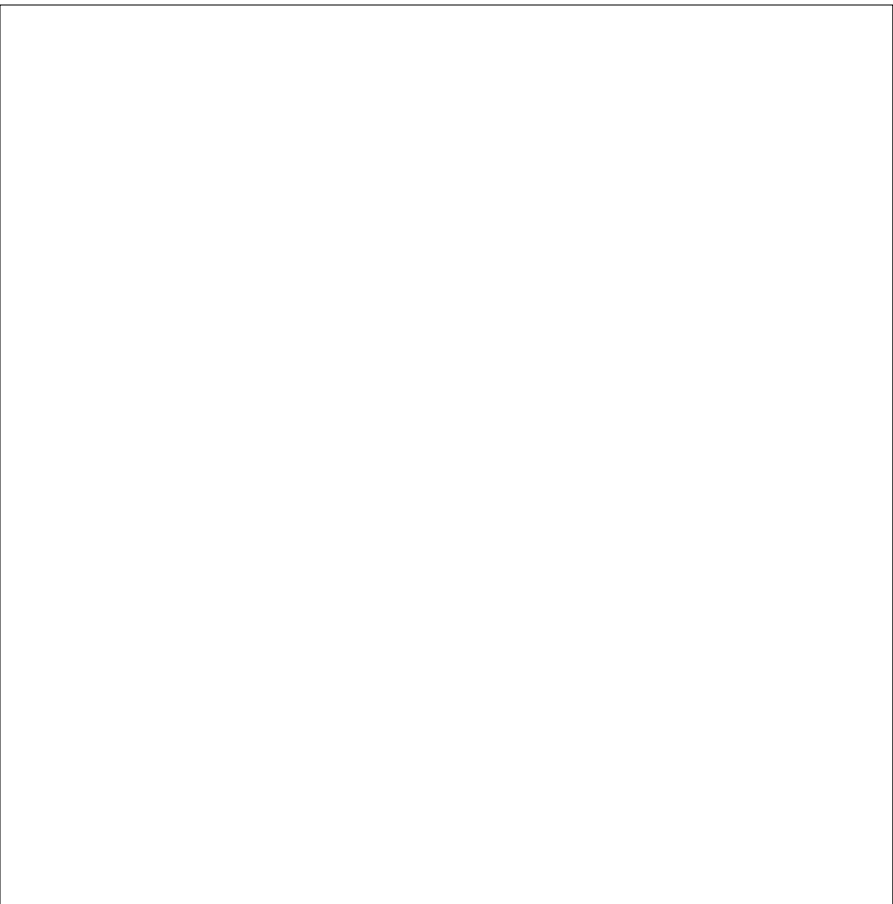
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INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LEAGUE OR MAKING A DONATION?

Please check one or more:

- One-Year Individual Membership @\$60.
- Household (for two members who share an address) @ \$85.
- Full-Time Student @ \$30.
- I am unable to join the League at this time but enclose a contribution.
- Please send me more information.

Your Name _____

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Please make check payable to the League of Women Voters and return with this application to the return address above. (Note: We send only League-related information and do not share our mailing list.) For more information, call (619) 463-0243.

Water Resources

Passage of an expanded Safe Drinking Water Act in 1986 and the Clean Water Act of 1987 marked important milestones in the League's effort to ensure safe drinking water for all Americans and safeguards against nonpoint pollution.

Groundwater, virtually unprotected by national legislation, became the focus of state and local League efforts in 1990, when the LWVEF undertook a project to increase citizen awareness of the importance of protecting groundwater supplies, the source of 50 percent of the nation's drinking water. Leagues in 17 states sponsored public forums, conferences, action guides and educational videos, "water-watcher" teams and media outreach. The local efforts were documented in a citizen handbook: *Protect Your Groundwater: Educating for Action*. In 1994, the LWVEF sponsored a national videoconference on groundwater protection with more than 140 downlink sites nationwide. The education efforts were complemented with LWVUS lobbying to address groundwater concerns in the renewal of the Clean Water Act of 1994.

Leagues across the country conducted surveys of local drinking water officials and held educational forums under the LWVEF Safe Drinking Water Project.

The project's publications, *Safety on Tap* and *Crosscurrents*, were used widely by Leagues and other citizen groups. In 1994 and 1995, the League opposed amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act that would require EPA to conduct formal cost-benefit analyses with comparative risk analyses for every regulatory action and urged Congress to restore funding and adopt improvements to the act.

In 1997, the LWVEF sponsored a second, award-winning videoconference, "Tools for Drinking Water Protection," featuring protection strategies and mechanisms at work in diverse communities around the United States. It was downlinked to more than 750 sites in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Canada and Brazil, and allowed citizens, officials, business leaders and nongovernmental organizations to share information, winning the 1997 award for "Most Outstanding Broadcast for the Public Good" from the teleconferencing industry. In 1998, the LWVEF published *Strategies for Effective Public Involvement in Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection*, a handbook to facilitate the public involvement required by the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996.

The League also focused education efforts on wetlands protection. In 1996, the LWVEF held a Wetlands Protection Workshop, bringing together members from 23 states, national environmental specialists and local leaders to explore the value of coastal and freshwater wetlands, highlight measures and programs geared toward wetlands protection and examine methods for effective communication of wetlands information in local communities. In 1997-98, the LWVEF provided pass-through grants to 11 Leagues to educate their communities on wetlands.

The LWWUS supported President Clinton's February 1998 proposed action plan to crack down on polluted runoff and to restore and protect wetlands. In related action, the League submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers urging revocation of Nationwide Permit 26 (NWP 26), which sanctions the loss of thousands of acres of wetlands every year.

In May 2000, the LWVEF sponsored "The Ech₂O Workshop: An Introduction to the Watershed Approach," where League activists learned how to take leadership in protecting their local watersheds and educating the public about watershed protection.

In February 2003, the LWWUS submitted comments to the EPA on attempts to redefine and limit the jurisdictional focus of the Clean Water Act, noting that the Clean Water Act covers all waters. "Whether large or small, they function as an interconnected system; excision of parts of the system [from regulation] will impair health and optimal functioning of the whole." The threat to streams and rivers from mountaintop removal, a coal-mining technique that can bury those water bodies was fought by the League.

In 2005, the League urged Senators to protect women and children from toxic mercury by supporting a bipartisan resolution to reject the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rule to delay reductions in mercury emissions from power plants.

Convention 2010 agreed that "fracking," where high pressure water is pumped underground to fracture geologic formations in order to release natural gas, poses a threat to drinking water and other water resources. State Leagues took the lead in working to block these mining processes that release contaminated and polluted waters.