

**2008 – 2009  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**61 Years**  
*Making a Difference  
in Our Community Since 1947*



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®**  
**OF STANISLAUS COUNTY**

## Annual Meeting Procedures

Adoption of Order of Business: To change the order of the business agenda, a majority vote is required if done at the beginning of the meeting. If a change is made later, a two-thirds vote is required.

A reading committee selected at last year's meeting verified the accuracy of the minutes. Today we select three members to read this year's minutes.

There is no Treasurer's Report in this document because our fiscal year does not end until June 30. A year-end report will be printed in *The Voter*.

The Budget Committee and the Board recommend approval of the 2009-2010 budget printed in this report.

Each year our local program must be approved by the membership. The Board recommends approval of the program as printed in this report. A majority vote of members attending the meeting is needed for approval members. According to our by-laws, proposals for non-recommended items must be received by the Board at least two months prior to this meeting.

Our by-laws provide for election of officers and directors. Nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been secured. Election of the slate, as presented by the Nominating Committee, is by majority vote. The Nominating Committee consists of five members, two of whom are members of the Board, selected by the board. The chair and two members who are not on the Board are elected at this 2009 Annual Meeting.

A space is provided at the end of this report for "Direction to the Board." This may be used to provide your suggestions for 2009-2010 including ideas you may wish the Board to consider for changes/additions to local program or areas of emphasis for program or any other League activity.

***"The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement"***

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY  
ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

May 2, 2009, 10 am  
Appetez Cafe  
Modesto, CA

Introductions, Announcements	Ellen Meyer
Guest Speaker: Trudy Schafer LWVC Senior Director for Program	Virginia Lish

**Business Meeting**

Call to Order	Ellen Meyer
Parliamentarian	Ellen Dunbar
Credentials Report	Linda Walden
Adoption of Order of Business and Procedures	Marsha Waggoner
Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting	Marie Bairey
Selection of Minutes Reading Committee, 2009	Ellen Meyer
Budget Presentation, Discussion and Vote	Julie Saugstad
Local Program	Hanna Renning
Nominating Committee Report	Virgina Lish
Election of Officers and Directors	Ellen Meyer
Sustaining Member Award	Julie Saugstad
President's Report	Ellen Meyer
Adjournment	Ellen Meyer

# **League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Proposed Local Program 2009-2010**

## **Housing (Adopted 1975, updated 1982 and 2003)**

We recognize that the need for shelter is fundamental, and that a diverse population will desire a wide selection of housing options. Therefore, we:

- A. Support equal opportunity in housing options in Stanislaus County.
- B. Support local measures to increase the supply of a diverse range of housing types to serve a diverse population.
- C. Support local measures to increase the supply of safe and affordable housing for everyone.

## **Land Use (Adopted 1976, updated 1988 and 2003)**

We recognize that land use decisions have an impact on many areas, notably on the quality of life and on the economy; and we recognize that land itself is an irreplaceable resource that needs to be preserved and protected. We support land use planning that:

- A. Protects farmland outside clearly defined urban boundaries to avoid unnecessary conversion of farmlands.
  - B. Protects the overall quality of environment (soil, air, and water).
  - C. Provides urban development contiguous with existing development where urban services can be provided.
  - D. Provides adequate funding for infrastructure needs (transportation, schools, parks, government services and public utilities.)
- Land use planning should involve cooperation between and among the various local regional government bodies.

## **Adult Criminal Justice (Adopted 1980, 1982 and 1984)**

We support:

- A. The funding in Stanislaus County of a wide range of alternatives to incarceration for all but the physically dangerous offender.
- B. Efforts to further the expansion of persons convicted of drug and alcohol abuse.
- C. A greater allocation of funds within the criminal justice budget for crime prevention, crime detection and rehabilitation

## **Child Abuse and Neglect (Adopted 1985, updated 1987)**

- A. We recognize child abuse as a societal problem; therefore, we support: Legislation, which addresses the jurisdictional, organizational and procedural problems in the prosecution of child abuse cases.
- B. Modification of the courtroom process to accommodate child victims.
- C. Consistent reporting and recording of child abuse and neglect cases and development of comprehensive statistics.
- D. Broad-based prevention programs that are accessible to all family members and take into consideration the ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of those being served.
- E. Efforts of public and private agencies to continually focus public attention on the problems of child abuse and neglect.

