



LWV/LACounty

An Interleague Organization

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

An Interleague Organization — Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area
Los Angeles • Palos Verdes Peninsula-San Pedro • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance • Whittier

Editor: Mary Ellen Barnes Website:<http://lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org> Email:LWVLACounty@msn.com Nov./Dec. 2010

**LWV / LACounty
Board of Directors
2010-2011**

Executive Board
Nancy Mahr
President

Lois Ledger
First Vice President

Margo Reeg
Second Vice President

Kay White
Secretary

Gwen Cochran
Treasurer

Directors

Betsey Coffman
Phyllis O'Connor
Jack Sullivan
Georganne Thomsen
Lola Ungar

Nominations

Arlene Block

Calendar 2010

Sat, Nov 20.....Jail Study Presentation, 9:30-2:00
Taix Restaurant

Wed, Dec 1.....Holiday Lunch and Board Meeting

2011

Wed. Jan. 5.....County Board Meeting 9:30 - 1:30

Sat, Jan 29.....Winter League Day - Rio Hondo Country
Club in Downey. - California Budget

Jan/Feb.....State Program Planning – check LWVC website
for due date

Inside this issue...

President's Message	2
Jail Study - Overcrowding in LA Jails.....	3
Jail Study Training Luncheon Meeting Flyer.....	4
Natural Resources Notes.....	5
Desalinization Plant Go-See Tour.....	6
Jail Study - Mental Health Training Article.....	7
Climate Change Forum Article.....	8, 9

From the President's Desk...

The election is behind us - with some positive and some negative results. With this in mind, we need to move forward with program planning for LWVC and for our local Leagues so that we support and educate on the positive outcomes – such as redistricting – and study ways to address negative elements – such as campaign spending and secret money.

Our County Leagues worked hard on this election with many ballot measure presentations and activities to get out the vote. Many of you were able to assist in events sponsored by the Registrar/Recorder's office. We all owe special thanks to Margo Reeg and Frances Talbott-White for their work in producing the *Election Guide* and the judicial interview DVD. They also spent many hours working to handle the error by the printer.

The County Jail Study is now on the agenda. Don't miss the Jail Study meeting on November 20 at Taix Restaurant. While this will be of special interest to study chairs and committee members, all Leaguers with an interest in the jail system are welcome.

Save the 29th of January for Winter League Day at the Rio Hondo Country Club in Downey. We will be looking at the state budget. Keynote speaker Jean Ross will provide insights from the California Budget Project.

As we move forward with the changes in leadership and in many state operations, and with the challenges facing our local communities, it is important for League to be active and visible. We are part of the solution.

A happy Thanksgiving to all of you and best wishes for the Winter holidays. Enjoy these special times with family and friends.

Nancy

Save the Date!

Saturday, January 29th is Winter League Day!

The California Budget Process

Keynote speaker: Jean Ross, Director of the [California Budget Project](#).

Rio Hondo Event Center, Downey

9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

\$25 - lunch included (watch for flyer in future Voter)

Overcrowding in the Los Angeles Jail System

(First of a series of articles about the Jail System)

By Betsey Coffman, Co-Chair Jail Study

The Los Angeles County Jail System has eight facilities for housing inmates -- five facilities in the northern part of L. A. County (four in Castaic, one in Lancaster), two jails in downtown Los Angeles, and one women's facility in Lynwood. According to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), the average daily inmate population in 2009 was 19,080, with an average number of bookings per day of 378. It is the largest county jail system in the United States and is described by many (including the U. S. District Court, members of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department staff, oversight agencies, and outside observers) as chronically overcrowded.

