



# Voter

[www.lwvpalosverdes.org](http://www.lwvpalosverdes.org)

(310) 784-7787

January/February 2014

## Calendar 2014

<b>Wednesday Jan 8</b>	Board Meeting	Noon	Joan Hogan's
<b>Saturday Jan 11</b>	Coffee & Conversation		<b>Canceled</b>
<b>Saturday Jan 25</b>	County League Day Affordable Health Care	9:30 AM-1:00 PM	Lakewood Country Club
<b>Sunday Jan 26</b>	Unit Meeting	2:30- 4:30 PM	Vi lungerich's
<b>Saturday Feb 8</b>	Coffee & Conversation Common Core Education	10-12:00 PM	Penn Library
<b>Wednesday Feb 12</b>	League Planning	10-12:00 PM	Joan Hogan's
<b>Wednesday Feb 12</b>	Board Meeting	Noon	Joan Hogan's
<b>Sunday Feb 22</b>	Unit Meeting	2:30-4:30 PM	Vi lungerich's

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## This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

We hope that all of you have had a good holiday season and are now ready to become active in the coming year's events.

The end of last year was somewhat confusing for our members as meetings were scheduled and then canceled. Hopefully this will not be the case in the future.

In January we have the County League Day on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Lakewood Country Club. The topic will be the Affordable Care Act. Deadline for the luncheon at \$30 is January 11. After that the lunch is \$35. Also in January on Sunday 1/25/14, our usual membership meeting will be held at Vi lungerich's home at 2:30 PM. We now have our consensus questions for the agricultural study and while billed as an update of the agricultural position, this huge study is revamping our national outlook on agriculture. This is an important issue that impacts everyone's life so I hope all our members will participate in both the information meetings and consensus. Consensus is due in April to the National Board. Our regular membership unit meeting will continue to be the fourth Sunday of the month at 2:30PM at Vi lungerich's home, 28255 Trailriders Drive, RPV, CA 90275.

In February we will also start up our Coffee & Conversations again. This meeting is designed for the public and everyone is welcome. The first Coffee will be Feb 8 at 10:00 at the Peninsula Library. The topic will be education and the new Common Core standards. Most people who know about it are in favor of the changes, but there are still those who find fault. We hope to have you as well as any interested friends attend.

Lastly the Local Planning Meeting has now been set for Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 10:00 AM at Joan Hogan's house. This is the regular monthly day of the Board Meeting so any members attending are also invited to stay for the regular Board meeting which follows at noon.

Finally as a New Year's Resolution we hope to increase our membership. If you have a new neighbor or a friend interested in making a difference and finding new friends, invite them to a meeting and help them to join us in our activities. You can also give their names to Judith Webb who will reach out to them. We welcome any thoughts you may have to make the League a more rewarding experience for you. Please send your thoughts to Vi lungerich at [violaiungerich@gmail.com](mailto:violaiungerich@gmail.com).

*Jo-Anne Waller and Vi Jungerich*

Co-Presidents

**THE LWVUS AGRICULTURE STUDY**

by Pat Colby

The core of the LWVUS Agriculture Study is based to a large degree on the following analysis expressed by Miguel A. Altieri in ***Modern Agriculture: Ecological impact and the Possibilities for Truly Sustainable Farming*** (UC Berkeley):

*Today as more and more farmers are integrated into international economies, imperatives to diversity disappear and monocultures are rewarded by economies of scale. In turn, lack of rotations and diversification take away key self-regulating mechanisms, turning monocultures into highly vulnerable agro - ecosystems dependent on high chemical inputs.*

These are a sampling of the categories included in the LWV Agriculture Study. Just as major industries in the USA have undergone streamlining and improved cost effectiveness, shouldn't concerned citizens be informed of current trends in agribusiness and the need for long over-due reforms that will positively affect the future?

Related areas of the Study include the following:

What is your position on government support for agricultural subsidies?

Do subsidies induce farmers to overproduce?

Do they inflate land prices in rural America?

