



Voter

www.lwvpalosverdes.org

(310) 784-7787

March/April 2014

Calendar 2014

Saturday March 8	Coffee and Conversation		Canceled
Wednesday March 12	Board Meeting	Noon	Joan Hogan's
Saturday March 22	Unit meeting Consensus Agriculture Part II	10:30-12:30	Malaga Cove Library
Sunday March 23	Unit Meeting		Canceled
Saturday March 29	County Convention Topic: Economic Disparity Speaker Aiha Nguyen for (LAANE)	9:30 AM-2:00 PM	Rio Hondo Event Center
Wednesday April 9	Board Meeting	Noon	Joan Hogan's

Inside This Issue

Co-Presidents' Message	Page 2
Common Core Standards Panel	Page 3
Notices	Page 4
Winter League Day Write-up	Page 5
Regional Workshop Announcement	Page 6
Jail Update	Page 6
Prison Transfers Update	Page 6
LA County Convention Flyer	Page 7, 8
Membership Form	Page 9

This Month's Co-Presidents' Message

We are now involved with our programs for the spring. Along with all the new flowers we are all busy with interviews of our officials, consensus for the national agricultural update and the planning of our upcoming conventions.

Program planning resulted in no new studies being recommended for the different league levels. However, for the National League we recommended a clarification of language in the energy section of the Natural Resources Position and an update of the current Gun Control Position to include ammunition regulation and identification for plastic guns made with 3D copiers. No changes were recommended for the county. Members were interested in an update on our Local Educational Position; however, it was decided to wait another year as this is a transitional year for the new common core curriculum.

Our coffee and conversation had an interesting panel on the new curriculum and was a success-- due to both the expertise of the panel as well as the extraordinary organization of Pat Colby who put the program together. Thank you Pat. The PV Superintendent asked to come to a similar event next year to provide information on the implementation of the new program. This change has been very controversial in the community with some strong opposition, however, teachers are excited and finding it both challenging and skill-stretching.

The Agricultural study update brought us closer to our sister Leagues in Torrance and Beach Cities. We have combined our study meetings with them and are also doing our consensus together. As a result we are jointly meeting at the Malaga Cove Library for Consensus. This is being done in two parts and the first part was successfully completed on February 22. The last half will be completed on March 22, again with the other leagues, and again at the Malaga Cove Library. Please join us.

We are canceling our general meeting for the month of March, replacing it with the Consensus meeting on Saturday, March 22 and the county Convention on the last Saturday in March. Our nominating committee is now open to recommendations. (See their notice.) We have several open portfolios and would like to get a "party person" to help organize and plan our events. We also need observers for our local governments.

National League is asking for support against a regulation change proposed by the IRS. Sending in your support can make a difference in stopping money being sheltered that works against our non-partisanship. See the email from Toni Larson on Stopping Dark Money forwarded to you on February 25. We hope to see all of you soon at a league event!

Jo-Anne Waller and Vi Jungerich
Co-Presidents

League - Sponsored Panel On Common Core State Standards Draws An Interested Response

by Pat Colby



The monthly “Coffee and Conversation” sponsored by the LWV Palos Verdes on topics of interest, hosted a presentation on the Common Core State Standards on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Peninsula Center Library. A panel consisting of Superintendent **Walker Williams**, Palos Verdes Unified School District (PVUSD), **Joan Romano**, Director, Curriculum and Instruction (PVUSD), and three English Language Arts teachers, **Janet Reid**, **Julianne Harmatz** and **Cathy Skubik** from Park Western Elementary School (Los Angeles Unified School District) answered questions related to Common Core State Standards, currently being implemented in 45 states.

The idea behind the new standards is to bring some consistency to education from state to state and to better prepare students for the work they’ll be expected to do in college and in their jobs.

Guidelines under the K-12 Common Core State Standards focus on student writing skills throughout K-12 in a number of disciplines, in-depth study of subject matter, including original documents, non-fiction and fiction; and the honing of higher order thinking skills.

The Common Core State Standards, a subject of considerable interest locally, encouraged a turn-out of 45-50 for the panel discussion. Between the panel presentations and questions from the audience, we learned that the Common Core is not a curriculum, but rather, a set of guidelines, leaving teachers to make decisions about materials best suited to their students’ individual needs; that teachers are being trained with the aim of helping them to devise the best strategies for effective student-learning outcomes in the classroom; that the Common Core has been, in the initial stages, only for English and math, two components upon which many other disciplines depend; that Common Core guidelines have been developed for students with disabilities; and that college entrance exams are being aligned with the Common Core.