What is jail overcrowding? According to a U. S. Department of Justice monograph on the subject [*A Second Look at Jail Crowding*, 2002], the phenomenon is defined in different ways – from square footage per inmate, number of prisoners per cell, number of prisoners sleeping on the floor (or in other areas not intended for sleep) to accusations in litigation brought on behalf of inmates and court pronouncements. In the Los Angeles County Jail System, it has been defined in all these ways. According to Dr. Terry Kupers [*Report on Mental Health Issues at Los Angeles County Jail, 2008*,] the cells and dorms in Men's Central Jail (MCJ) measure far below the American Correctional Association standard of 35 square feet of unencumbered space (space not occupied by beds or furniture) per inmate. Judge Dean Pregerson visited MCJ in May, 2006 and observed six inmates in cells designed for four, and four inmates in cells designed for two. The following September, he found this situation had been corrected at MCJ, but that the jail population had backed up into the Inmate Reception Center (IRC), where the typical daily number of detainees had increased by about 500 men, and holding cells designed for 20 occupants held as many as 35.

According to the Judge, detainees in holding cells for long periods would attempt to sleep on the floors. Although Judge Pregerson issued a court order in October, 2006, limiting the number of inmates and detainees in MCJ and IRC cells, ACLU news releases report the overcrowding had worsened by April, 2007 and continues today in Men's Central Jail. A group of League of Women Voters' visitors in April of 2009 observed bunk beds, some occupied, around a day room perimeter in Twin Towers Jail (TTJ), a room designed for eating, watching TV, and various out-of-cell activities.

One way of relieving overcrowded conditions is to release inmates serving time for non-violent crimes early, before they have served their complete sentences. The Sheriff's Department has used "early release" to relieve overcrowding off and on since 1988, when given permission to do so by the Federal Court. The percentage of time served by inmates not serving full terms varies, according to amount of jail space available. In February of 2009 early-released women served approximately 10% of their sentences, while early-released men served about 70%. Recently, however, the LASD has closed some jail areas due to decreased funding, and some non-violent male offenders have served only 50% of their terms.

Other ways of reducing overcrowding include expediting movement of cases through the court system; use of alternatives to incarceration (e.g. drug treatment programs, electronic monitoring, probation, community service); use of evidence-based rehabilitative programs during incarceration; re-entry services on inmate release to promote reintegration into "outside" life; and building new or modifying existing facilities. Our county Jail System has a plan to build new housing for inmates at existing facilities and discontinuing use of the older section of MCJ, but Board of Supervisor action on these plans had been postponed in these times of economic downturn.



LWV/LA County

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY - An Inter-League Organization

Beach Cities • Claremont Area • East San Gabriel Valley • Glendale-Burbank • Long Beach Area • Los Angeles
Palos Verdes Peninsula • Pasadena Area • Santa Monica • Torrance Area • Whittier

JAIL STUDY PREPARATION/TRAINING



LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
BEATRIZ DIERINGER

TAIX RESTAURANT
1911 W. SUNSET BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026
TEL. 213-484-1265

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 20, 2010
9:30 AM TO 2 PM

Note: \$2.50 valet fee, carpooling recommended.

Study Presentation for Unit and Consensus training for
Local League Jail Study Committees and all interested Leaguers
Betsey Coffman and Vi Iungerich



✂.....

Please send form and check payable to **LWV/LAC**
Mail to **Georganne Thomsen, 1259 Winchester Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201**

League Name _____

Attendee Name(s) _____

Postmarked by Nov. 8, 2010 **Postmarked AFTER Nov. 8, 2010**
Reservations # _____ @\$25.00 Reservations # _____ @\$30.00 Total enclosed \$ _____

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

NATURAL RESOURCE NOTES

John Sullivan, LWV/LAC

More On Global Warming: 350.org is an organization that aims to mobilize people to combat global warming. Their focus is on strategies to reduce CO₂ emissions from current levels of 390 parts per million (ppm) to 350 ppm. They had a plan to mobilize people on a global basis to take action on the 350 plan on 10/10/10. They suggested that, on 10/10/10, groups and communities engage in such CO₂ reducing activities as planting trees, riding bikes, developing community farms, going solar, and focusing on wind energy. They would argue, of course, that we not limit such activities to 10/10/10 but continue them into the future.

You can find out much more about this effort at <http://www.350.org/>.

Check the Tap Water: Most tap water in the U. S. is of high quality despite concerns expressed by consumers. As more people learn about the costs of bottled water and consider switching back to the tap, it is essential that they become familiar with the quality of their tap water. To this end, Food & Water Watch (FWW) has produced a document titled "The Take Back the Tap Guide to Safe Tap Water." The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 established federal standards for drinking water. A 1996 amendment to the act required that water utilities notify the public about any contaminants detected in the water they supplied. Water utilities must issue a water quality report to customers on an annual basis.