And does the flow of subsidies from Washington hinder farmers from innovating, cutting costs, diversifying their land use, and taking the actions needed to prosper in a competitive global economy?

Should tax payers fund the farm bill to over \$30 billion in costs annually?

What kinds of research and development should government fund or accomplish?

What approaches should government perform or fund with regard to food safety?

What do you want included on food labels?



## Natural Resources

by Jack Sullivan LWV LACounty Natural Resources Director

**Water Goals:** California has released the California Water Action Plan. The plan discusses future goals for water in California. There are a total of ten goals presented. Three of them are of particular interest to Southern Californians: conservation, regional self-reliance, and expanded water storage. Conservation is an obvious goal both for the short term and the long term. Much has been done with respect to conservation in Southern California but there is more effort to be made. In particular, the way in which people irrigate their gardens will likely become more of a focus, with more emphasis on shifting to low-water plants.

Regional self-reliance will involve water agencies in Southern California and will likely focus on both groundwater cleanup and ground water replenishment. We can reduce somewhat our reliance on imported water by carefully management of ground water resources. Expanded water storage will likely happen, if at all, in Northern California but will also likely be politically controversial. You can access the Water Action Plan at:

[http://resources.ca.gov/docs/Final\\_Water\\_Action\\_Plan.pdf](http://resources.ca.gov/docs/Final_Water_Action_Plan.pdf).

There continues to be debate about Governor Brown's proposal for tunnels to divert water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for export to the south. Such a diversion would lessen the impact of the Endangered Species Act on current diversions but would also likely have a big effect on the Delta. The State will issue an EIR on the tunnels in December, so expect the debate to intensify early next year.

**Harvest Rainwater:** Andy Lipkis, of the organization Tree People, in a recent op-ed piece in the L. A. Times argues for more rainwater harvesting. He suggests that cisterns, swales, sunken areas in landscapes and constructed wetlands can all be used to capture water for use later or for percolation into aquifers. Not only would this help with local water supply, it would reduce some of the damage caused by flooding after large storms.

**Food Reduction:** A draft Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report was leaked last week (NY Times, 11/2/13). The leaked report suggests that global warming may result in a 2% reduction in food production per decade in the future. At the same time, demand for food is expected to rise by 14% as population grows from 7.2 billion people to 9.6 billion people. This additional demand might be met by putting more land into food production. However, this would require the clearing of additional forested land, which would reduce the amount of forest available for carbon sequestration. Clearly policy makers around the globe face difficult decisions in the future. For more on the IPCC, go to <http://ipcc.ch/>.



### Successful Fund Raiser !

Our local league had a successful fund raiser thanks to our "Party Person", Pat Rome. On November 9, a delicious array of hors d oeuvres and wine started an early holiday celebration at Linda Herman's house followed by a live performance of Ragtime In Concert at the Norris Theater. There were a few no-shows for the performance and these tickets were donated to people waiting to buy tickets (along with a sales pitch about the League from Pat and Katy Watkins). The happy event resulted in \$471 of extra funds donated to our League.



### SmartVoter Training at LWVLA

The LWVLA will have the SmartVoter.org trainings on **Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014** and **Wednesday, Jan. 22** from 10:30 to 12 noon each day, with an opportunity to stay later for additional advanced training. We ask that everyone who can, please bring your laptop or ipad because this is hands-on training.

The trainings most likely will take place at the LWVLA office.

For more information and exact meeting time and place please email or call Roz Tyson at [roztyson@pacbell.net](mailto:roztyson@pacbell.net) or 818-255-8465.



### Elected Officials Party

November 15, 2013

by Jo-Anne Waller

The League of Women Voters partnered with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce for our annual celebration honoring and thanking the elected officials who serve our local communities. We would like to thank the following donors who contributed the drinks, delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts that we enjoyed that night:

- Admiral Risty
- Marmalade Café
- Asaka Japanese Cuisine
- Maui Chicken
- Avenue Italy
- Original Red Onion
- Pavilions
- Bristol Farms
- Ralph's
- Georgio's
- Trader Joe's

Please patronize these organizations and let them know how much you appreciated their donations. Also thank Phil and Mary Ellen Barnes for donating all the wine.