## **Local Library Finance (Adopted 1994, updated 1997 and 2003)**

We support long-term, consistent funding of the Stanislaus County Free Library

- A. We strongly support a dedicated source of funds which could be used only for the Library
- B. Basic library services should remain free and become more accessible to all Stanislaus County residents in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- C. We support a long-range goal of maintaining a library system of excellence.

## **Gang Violence (Adopted 2007)**

In order to address the problem of criminal gang activity within our community, we support the development of culturally diverse intervention and enrichment programs at the elementary school level and beyond.

- A. Such programs may include recreational, athletic, academic, creative and/or social activities.
- B. We encourage allocation of resources to fund these programs through public, private and/or non-profit organizations.

## **Municipal Government (Adopted 2008)**

To assure that municipal government is open, accountable, and responsive to residents and to promote full participation by citizens, we support:

- A system that balances neighborhood needs with citywide perspective
- Encourages and offers opportunity for increased voter and candidate participation

(Should districts be part of a proposal, criteria for establishing districts are addressed by LWVC. Also, LWVC has a position favoring majority decisions for elections officials.)

**LWVSC 2009-2010 Proposed Budget-  
Compared to 2008-2009 Budget**

**Proposed to Board of Directors as of March 11, 2009**

	<b>Budget 2008-09</b>	<b>Proposed 2009-10</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Estimated Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>18386</b>	<b>16992</b>		<b>Assets at the beginning of each year</b>
<b>Income:</b>				
Dues	7590	7260	-330	
Finance Drive	4500	4300	-200	unrestricted
Finance Drive-Designated Education	3500	3000	-500	tax deductible
Interest Income	150	120	-30	
Miscellaneous			0	
Voter Service Income	100	100	0	CSUS elections
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15840</b>	<b>14780</b>	<b>-1060</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Office Expenses:				
Equipment	0	0	0	No Request made
General Postage	500	400	-100	PO Box, board mailings, permit
Insurance	450	425	-25	general liability thru LWVC
Rent	2400	2400	0	\$200/mo
Supplies	350	300	-50	stationary, envelopes
Telephone	250	300	50	
Voter Newsletter	2000	1800	-200	postage, printing
Website	160	160	0	yearly rate from LWVC
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>6110</b>	<b>5785</b>	<b>-325</b>	<b>45% can be reimbursed from Ed Fund</b>
Dues Expenses:				
State PMP	2657	2795	138	
National PMP	3517	3533	16	<b>25 Families@ 43.80/ 83 Individual @ 29.2....</b>
<b>Total Dues Expenses</b>	<b>6174</b>	<b>6328</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>2 students@14.6/credit 3 people @5</b>
Membership Expenses:				
Action	50	50	0	
Annual Meeting	600	600	0	includes annual report
Board Tools	50	50	0	
Child Care	50	50	0	reimburse members
Convention	1500	1500	0	send 1 delegates to National Convention
Finance Drive	500	400	-100	postage & printing
Meetings	250	200	-50	Lunch & Learn, Holiday Fling
Membership	750	500	-250	Spring Membership Event
Publications	400	350	-50	pubs, directory
Co-sponsor an Event	100	50	-50	
Workshops	100	50	-50	
<b>Total Membership Expenses</b>	<b>4350</b>	<b>3800</b>	<b>-550</b>	
Voter Service Expenses:				
Candidate Forums	100	200	100	
Public Relations	100	100	0	
Publications	400	200	-200	pros/cons discontinued
Smart Voter - State charge	0	0	0	limited county elections
<b>Total Voter Service Expenses</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>100% can be reimbursed from Ed Fund</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>17234</b>	<b>16413</b>	<b>-821</b>	
<b>Income less expenses</b>	<b>-1394</b>	<b>-1633</b>		
<b>Estimated Ending Balance:</b>	<b>16992</b>	<b>15359</b>		<b>Assets remaining at the end of the year</b>
<b>Restricted Reserve:(Do not Touch)</b>	6500	6500		
<b>Unrestricted Reserve (Available)</b>	10492	8859		