The FWW guide attempts to do three things:

1. The guide describes the water quality report that water utilities must distribute and helps the consumers interpret the information in the report;
2. For those who conclude that they want to filter their water, the FWW guide describes different types of filters and different types of filtering processes. The guide also discusses different water quality concerns and how different filtration methods deal with them.

3. Finally, the FWW guide includes ratings from a Consumer Reports article (May 2010) on water filters.

This FWW guide is a good starting point for people interested in becoming more informed about the quality of their tap water. The FWW guide (along with a video on water filters) can be found at <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/your-water/guide-to-safe-tap-water-video/>.

Clean Air in LA: The Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD) may follow the lead its counterpart in the San Joaquin Valley and impose an annual surcharge on auto registration fees. The proceeds from such fees will be used to invest in pollution controls (*NY Times*, 10/18/10). The argument is that industry has been forced to clean up its emissions and it is time for car drivers to do the same. If the legislature approves, the AQMD will add a \$3.00 surcharge to vehicle registration fees in the L. A. basin. It will no doubt be the case that many will complain about an added government "tax." However, many may also decide to seek lower polluting autos and reduce their carbon footprint.



DESAL Demonstration Facility Go-See Tour

“Desal,” abbreviation of “desalinization” - Removing salt from something or in this case, the process of removing salt from sea water to make it drinkable.

Saturday, December 11, 2010

10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon



**Reservations are limited so please
R.S.V.P. to Kay White 310-373-1901
or kaywhite645@peoplepc.com**

Deadline is December 6, 2010

The tour will begin at the **Sealab facility** where the Demonstration Facility is located at 1021 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

Parking is directly across the street at the AES power plant parking lot.

The tour will take about an hour and a half and will include a walk through of the West Basin Water Education display, a short presentation about our future water supplies, and a tour of the plant with the opportunity to drink the desalted ocean water.

Sealab facility, 1021 N. Harbor Drive, Redondo Beach

Jail Study—Mental Health Training

by Vi Iungerich, Jail Study Co-Chair

Recently the Jail Study Committee was asked if the Deputies had any formal training to handle the mentally ill inmates. This is a timely question as about 11% of the jail population is considered to be mentally ill and our county jail is often called the largest mental health facility in the state.

For years now the Department of Mental Health has worked with the County Jail. Programs have been developed to address the need for Deputies to understand and interact with the mentally ill inmate population. For the Men's Jail, Twin Towers has several units for the mentally ill and these units are staffed by the Department of Mental Health as well as sheriff's deputies. For those inmates that are not considered as needy as these inmates, some mentally ill people may be placed in the general population with medications. To meet the needs of any mentally ill person, inmates are screened at intake for mental illness when they are processed into the jail. For those inmates who may have been missed there are also teams of mental health personnel and sheriff deputies who are on call and who circulate through the general population to evaluate and provide service to any person who may be mentally ill.

To learn about any formal training for the deputies we recently interviewed Lt. Scott Walker of the training unit for the Deputies and Francesca Anello, Mental Health Clinical Program Head of the jail program. Ms. Anello stated that she provides 8 hours of formal training for the Deputies at the Academy. This training consists of an overview of mental illness in general and is followed by special training in suicide prevention, de-escalation of acute behavioral episodes, managing assaultive behaviors, getting help, and is taught both in a typical classroom format and also through role play.

After the academy training, before starting work in the jails a two to four hour review course is given including triage training and a review of suicide prevention. Yearly after this, two to four hours of additional training is currently being implemented which will include some mental health overall review and then an in-depth study of some common form of mental illness such as bi-polar illness or schizophrenia.

The goal is to give more information in depth over time and provide new knowledge at each training. Currently this program is just being implemented and the supervisors are currently being trained. It is hoped that this training will improve aid for those mentally ill in jail.

CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM

SCAQMD By Margo Reeg

Implementation of **AB 32**, provisions of **SB 375**, and Federal Climate Change Programs constituted the agenda of the Climate Change Forum sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Jan Perry, LA City Council on October 14.

Panelists Jill Whynot of the SCAQMD, Lee Wallace, Southern California Gas Company, Lorraine Paskett, LA DWP, and Wendy James, Better World Group gave their perspectives on the progress that has already been made on implementing **AB 32, the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Law**.

Ms James noted that California is the 3rd largest user of fossil fuels after the United States and China, so reducing California's consumption of fossil fuels by 17% by 2020 can make a significant difference. She also stated that California is a trendsetter for the US and everything California does in energy policy does make a difference because other states will follow our lead. As an example, California clean air policy led to the development of the catalytic converter. California is the home of Clean Technology with 500,000 jobs today. Massachusetts is second in clean technology. And the California clean-green industry is growing.

The final set of rules for implementation of AB 32 will be passed by the California Air Resources Board in December. Cap and Trade on emissions of GHGs will constitute 20% of the rule.

Lew Wallace stated that SoCal Gas is opposed to Prop. 23 because of the uncertainty it will create for industry. They want to know the rules and the dates by which they must achieve reductions.

SB 375 requires the development of regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles for 2020 and 2035. Strategies to achieve those targets will become part of Sustainable Communities Plans and Regional Transportation Plans. Panelists included Hasan Ikhtrata, SoCal Assn. of Governments, Arthur Leahy, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Jim Arnone, Latham and Watkins, and Denny Zane, MoveLA.

Mr. Ikhtrata stated that the major challenges for SCAG are the budget, aging infrastructure, regional growth, air quality and congestion. The Regional Transportation Plan for 2008 will cost \$531.5 Billion. The 2012 RTPlan is yet to be determined.

He noted that the "demand for oil is sky--rocketing" but that if the price gets high enough people will drive less. He reminded the audience that SB 375 links transportation to land use so market trends and population data have to be considered and planned for. By 2035 the region is expected to have 17% of its population over 65 and 29% under 21. From 2000-2009 69% of the regional population increase of 2.195 million was due to births in the region and 31% due to immigration.

The SCAG regional Sustainable Communities Strategy is composed of 1) Land Use Plan 2) Transportation Policy 3) and Transportation Investment. So it is crucial to this area that Sacramento not take Transportation funds for other uses.

Art Leahy, CEO of METRO, said that "METRO is revolutionizing LA" by expanding use of trains and transit. Measure R, the most recent ½ cent sales tax devoted to transit projects, targets some money to each region for mass transit, though several regions think they were shortchanged.

Project 30/10 strives to get more money for transportation from Washington. Some has already been promised for the "Subway to the Sea." Leahy agrees that the goals of AB 32 and SB 375 cannot be achieved if the state continues to appropriate transportation funds for other state use.

Jim Arnone, a land use and environmental lawyer, works for real estate owner/developers. He stated that "**SB 375** is a powerful tool for regional planning." Focusing on reduction of greenhouse gases doesn't appeal to the public, but focusing on sustainability has greater appeal. He acknowledges that fuel costs will go up again which will help get people out of their individual vehicles. He also suggested that because SB 375 is non-binding on cities it will have marginal effect unless there are regional plans. Cities will look toward the regional plans for guidance. If developers choose not to comply they will face consequences from CEQA. He suggests that local and regional governance not "chill the creation of the greenest projects by making them too expensive."

Climate Change article continued from page 8

Danny Zane of MoveLA began by praising the SCAQMD and CARB for making amazing strides in cleaning up the air in Southern California. MoveLA became involved in addressing Climate Change because they care about the urban environment. Zane, former mayor of Santa Monica, cited that the Measure R 0.5 cent sales tax in LA County will generate \$40 million for fixed rail and fixed route transportation projects. In addition, **SB 375** will help concentrate shopping and housing near transit lanes. This will facilitate reinvestment in LA. In the last 20 years Santa Monica has revitalized itself with more transportation, more mixed use areas and more walkable downtown.