We appreciated the work of all the volunteers and Chamber members who made this event possible. About 70 people attended. Everyone had a wonderful time. If you were not there, you missed a very special event. We hope to see you there next year.

**SAVE THE DATE !!!!**

**Saturday March 29, 2014**

**LWV Los Angeles County Convention**

**Update on LA County Jails, Violence and Sheriff Baca**

By Vi Iungerich, Los Angeles County Jail Study

Late November and all of December have not been happy months for Sheriff Baca. There have long been concerns about the practice of violence against inmates in the County Jails—especially in the Men’s Division. Although Sheriff Baca has not been personally involved in the violence, it has been under his watch that a variety of incidents have taken place that are now coming to light.

On November 26 the Los Angeles Times reported that the supervisors agreed to settle a civil lawsuit filed by a former jail inmate. Dion Starr, 44, said he was stabbed 23 times by Latino gang members while in the county jail. Starr, who is black, is not affiliated with a gang. The lawsuit argued that Baca failed to correct security issues to keep him safe. Baca appealed the case to be removed from the lawsuit, but The Court of Appeal ruled that inmates could sue Baca personally. This case opens Baca to other cases that are in process.

Last month a federal jury held Baca personally responsible for \$100,000 in a lawsuit brought by inmate Tyler Willis who alleged he had been beaten by deputies while in jail. Following these cases are investigative reports that the jails have a history of hiring deputies who are known to have histories of misconduct.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Board of Supervisors required Baca to submit a report on his hiring practices within two weeks and in particular to explain the hiring of deputies known to be suspect from their backgrounds. It turns out that the Sheriff’s Department used a now disbanded Office of Public Safety as a conduit for hiring. Of 280 deputies hired from this Office nearly 100 were found to have histories of serious misconduct. They were hired even though investigators found significant misconduct in their backgrounds.

Ninety two had been disciplined by other police agencies had been fired or for serious misconduct, 29 had been fired or pressured to resign, 15 were caught cheating on polygraph tests and nearly 100 were found to be dishonest by making false statements or falsifying police records. Examples of more serious misconduct included inappropriately firing weapons (including one woman who shot her husband during an argument), having sex at work, inappropriate relationships (such as one deputy with a fourteen year old girlfriend), committing theft, and soliciting prostitutes.

On December 9, the FBI arrested 18 deputies and supervisors in a case of jail abuse and corruption. Although most of the charges against the deputies were for inmates suffering unwarranted abuse and beatings, one charge involved a visitor (an Austrian consul visiting an Austrian national accused of a crime), who was unlawfully arrested with his wife and searched in the jail.

These arrests do not include an ongoing investigation by a federal grand jury into the abuse and violence in the jails, or a special investigative committee and the continuing oversight of the Board of Supervisors. Baca who is up for reelection in June is having fund raisers for his election, but this year his position is being contested by two other candidates. It is unknown if he will recover enough to win election again.



## Local Land Committee Update for 2013

One of the most on-going active committee for our League is the Local Land Use Committee. This group has identified several land issues of interest to our league which they have been following for the past year.

### **PLG Gas Tanks on Gaffey**

A small group of tanks on Gaffey have been of interest and concern because the location of the tanks is near residents of the hill as well as within an explosive area to the Conoco-Phillips site on Anaheim. This small group of tanks holds highly explosive Propane and Butane owned by a private group. The land committee was granted an on-sight field visit to the area where they were told that the company was doing "everything that is required" to safeguard the tanks. "Everything required" is to mandate a hazard zone of .5 miles around the tanks. There are no special plans to protect this area other than to call the fire-department. The problem that concerns the committee, however, is that this site is 2 blocks from the LPG Conoco-Phillips installations. This is well within the possible explosive area (residents estimate 6.7 miles is a hazard area) should the tanks suffer a major accident. Needless to say an expanded explosive area also puts much of the hill at risk.

