



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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### What is 211? Get dialed in Feb. 7 at “Lunch & Learn with the League”



Soon, you can dial 211 to reach virtually every health and human resource in San Luis Obispo County. Changes in how we communicate and the need for more effective disaster response make the number not only innovative but

essential, said Linda McGregor, executive director of Hotline of San Luis Obispo County Inc.

And the number will transform Hotline, taking the nonprofit countywide information hub to new levels.

McGregor will explain the many dimensions of 211 at the “Lunch & Learn with the League” on Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Rosa’s Restaurant in Pismo Beach. The event runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch is \$16. Reservations are required by Feb. 5.

The new number is a groundbreaking, efficient solution that eliminates the confusing and often overwhelming maze of information and services for people who need help. And in a disaster, such as the recent fires in San Diego, 211 provides a 24-hour public information function -- fielding waves of non-emergency calls that would otherwise flood the 911 line -- which enables first responders to focus on their primary mission. In addition, by coordinating the full gamut of resources -- where to find shelters, where to get water, how to arrange transportation for a frail house-bound senior -- 211 connects people to the help they need.

In California, nine counties have already initiated 211 service, including Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles. By the end of 2007 over 80 percent of Californians will be able to dial 211 to find the services they need. The California 211 Partnership (United Way of California and the California Alliance of Information and Referral Services) are working toward 2010 for full California coverage.

For more information on “Lunch and Learn with the League” or to RSVP, call 543-2220 or email [info@lwvslo.org](mailto:info@lwvslo.org).

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