



# *Santa Cruz VOTER*

League of Women Voters® of Santa Cruz County

May/June 2013

Volume 47, Number 7

You are cordially invited to attend our  
League's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Luncheon  
Saturday, June 1, 2013, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Seascape Golf Clubhouse  
610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

**Keynote Speaker: Gary A. Patton**  
Of counsel at Wittwer and Parkin, LLC

The topic: UCSC Expansion—Community Benefit or Burden?



\$18.00 per person includes admission and deli buffet lunch  
(payable in advance by May 25).

Send check payable to LWVSCC to  
Marcia Minnihan, 110 Valencia Ave., Aptos, CA 95003.

To download the Annual Meeting Agenda Kit, click here:  
[http://lwvscc.org/files/2013-6-1\\_Annual\\_Meeting\\_Kit.pdf](http://lwvscc.org/files/2013-6-1_Annual_Meeting_Kit.pdf)

## Bring a Friend to Our Annual Meeting on June 1

Share the [event flyer](#) and encourage your friends to attend. Our Annual Meeting is a good opportunity to acquaint potential new members with our wonderful organization. We have planned a delicious lunch with an outstanding speaker. The agenda also includes election of officers and directors, adoption of a budget and recommended topics for programs in the coming year. Make your reservation and be sure to bring the [Annual Meeting Agenda Kit](#) with you to the meeting. You can also find the flyer and Annual Meeting Agenda Kit on our website calendar at <http://lwvsc.org>.

### President's Message

By the time you read this, April with his *shoures soote* will be over. Unfortunately, it didn't *perced to the roote the drought of March*. (Forgive me for quoting Chaucer—I'm particularly fond of the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales.) As many of you know, I worry about our water supply here in our drought susceptible home. So far, we have been asked to cut back our use of water by 15%. I wonder how you figure out how much water you must cut back on to lower your use by 15%. I wish our Supervisors would quit issuing building permits without regard to the availability of water.

Every so often, I receive a Leaders' Update from Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the National League. I forward the text on to our local Board members, and if any of you would like to subscribe to the Update list, please use the national League's Email Discussion List form available here: <https://member.lwv.org/member.asp>

The National League is very concerned about the attempt by some states to require would-be voters to present documentary proof of citizenship before they are permitted to vote. We are also urged to tell our Senators that the environment is not a bargaining chip in the federal budget. The National League has also sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives encouraging them to consider common sense solutions to gun violence issues. Unrestricted ownership has been a concern of mine for some time. I have no problem with people who like to hunt for food (I like venison too), but I do have a problem with people who like to shoot animals just for sport.

As for handguns, I think it is a mistake to keep a handgun, particularly if there are children in the house. I don't recall ever reading in a newspaper that some householder had successfully repelled an intruder with a hand gun, but I do recall accounts of family members accidentally (or in anger) shooting one another. However, I doubt if it would be feasible to try to restrict handgun ownership. But I really, really don't see anything in the Second Amendment which gives anyone a right to own military weapons which rapidly fire large numbers of bullets.

That's enough ranting for one letter. I look forward to seeing all of you on June 1 at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,  
Irene Thomas, President



## Senate Fails to Pass Key Gun Control Amendment

LWVUS News Release, 04/18/2013

*“Ultimately, political fear and outrageous claims won out over common sense.”*

**Washington, DC** – The League of Women Voters of the U.S. (LWVUS) today expressed frustration and disappointment with the failure of the U.S. Senate to pass an amendment that would have required background checks for gun purchases even though it had garnered support from an overwhelming majority of Americans.

“The failure of the Senate to pass this amendment marks a sad day, not only for the many victims lost to gun violence, but for the Senators who were unable to find the strength to do the right thing,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national President of the League. “Ultimately, political fears and outrageous claims won out over common sense.”

“The Senators who voted against this amendment failed in their fundamental duty to protect Americans from wanton gun violence. They should have stood up to the special interest gun lobby and their money and instead stood with the American people,” MacNamara said.

“Senators Manchin and Toomey deserve the thanks and appreciation of the nation, not only for the courage to seek compromise across partisan lines, but for the courage to do the right thing against a powerful and unforgiving lobbying force,” added MacNamara.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has [a long-standing position](#) in support of gun control. Since 1990, we have lobbied in support of banning assault weapons, requiring all dealers to run criminal background checks at gun shows, and opposing laws that grant special protection for the gun industry.

“This fight is not over, it is far too important,” concluded MacNamara. “Gun control is a matter of public safety and public health. It is long past time for vital measures to stop the carnage. [On behalf of our members and supporters](#) from across this country, we urge Washington to help put a stop to this violence.”

###

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan 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.

### Local League Members to Attend LWV of California Convention

Our League will be sending three delegates to the state League Convention in San Jose, May 17-19: President Irene Thomas, VP/Membership Chair Barbara Lewis and VP/Programs Coordinator Nominee Marilyn Radisch. Registration is still open and although the League cannot reimburse additional members for expenses, we encourage all members to consider attending part or all of the convention, especially since it is conveniently located at the Dolce Hayes Mansion, within easy commuting distance. Speakers, workshops, special events, caucuses and information about registration and lodging are detailed on the convention blog: <http://lwvc.wordpress.com/>

## Membership Report

Our local League has shown an increase in total membership during this past year. Since membership is very important to our effectiveness, you are encouraged to renew for the 2013-14 fiscal year either at the Annual Meeting or by sending a check made out to LWVSCC to our treasurer, Marcia Minnihan, 110 Valencia Ave., Aptos CA 95003. Dues are \$65 individual, \$100 household, and \$30 student. If there is a change of contact information or something you want omitted from the roster, please write a note to that effect. Renewal before late June is encouraged. If you initially joined the League in March or April 2013 at the full amount, you only need to pay 1/2 dues to renew your membership for the coming fiscal year that begins July 1.

Barbara Lewis, Membership Vice President

## *Santa Cruz VOTER* Editor on Temporary Medical Leave

Pam Newbury, our *Santa Cruz VOTER* Editor, is on temporary medical leave-of-absence while being treated for breast cancer. She will be back with us as *VOTER* Editor as soon as she feels up to it. Pam welcomes messages of encouragement. Check your League membership roster for her contact information. Updates of Pam's progress may be found on the Support Circle website at: [http://www.supportcircle.com/dbmodel\\_php/supportpage.php](http://www.supportcircle.com/dbmodel_php/supportpage.php).

## League Plans Summer Hiatus

It's traditional for our League to take a summer break from program meetings and luncheons after our annual meeting (June 1 this year). However, our Board of Directors will continue to meet through the summer for training and orientation, to set up committees and to develop a calendar of events to begin in the fall. League members are always welcome to attend our Board meetings. Call or email the League to learn of time and place. The Board wishes you a lovely summer and looks forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on June 1.

The *Santa Cruz VOTER* is published by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010; (831)426-VOTE(8683); <http://lwvsc.org>; [league@lwvsc.org](mailto:league@lwvsc.org). Jan Karwin, interim editor, [jan@karwin.com](mailto:jan@karwin.com).

### Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members. Send your check payable to the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

\_\_\_\_ \$65 Individual annual membership      Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$100 Two members in household      Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$30 Student Membership      City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_      Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax-      Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Deductible. To make a tax-deductible donation,  
write a separate check to the LWV Education

Fund.      We do not share personal contact information with other  
organizations.