



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF PALOS VERDES PENINSULA**

**September 2011**

**Voter**

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LWV 310-784-7787 [www.lwvpvp.org](http://www.lwvpvp.org)

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**CALENDAR**

Sept 10, Sat	11:00- 1 pm	Fall Kick-Off meeting, Choosing a Voting System for LA County, DoubleTree Hotel Torrance 21333 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance
Sept 14, Wed	12 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Sept 24, Sat	10 am - 1 pm	Lunch with the League, Federal Role in Public Education, Los Verdes Golf Club, RPV
Oct 1, Sat	10 - 12 noon	Meeting on Education - Common Core Standards/Assessment, Funding Equity, St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, RHE
Oct 12, Wed	12 noon	Board Meeting, Joan Hogan's home
Oct 12, Wed	7 - 9 pm	RPV Candidate Forum, Hesse Park
Oct 15, Sat	10:30 - 1:15 pm	Lunch with League, discussion and film, "Waiting for Superman" Terry Arnush's home
Oct 22, Sat	TBA	County League Day, State & County Redistricting Update, Rio Hondo Country Club
Oct 29, Sat	9:15 -12 noon	Education Study Consensus Meeting, St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, RHE

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***IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES, MAIL YOUR \$65 CHECK TO LWV/PVP, PO BOX 2933, PVP, CA 90274***

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's September and we are launching a new League year of activities. In August the Board held a retreat (see article page 4-5) and determined some directions for our work this year. We have national and state studies and the conclusion of the County study of the jail system. Activities are planned for the November election, and we look forward to our annual Elected Officials Party. There is lots to do.

I invite members to take part in our League activities. Maybe you can only do one of the many offered. But, if you haven't been active for a while, that one activity would reorient you to the work of the League today. Look at the calendar and at the article on opportunities to participate - choose one that interests you (page 3).

This year we are on the road to the presidential election in November 2012. There are many issues to track and consider. Keep up with issues on the LWWUS website, [www.lww.org](http://www.lww.org).

On August 25 we celebrated Women's Equality Day. LWWUS President Elizabeth MacNamara wrote:

"At this time, we have the opportunity to reflect, not just among ourselves but also with our communities, on the impact of women voters.

This year, it's more important than ever that we not only celebrate past victories, but look to the future and our potential to change the debate on major issues. Women understand the importance of sensible government regulation that protects families from predatory practices by financial institutions and protects our public health from polluting industries. Women understand that seemingly benign requirements such as voter ID and proof of citizenship disproportionately impact not only the poor and disabled, but also young adults and women.

Despite the heady progress that we made in the last half of the 20th century to protect our environment, open our electoral process to diverse viewpoints and protect the average consumer, the fight for those vital, common sense protections is not over.

This a good time to remind our communities and our leaders that women were instrumental in making our society a safer, fairer place, and we will continue to fight fiercely for the welfare of our families and our communities.

The League has been a strong voice for women and for all those who share our vision of a forward thinking society. That is the best legacy that we can leave our children and grandchildren. That is the best way to honor the suffragists who created that most patriotic of memorials to their struggles, a League of Women Voters to finish the fight!"

*Nancy*

## **BE PART OF A LEAGUE ACTIVITY – HERE’S YOUR CHANCE!**

There are many opportunities coming up to join a group working on a League project. Plan to make this a year in which you participate.

### **1. National Education Study:**

- Come to the meeting on September 24 at Los Verdes (see flyer) and hear the comments from expert panelists.
- Join in the discussions at a meeting on core standards on October 1 at St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, and then come to our Lunch with the League meeting October 15 at Terry Arnush’s home.
- Join in the consensus meeting on October 29 at St. Luke’s Presbyterian Church, 9:30 to noon.
- Call Pat Colby for more information: 310-514-8886

**2. Candidate Forums:** The RPV City Council and School Board forums will be held in October. Volunteer to be a timer, question, collector, greeter – call Diana Halderman at 310-377-0564.

**3. National study on the impact of Privatization (outsourcing) on public services:** We are just forming a study committee for this topic. If you are interested in doing some research on this, call Nancy Mahr at 310-377-0735.

**4. State League study on the Initiative and Referendum:** This will be coming up after the first of the year. Call Nancy if you’d like to be part of this study group.

**5. Elected Officials Party:** Our annual thank you to our elected officials is on November 17 at the Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center. We are putting the committee together for this event. We need lots of help. So, call Nancy and help plan and execute this annual League party.

**6. Lunch with the League:** Save the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at noon to meet with people who share your interest in government and the community. We’ll have some great discussions.

*Another excellent way to participate is by being an observer - report about School Board below:*

### **Reporting on PVPUSD 2010 - 2011 Board Meetings**

Because of the financial confusion in the state, it’s been difficult to get any clean-cut statements, - so at this point I will try to present a basic summary of the situation, however there are no “definites.”

The PVP Unified School District is concerned how it can maintain last year’s revenue levels, - to help the district avoid a \$3 million cut, and enabling it to rescind a number of layoff notices.