The final panel of the morning addressed **Federal Climate Change Programs**. The panelists included Debbie Jordan, Director of the Air Division Region 9 EPA and Sharon Rubalcava, of the law firm Alston and Bird.

Dr. Jordan stated that the EPA oversees the implementation of 5 major areas including the Clean Air Act.

- 1) New GHG reporting program which affects 10,000 stationary facilities including landfills, factories and refineries, power plants and natural gas suppliers begins in March 2011.
- 2) The decision was reached in December 2009 that GHG gases lead to climate change and that the emissions from new cars can affect health. The EPA relies on sound scientific studies to bolster this conclusion.
- 3) Transportation support measures include engine and control technology, fuel types and activity levels. The renewable standards which apply to new cars and light trucks have been established for the 2012 -2016 models. A second stricter emissions standard is being developed for cars and trucks from 2017 – 2025 and for heavy duty trucks beginning in 2014. Some stimulus money was directed to fund research into batteries for electric vehicles.
- 4) Stationary industrial sources which are revamped or built new will have to use BACT (best available control technology) for greenhouse gases.
- 5) Clean Air Act requires that once a pollutant is declared then all sources have to address reduction of that pollutant. The EPA is now developing guidelines for energy efficiency processes to help facilities comply.

Sharon Rubalcava works with industry on the permitting process. The House has passed the Waxman-Markey Energy bill but the Senate has not brought up the Kerry-Lieberman bill. So one problem is that the quantity of GHG reductions has not been set. Industry is hoping for a single federal standard rather than standards set state by state.

Presently major emitters of pollutants have been power plants and refineries. But under GHG rules large office and government buildings will be defined as major sources of GHG emissions due to air conditioning, heating and lighting. Thus these buildings will have to adopt BACT, but so far they do not know what they will need to do get permits and reduce emissions. She suggested that new GHG reporting requirements will encourage changes to make plants more energy efficient. Meeting GHG reductions will be harder for eastern states that rely on coal for power.



Youth Month! Below is a fact about runaway and homeless youth and link to a short video interview with a young person who has experienced homelessness or housing instability, highlighting their experiences, aspirations, and ideas for change.

Street youth are generally different than kids in shelters who tend to be younger, either equal numbers of males and females or more females, and homeless for the first time. Street youth are more likely to be male and are typically older. They are generally homeless on a more frequent basis and for longer periods of time – more than half for two to nine years.

Houseless not Homeless Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuTgGZrWbJY>

For more information visit the [CA Runaway and Homeless Youth Month](http://carhymonth.wordpress.com/) website:

(<http://carhymonth.wordpress.com/>). To learn more about youth homelessness in California, visit the [CA Homeless Youth Project](http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/) (<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/>) and the [CA Coalition for Youth](http://www.cal youth.org/) (<http://www.cal youth.org/>).

The League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitment to diversity, pluralism and affirmative action.

The League of Women Voters welcomes new members, both men and women, who are citizens of voting age. Associate membership is open to all others.

SUBSCRIBE to the VOTER

Send the information below to be notified of the latest VOTER posted on our website at:
<http://www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org>

For a hard copy subscription send \$10 to:
 LWV/LACounty Treasurer,
 427 E. Walnut Avenue, Burbank, CA 91501.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

League _____

E-mail Address _____

Internet Election Resources

Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org

Statewide propositions plus local candidates & issues on your ballot, with extensive Background materials and media links from LWV California Ed Fund

LA County Registrar-Recorder www.lavote.net

Election calendar, polling place look-up, absentee voting info, multilingual voting materials, Locations for Touchscreen early voting

Easy Voter Guide www.easyvoter.org

Concise facts on statewide propositions; Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, and English

Secretary of State www.ss.ca.gov

Official text of ballot measures

CA Legislative Analyst www.lao.ca.gov

Analysis of all ballot measures

CA Voter Foundation www.calvoter.org

Data on campaign contributions to candidates and measures

CA Budget Project www.cbp.org

Analyzes the fiscal effects of statewide ballot measures

This **VOTER** is ready for viewing on our website: www.lacilo.ca.lwvnet.org



Nancy Mahr, LWV/LACounty President
 28028 Ella Road
 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275