The panel has agreed to assemble next year to give an up-date on the success of Common Core State Standards after a year of implementation.



Notices

NOMINATIONS NEEDED

We now have a nomination committee accepting nominations for the next local convention. Please send any recommendation you may have to Linda Herman at lhermanpg@cox.net.

We are especially interested in anyone who would like to be an observer for one of our local governments. And we also would love to have that special person who can be an event coordinator. This person would arrange venues, contact speakers, arrange interviews with officials etc., and handle the scheduling for all local league events.

We need your recommendations by **April 9**.



THANK YOU TONI LUBOFSKY

The board wants to extend a very special thank you to **Toni Lubofsky** for her years of service to our league. Late last year Toni notified us that due to personal issues she could no longer do our Voter. For several years Toni has served in various ways. Not only has she kept our membership up-to-date with notices and the Voter, but she often came to events as our photographer. With her artistic talents she helped with fundraising by doing some note cards of local sites. And I am sure there are other things she did for us that we are not mentioning.

This last board meeting—we presented her with a small appreciation for all her help with a framed copy of a Voter.

While we understand your need to cut back on activities Toni, we hope you will continue to come to our events as we value your thoughts and friendship and don't want to lose either of them.

From Toni

I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to participate with this industrious, civic oriented and environmentally knowledgeable group to enrich our community, getting to know so many fine people, and to have been able to assist with so many worthwhile projects and presentations.

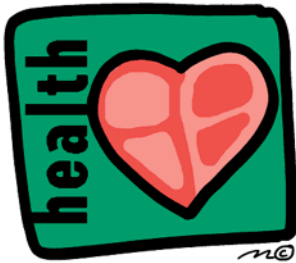
You have all enriched my life and I absolutely appreciate it!!

Thank you all, and continue your terrific work,

sincerely,

Toni Lubofsky

**LWV Los Angeles County ILO Hosts Winter League Day
Panel Presentation on The Affordable Care Act: Where Are We Now?
By Pat Colby**



The Los Angeles County League of Women Voters hosted a panel presentation: The Affordable Care Act: Where Are We Now? on January 25, 2014 at the Long Beach Country Club.

The panel of health care experts began with an overview of Covered California's new private health insurance market. The market offers affordable coverage to residents previously uninsured. Millions are eligible for financial assistance to help pay for coverage. This assistance includes subsidies and low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal. The California Department of Health Care Services oversees Medi-Cal, the state's medicaid health care program which covers a number of medical services for children and adults with limited income and resources.

Covered California's online market place is the single online channel where Californians can apply for both Medi-Cal and Covered California. This approach enables Californians to determine their eligibility for subsidized health benefits, compare insurance options and enroll for coverage.

For Medi-Cal applicants, there are new simplified procedures for eligibility. Beginning January 1, 2014 eligibility is based on income (as required by the Affordable Care Act). Additionally, records pertaining to each patient's health services and checks on on-going eligibility will be maintained electronically.

Currently, L.A. County is involved in an enormous expansion of health coverage to the uninsured, enrolling hundreds of thousands of residents in a publicly funded treatment program. The county hopes to register as many as a million patients, with focus on Latinos who represent 46% of those eligible.

Enrollees will be assigned to medical clinics (one-stop medical homes) for services at no cost to them. At the same time, the county is transforming the health care system to be less focused on acute care and more on primary care. The changes are expected to reduce costs, streamline care and attract patients. Health care leaders recognize they must make the L.A. County system one of choice rather than last resort.

California expects to receive approximately \$2.3 billion to expand and modernize the Medicaid (Medi-Cal) program, and L.A. County will receive a substantial portion based on its target population. Current problems include the lack of translated documents, delays in setting up appointments and extensive patient paperwork.

For those enrolling in "Covered California," health insurance costs will be based on an individual's age, ZIP code, family size and income. Health insurance costs will not be based on health status, gender, pre-existing conditions or tobacco use. Within the six plans available: Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Health Net, Kaiser Permanente, LA Care Health Plan and Molina Healthcare, enrollees may choose from four tiers of coverage with varying deductibles: **Bronze** 60% health plan – 40% consumer; **Silver** 70% health plan – 30% consumer; **Gold** 80% health plan – 20% consumer; **Platinum** 90% health plan – 10% consumer. Health premiums range from about \$300 - \$600 per month.