### **Construction on the Slide Area of Deep Valley Road**

The slide area behind the brick-walk now has a developmental plan. A developmental company proposes to stabilize the slide area by sinking massive pillars every ten feet near the top of the slide area and after it is stabilized to construct a housing development. Business near the slide considers much of these plans a nightmare. It will require that Deep-Valley Road be closed so that trucks can remove the dirt to prepare the site and may take up to several months to prepare for construction. At this time the mix of housing proposed is in flux but it is most unlikely to include any low-cost housing.

### **Housing at Ponte Vista (old Navy housing behind Western)**

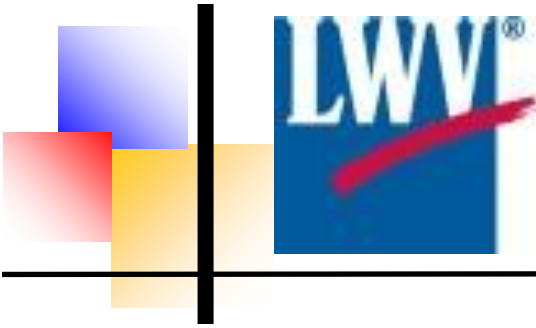
Plans for the construction of 676 housing units have been approved for the old Navy housing site. The mix will be a combination of townhouses, flats and a few single housing units. There are expected to be some senior and some low-income units. The biggest concern with this development is the traffic flow. All entrance and exits from this project will be on Western. An expected 6000 additional car trips could be made daily from this site. However, even now Western has heavy traffic during rush hours and all access to the freeway will be heavily impacted.

### **Housing Plans for Del Largo (Old car-sale lots next to Denny's on PCH)**

Another housing development is being proposed for the land next to Denny's on PCH. These are plans for 202 apartments. The entrance and exit for this site would be on PCH. Again the biggest concern is the traffic impact. It is estimated that these apartments would result in 1356 daily car trips. Again since this site is so close to the freeway entrance on Vermont it would make this freeway entrance and exit even more blocked than it is today.

### **Marine Science Center at the Port**

The best news from the Land Committee concerns redevelopment of some of the now closed areas at the Los Angeles Port. A fifty-year lease has now been signed for a marine science center covering 35 acres of land with water access. The area will include Berths 56-60 and 70 and 71. A consortium of 12 major universities will use the area for research and teaching. The development of this center will inject 117 billion dollars into our economy and is expected to eventually provide 1350 professional jobs. Once the development is under way the land committee will try and put together a field trip to this area. To join this interesting and active committee call Pat Rome, Local Land Use Director, [pjwrome@yahoo.com](mailto:pjwrome@yahoo.com).



**League of Women Voters  
of Los Angeles County**

# ***The Affordable Care Act: Where are we now?***

**Saturday, January 25, 2014**

**9:30 AM — 1:00 PM**

**Lakewood Country Club**

**3101 Carson Street, Lakewood 90712**

2014

**Luncheon Buffet — \$30**

Vegetarian choices available

**A panel of experts from Covered California, Los Angeles County, and the Long Beach Health Dept., will tell us about the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.**

**For more information e-mail or call Linda Herman at lhermanpg@cox.net or 310-541-3373**

*Please sign up early—send form and check payable to LWV/LA County by January 11, 2014  
Mail to LWV/LAC Treasurer, 3970 Sepulveda Blvd., Unit 201, Torrance, CA 90505*

League Name \_\_\_\_\_

Attendee Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$30.00 = Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Allergens \_\_\_\_\_)

**After Jan. 11, Reservation(s) # \_\_\_\_\_ @\$35.00 = Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**





## Join The League!

### WHO ARE OUR MEMBERS?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to all men and women who are registered voters.

Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

### HOW DO I JOIN?

Just fill out the membership form below and mail it to:

LWW PVP, PO Box 2933, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Please make checks payable to *LWW PVP*

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### Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (work/day/cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$65.00 one member

\$32.50 additional member in the same household.

**LWW PVP Officers and Board Member Contact Information:**

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