## Nominees for Officers and Directors 2009-2010

### **Officers**

President	Ellen Meyer
First Vice President, Administrative	Susan Novak
Second Vice President, Program	Hanna Renning
Secretary	Marie Bairey
Treasurer	Michele McNeil

### **Directors**

Finance Drive	Mary Giventer
Voter Service	Ellen Dunbar
Membership	Colleen Norby, Lynn Kelso
State and National Action	Sue Chaffee
Local Action	Vacant
Voter Editor	Jean Tenney
Lunch and Learn	Mildred Kinser, Lee DeLaMare

### **Off Board**

Membership	Margie Lipsky
Voter Service	Marsha Waggoner
Nominating Committee Chair	Vacant
Nominating Committee Members	Laurie Carley, Seena Rhine
Webmaster	Stella Beratlis

## **President's Report**

Listed is a review of League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County accomplishments for 2008-2009. Some are new, and others are accomplishments that have been maintained by our local League. These are listed under the six strategic goals that LWVUS President Mary Wilson addressed at the LWV Council June 9-11, 2007 and we continued last year.

### **Overall Goal:**

#### **Strengthen the League's external impact on education and advocacy**

- Completed study, consensus, and Board approval to support Local Measure S Transportation Tax.
- Submitted letters-to- the-editors of county newspapers supporting Local Measure S
- Submitted letter to Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission with our concerns about the West Park Project
- Hosted three city council candidate forums in Oakdale, Turlock, and Riverbank
- Co-sponsored Constitution Day Presentation at Modesto Junior College
- Registered voters in Modesto, Salida, Oakdale, Patterson, Turlock
- Published articles in *The Voter* concerning local, state, and national Issues
- Co-sponsored Pro and Con Presentation at Modesto Junior College
- Partnered with Modesto Junior College with a Student Internship Program
- Displayed "Why I Vote" Posters with League Logo along with Modesto Junior College Civic Engagement Projects logo at Modesto Junior College
- Updated "Facts for Voters" produced with Modesto Junior College Civic Engagement Project
- Letter to the Editor Modesto Bee supporting Modesto Police for pursuing funding for Gang Prevention Programs using our Gang Violence Local Position 2007
- Monitored student government elections at CSUS-Stanislaus
- Participated in LWVUS National Popular Vote Study
- Presented LWV Stanislaus support of EAH Archway Commons project to Modesto City Council at two City Council Meetings

### **Internal Goals:**

#### **Crucial supportive goals to strengthen the overall goal Increasing Visibility**

- Public Service Announcements to local radio stations
- Notices to the newspapers in the Stanislaus County of candidate forums and voter registration locations
- Announcements in county newspapers on our forums and events
- Announcements in our county newspapers of our monthly Lunch and Learn speakers
- Our publication *The Voter* sent to outlying communities in the county to introduce them to LWV Stanislaus County
- Presentations by Past Presidents to introduce our League to city councils throughout the county

#### **Enhancing League Leadership**

- Sent one delegate to LWVC Leadership Council May 2008
- Sent two delegates to LWV National Convention June 2008
- Held Moderator Training Workshop August 2008
- Published articles in our publication *The Voter* concerning local, state, and national issues
- Invited mayors of cities in Stanislaus County to speak at Lunch and Learn events
- Updated and revised Board of Director portfolios (duties)

### **Assuring the League's Financial Base**

- Articles in our publication *The Voter* promoting our Finance Drive
- Audit of LWV Stanislaus County accounting records
- Revised Treasurer Report format
- Purchased a laptop, case and Quiken program to secure and maintain our financial records

### **Growing Membership**

- Our publication *The Voter* sent to city and county representatives of communities outside Modesto
- Annual Membership Renewal Drive letters and new follow-up postcards
- Articles in our publication *The Voter* concerning membership
- New membership packet and Directory updated
- Positioning our website on Facebook to attract new members

### **Doing All this by Embracing Technology**

- Updates to our League website with latest information
- Smart Voter Website
- Promotion of our website in public service announcements, *The Voter* and on all written communication sent out by our League.
- Development of Local Action e-mail newsletter and page for the website to increase membership involvement
- Communication through the website to League members on upcoming events, and action alerts.
- Generic e-mails to contact Board members in all written communication instead of personal e-mails.
- E-mail blasts to keep members informed of events and issues
- Positioning our website on Facebook

Thank you members! Your energy, creativity, and dedication are invaluable!!!!