The county is intensifying recruitment of Latinos and "young invincibles" (ages 20 – 34) without whom the system will not succeed. The county is using Spanish language applications and face-to-face enrollment assistance with certified bi-lingual counselors; marketing ads on line, social media and the Spanish language station Telamundo; spending an addition \$155 million to hire additional bi-lingual call center workers;

Health Care Panel continued from page 5

forming partnerships with community organizations; placing recruiters on local college/university campuses, and developing scripts to convince the young that in the event of illness or accident being insured could save them thousands of dollars in medical bills.

Moderator, Rita Zwern (LWV, Glendale/Burbank) introduced panel members Angelina Valencia, Information Office, Covered California; Connie Salgado-Sanchez, Legislative Analyst, County of Los Angeles, Department of Health Services; Michael Wilson, Director of Communications, Department of Health Services; Anthony Ly, Program Coordinator, Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Medi-Cal Outreach and Health Access Program; and Laura Cosentino, Certified Educator under the Covered California Outreach and Education Program.

Jail Update

by Vi Iungerich

Since the Sheriff has resigned and the election for a new sheriff is open, Paul Tanaka, a former undersheriff in the jails is now running for election. Tanaka was pushed to step down last year by Baca amid allegations he encouraged overly aggressive policing. Lately, however, there is also concern that he may have played a role in covering up deputy abuse in an FBI investigation. Although he claims to be innocent, an email identifies him as a person in efforts to hide an informant from the FBI which is now preparing an obstruction trial.

Prison Transfers

by Vi Iungerich

The LA Times reported that LA County probation officers lost track of 80 felons they were supposed to monitor in 2013 who were wearing electronic monitoring devices. Some were lost for days or weeks. The glitch appears to be due to problems with the sensitivity of the devices which are tracked by a GPS program. Apparently there were so many false alarms (up to 20,000 a month) that the probation officers began to discount alerts. An internal audit of the devices, which are supplied by a private vendor, found that one in four were defective. In addition, the increase in monitoring caused by the transfer of prisoners from the state added to all the confusion. While steps are now being taken to remove alerts from inmates moving quickly through zones (due to being in a car or bus), there is still another problem in that GPS signals cannot pierce concrete buildings where inmates are working or sleeping. Currently the monitored population of felons is now about 331. In addition they also monitor about 100 pretrial detainees and more than 550 juveniles sentenced to home detention or curfew.

Southern California Regional Workshop on Civil Discourse - March 22

All Southern California Leagues are invited to join San Diego area Leagues for a day of learning and collaboration on **Saturday, March 22, 2014**.

- Contact [Martha Cox](#) or [Mary Thompson](#) to get involved.
- Attend
- Promote the event to your members, partners, funders, and the public

Unlike traditional Regional Workshops, this is a **locally-driven program** that welcomes League members and non-Leaguers alike while bringing community groups together to study how the League's mission of *Making Democracy Work* can use the deliberative democracy process to promote citizen participation and build common ground to address persistent, even controversial community issues.

Keynote speaker Dr. Martin Carcasson, Professor of Communications at Colorado State University and Director of the Center for Public Deliberation, will discuss the inclusive process of moving from "expert rule" to shared governance. A panel including Dr. Lisa Shaffer, Encinitas City Council Member, will share how citizen participation brings communities together to solve tough problems. Participants will discuss the ideas and concepts introduced and create a plan to bring them back to their own communities.

Contact [Martha Cox](#) or [Mary Thompson](#) of the North County San Diego League for more information.



League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County 52nd Annual Convention

**Buffet Luncheon — 9:30 AM to 2:00
Saturday, March 29, 2014**

Rio Hondo Event Center

10627 Old River School Road, Downey, 902541, (562) 806-5020
Close to the 710, 105, and 5 freeways, between Firestone and Florence
and near Paramount Blvd. in Downey



INEQUALITY IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Guest Speaker

AIHA NGUYEN
**Los Angeles Alliance
for a New Economy
(LAANE)**



Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**
Mail to **Linda Herman, 28070 Ella Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275**
Note this address for one time only. Call Nancy Mahr for information at 310-377-0735.