The state has promised possibly \$4 billion dollars, however if it doesn’t come this fall the district will have to deal with severe reductions. With this situation looming in 2013, Measures P and V, the district’s parcel taxes will expire in June 2013, causing a loss of \$7 million of local income.

In order to avoid that loss, the Board voted unanimously to put a parcel tax extension on the November 8 ballot. The district relies on the revenue raised by measures P and V to retain teachers and keep classroom size down, and to maintain core programs such as math, science, technology, music, art, and physical education, and to deal with the state’s financial crises that could cause continued cuts to education.

I would also like to mention a “positive” - The PEF “Main Event” raised \$2.5 million for the school district and the Peninsula contributed also from bake sales, garage sales, and major community donors and corporate community partners.

*Diana Halderman (8/16/2011)*

# BOARD RETREAT REPORT

In place of the August Board meeting, we held a retreat at the Peninsula Center Library. All LWV PVP members were invited to attend, along with our officers and directors. Thirteen members attended. We met for most of the day and had some interesting discussions. Our excellent Secretary, Nell Mirels, took great notes, and the following report is taken from her record.

The purpose of the retreat was to find ways to improve board effectiveness and to set our League's direction for the coming year.

**Arlene Block** discussed the desirability of each member keeping a notebook of pertinent information, plus an updated record of that member's responsibilities and activities, the notebook to be passed on when someone else takes on that role.

1. Each board member received a binder and a number of inserts to keep in it.
2. Arlene noted that State and National programs and positions are available on-line and they are available to members.

**Linda Herman** discussed further League resources available to us.

1. LWVCA publishes a booklet of California Action Policies and Positions. LWVUS publishes "Impact on Issues," giving the national positions.
2. National LWV has a List Serve available on the web site. Members can sign up for any number of useful topics using our personal email address. RPV has a List Serve also.
3. Our local Roster has much useful information as well.

**Diana Halderman** reported on preliminary plans for forums for the local elections in November. School Board candidates will appear in late September or early October at the Peninsula Center Library Community Room. The LWV forum for RPV Council candidates is scheduled for October 12 at Hesse Park. PVL and RHE do not have contested elections.

The program for the Retreat consisted of consideration of League operations/activities in three areas: Communications/visibility; Membership; and Program. Attendees divided into three groups and each group considered concerns about our activities in that area, and listed things that we like and find successful in the area. These were listed on charts for discussion by the group as a whole. The purpose is to decide on our priorities in each area and to suggest ways to achieve our goals. The following lists the three priorities for each category.

## ***Program***

1. Have a regularly scheduled meeting on one Saturday morning each month, with a topic of local interest and open to the public. Perhaps we can partner with other local groups to increase attendance.

# BOARD RETREAT REPORT

2. Local issues should have first priority for programs, followed by other hot topics related to political activities.
3. Remind interested parties (especially LWV members who seldom attend programs) via an email blast, phone tree, note in Community Calendar in Breeze and PN News, listing in Co-ordinating Council calendar, and offer to car pool.

## **Membership**

1. Promote membership at every event in which we participate. Have a printed (professional looking) sign-in sheet at all our events. Build relationships with other compatible organizations. Include LWV on our personal Facebook page.
2. Focus on interesting recent retirees and personal friends in League membership.
3. Approach Peninsula Seniors, offering to present programs as part of their regular Wednesday schedule.

## **Communication**

1. Try to arrange to have a regular newspaper column or Op Ed piece in local papers. The responsibility for writing could be rotated among board members. San Pedro's Random Links is also a possible venue for a column.
2. We need a PR person whose job will be to submit items to various sources. Items would be submitted to her and she would see they were forwarded to appropriate publications etc.
3. An Observer Corps is very useful.
4. A questionnaire could be included in the Voter, soliciting ideas for programs.

All three groups endorsed the idea of the regular monthly Saturday meeting, preferably a Continental breakfast provided at no cost to attendees, preferably from 10:00 am until noon, preferably at a very convenient local venue.

We also discussed the League studies coming up this year:

1. National Education Study considering the Federal role in education. LWVUS needs local consensus in October. The committee will present a panel discussion on Saturday, September 24 at Los Verdes, lunch to cost \$20.
2. National study on Privatization will send information in August. They need consensus by the end of May 2012.
3. State study will be an updating of our position on the Initiative and Referendum.

Thanks to all who attended and gave input to the day.

*Nancy Mahr and Nell Mirels*

# THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

*(Common Core Standards, Assessment, Funding/Equity)*



**WHERE: Los Verdes Golf Club**  
7000 W. Los Verdes Drive  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
(Map on reverse side)

**WHEN:** Saturday,  
**September 24, 2011**  
10:00 am – 12:30 pm  
LUNCHEON

**WHO: Chris Steinhauser**, Superintendent, Long Beach USD  
**Dr. Helen Morgan**, Superintendent, Hawthorne School District  
**Della Larimore**, Common Core Standards, L.A. Co.  
**Dr. Kathryn Edwards**, Assessment, L.A. Co.