Ellen Meyer, President

***MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!***

## **Vice President's Report**

Lynne and Albion Fenderson once again opened their home in December for the annual Holiday Fling. Daryl Moore, Founding Dean of the CSU, Stanislaus, College of the Arts, spoke on "Design and the Creative Process." We owe thanks to our hosts and to Margie Lipsky and her committee, who organized the refreshments.

Our annual Program Planning Meeting took place at the League Office in January, with ten members attending and four giving written input. We split into three groups to examine past state positions on Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. After these groups reported to all attending, one recommendation to the state was agreed upon: to update the position on Education, K-12, by expanding it to Education, K-14, with the goal of creating greater articulation in curriculum throughout these years. Students would receive more appropriate preparation for college entrance exams and for college courses. In the area of Local Action, members agreed to retain present positions and to concentrate on implementing recommendations arrived at in the study on gang violence.

In March and April we joined a LWVUS study of the National Popular Vote Compact. Members Marsha Waggoner, Seena Rhine, Mildred Kinser, Jill Sousa, and Susan Novak took an in-depth look at the pros and cons of this method of electing the President by popular vote. The NPV compact uses the mechanism of the Electoral College with the states agreeing that their state electors to the EC would vote for the individual that received the most votes nationwide. Consensus meeting of our members was held in April with a report sent to LWVUS.

-Susan Novak, First Vice President and Hanna Renning Second Vice President

## **Finance Drive Report**

Each year the Finance Drive Committee reviews the mailing and donor lists. For the second year in a row, the Committee sought to expand the lists to be more inclusive of our countywide representation. We mailed almost 400 letters and received 90 contributions.

Personal contact remained at the heart of our campaign. Fifteen exceptional volunteers from across the county once again served as Finance Drive Advisors. These individuals, along with the Committee and the Board of Directors, ensured that each and every fundraising letter had a personal note. That extra effort plays a significant role in the continued generosity of our community.

Once again, our appeal included the highlights of the League's work. We strove to show current and prospective donors the work of our organization. The inclusion of the League's activities served as a reminder of how we responsibly steward the donations received.

This year we included the opportunity to donate in honor of or in memory of a special person and due to the good response we plan to continue offer this option.

We raised \$7,860, which is 98 percent of our \$8,000 goal. Given the current state of the economy, we can not thank our donors, as well as our Finance Drive Advisors, enough for their dedication and commitment to the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County.

-Amy Christensen Wolfe, Finance Drive Director

## Voter Service Report

Our accomplishments this year:

- A televised forum with candidates for the Oakdale City Council,
- A televised forum with candidates for the Turlock City Council
- A televised forum with the candidates for Riverbank City Council
- Voter registration tables at the Modesto, Patterson, Salida and Turlock libraries before the November election
- Voter registration table at the Arts and Wine Festival in Modesto
- Voter Registration table at the Modesto Home Improvement show in Modesto
- Pros & Cons presentations including one at MJC that was attended by several hundred students and community members.
- A moderator training session for interested members. Amy Wolfe is now in our pool of members who can moderate forums.
- Monitored student government elections at CSUS-Stanislaus in April
- Revised our “Facts for Voters” brochure printed by Modesto Junior College in association with Modesto Junior College Civic Engagement Project

Thank you to the following League members who helped with these activities:

Forums: Amy Wolfe, Susan Novak, Marsha Waggoner, Julie Saugstad, Ellen Meyer, Karen and Edward Tobacco, Sara Jamieson, Michelle McNeil, Mary Giventer

Voter Registration: Susan Novak, Marsha Waggoner, Joan Patterson, Malorie Michael, Linda Walden, Marge Lipsky, Ellen Meyer, Ellen Dunbar, Hanna Renning, Elizabeth Vestal, Sara Jamison, Mildred Kinser, Francie Fovinci, Jean DeLaMare, Mary Giventer, Colleen Norby

Pros & Cons Presentations: Patty Beyer, Amy Christensen, Marsha Waggoner, Ellen Dunbar

### Election Monitors:

Mildred Kinser coordinated the volunteers for the CSUS elections in April. Her volunteers included: Pat Cole, Carole Davis, Lee DeLaMare, Phyllis Hart, Hal & Mildred Kinser, John & Marianne Klink, Ann Krabach, Cornelia Leach, Michele McNeil, Betty Muench, Susan Novak, Joan Patterson, Doris Scanlon, Cathee Vaughn, Elizabeth Vestal.