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

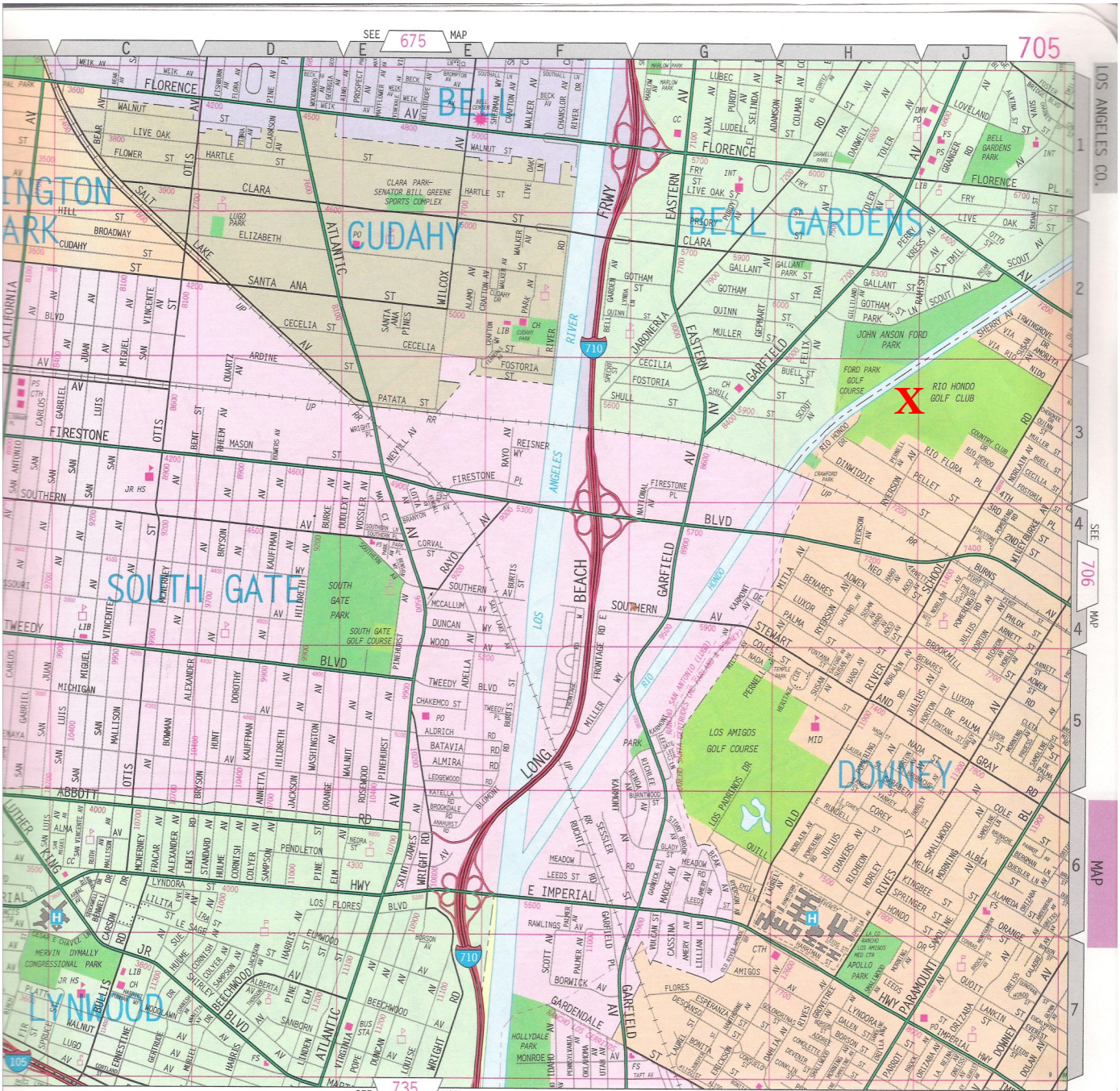
Deadline is March 17, 2014

Reservations # _____ @ \$25.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

If postmarked March 17th or later—

Reservations # _____ @ \$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

Chicken Luncheon # _____ Vegetarian Luncheon # _____ W/O NUTS or other allergens # _____
(name food)



LOS ANGELES CO.

SEE 706 MAP

MAP



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*

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:

Co-Presidents:	Viola Iungerich	310-541-5092	violaiungerich@gmail.com
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