**Regina Hops**, Elementary Teacher, Torrance USD, Classroom Perspective  
**Jean F. Cohen**, Working Party for Children, Importance of Pre-School Education

**YOU:**

Please send form and check payable to LWV/PVP  
Mail to LWV/PVP Treasurer, P. O. Box 2933, PVP, CA 90274

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• League Name \_\_\_\_\_

• Attendee Names \_\_\_\_\_

• Deadline is September 9, 2011

• Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ at \$20.00 \* Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• *\*If postmarked after September 9th and if available:*

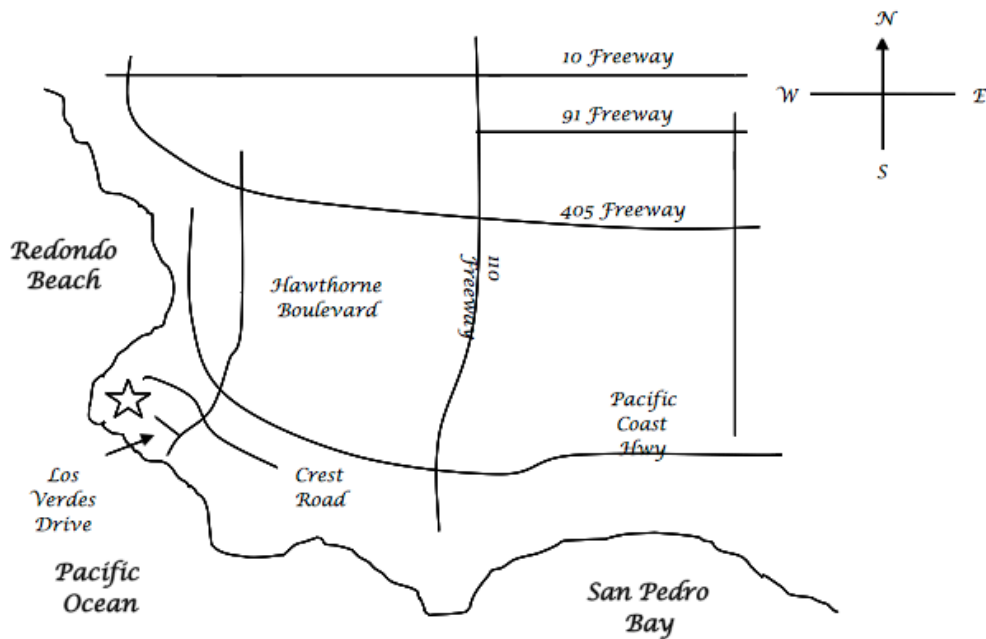
• Reservations # \_\_\_\_\_ at \$25.00 Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

• Sesame Ginger Chicken Salad # \_\_\_\_\_ Southwestern Taco Salad # \_\_\_\_\_

• Cold Turkey Croissant Club # \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Dish # \_\_\_\_\_

• w/o nuts/other allergens # (name food) \_\_\_\_\_

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**DIRECTIONS TO THE LOS VERDES COUNTRY CLUB**  
 7000 West Los Verdes Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
 (310) 377-7888 X 21

From 110 Freeway

Exit Pacific Coast Highway North,  
 Left on Hawthorne Boulevard,  
 Turn Right on Los Verdes Drive  
 (First Street After Crest Road)

From 405 Freeway

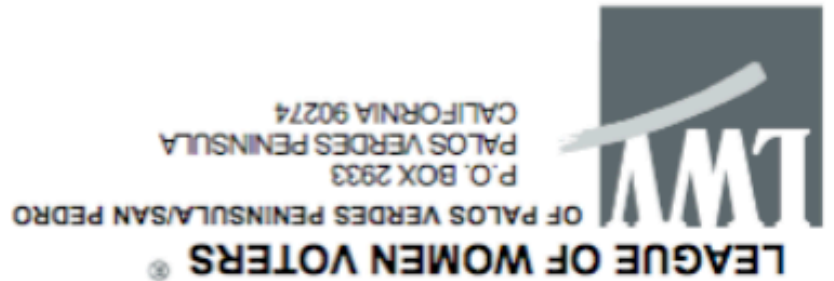
Exit Hawthorne Boulevard South,  
 (Travel Approximately 1.2 Miles)  
 Turn Right on Los Verdes Drive  
 (First Street After Crest Road)

From the Bay Cities

Take Pacific Coast Highway South,  
 Right on Hawthorne Boulevard,  
  
 Turn Right on Los Verdes Drive  
 (First Street After Crest Road)

From San Pedro

Take Gaffey Street South,  
 Turn Right on 25<sup>th</sup> Street,  
 (continuing onto Palos Verdes Dr. South)  
 Right on Hawthorne Boulevard  
 Turn LEFT on Los Verdes Drive



**\* LWV/PVP/SP \***  
has an excellent, informative website:  
[www.lwvpvp.org](http://www.lwvpvp.org)  
**thanks to BETTY RIEDMAN  
& PALOS VERDES ON THE NET**  
for providing & hosting this web site as  
a public service to our community  
*Please visit our website for more information*