-Ellen Dunbar and Marsha Waggoner, Voter Service Directors

***.....DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!***

## Local Action Report

The Local Action Committee of LWV Stanislaus County began the year with a “full plate” of issues to monitor, study or act upon.

- West Park, Patterson: In anticipation of the Environment Impact Report study, League prepared a letter to the County Board of Supervisors and County Planning Commission listing questions and concerns that should be addressed in the report. These included the size of the project, water sources, air quality, transportation impact, public safety and fiscal viability and liability.
- Farmland Mitigation: LWVSC is a stakeholder in the study process. We have received the reports and attended workshops.
- Measure S, county transportation tax proposal on the November, 2008 ballot: The August consensus meeting was well attended with healthy discussion. The group recommended and the Board approved support for the measure while expressing concerns about the measure’s shortcomings. Letters-to-the-editor were sent to newspapers in the county as well as articles in our own *Voter*.
- Archway Commons, affordable housing proposal in Modesto: We supported the proposal prepared by EAH, a Bay Area non-profit, for affordable housing in the area of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Carver within the Modesto Redevelopment Master plan. We made presentations to the Modesto Planning Commission and City Council. The project was approved.
- Regional Blueprint Planning Process: As part of the regional planning process, meetings have been held throughout the Valley during the year to develop regional guidelines for future growth. Members attended local workshops.
- Riverbank General Plan Update: The committee has monitored this study. Final approval by the Riverbank City Council has been postponed after modifications to the farmland mitigation section of the Plan. Concern was expressed that not all stakeholders were included in that process.
- Gang study update: The committee reviewed the LWVSC Gang Violence position approved in 2007. The position focuses on intervention strategies for young people at risk. The committee recommended that League update the study to determine what gang prevention resources are currently available in our communities. The Board is looking for someone to coordinate this update.

LWVSC is proud to note members’ participation in two City of Modesto Charter Commissions to implement changes approved by the voters in 2007. Ellen Meyer was on the commission that reviewed and set salaries for the mayor and city council members. Patty Beyer was a member of the commission that recommended the structure for election by districts for City Council.

The Local Action Committee is the watchdog and advocacy arm of LWVSC. As a county League, the opportunities for impact have increased, while the membership on the Committee has dwindled significantly. The time and energy of its few members is limited, thus reducing how effective we can be. In an effort to recruit new members, we have changed our meeting time to evening and moved the meetings to members’ homes. We welcome members who are interested in any or all of the issues. We also welcome suggestions to structure the committee to meet the needs of more members. The Local Action Committee is the League’s vehicle for participation in government and influencing government decisions. Join us.

## State and National Action Report

### State News

The League of Women Voters of California focused on the following issues:

The LWVC sponsored a major redistricting reform initiative on the November 2008 ballot: the California Voters FIRST initiative. This Measure was passed by the voters. LWVC is still actively involved in the implementation of this initiative.

LWVC opposed Proposition 8 on the November 2008 ballot which provides that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California, thus eliminating the right of same-sex couples to marry. This ballot measure was passed by the Voters and since then the LWVC was one of many organizations that filed amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) briefs supporting the legal challenges to the initiative in March 2009.

LWVC enthusiastically supported SB 375 (Steinberg), the “first-in-the-nation” law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. California is the first state in the nation to tackle land-use planning.

LWVC supported SB 840 (Kuehl) Single Payer Health Care Coverage bill that would establish the California Healthcare System to be administered by the newly created California Healthcare Agency under the control of a Healthcare Commissioner appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

LWVC’s 2009 priority issues will be State and Local Finances/State Budget—focusing on reform of the state budgeting process and support of equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues. As time and resources permit, LWVC will take action on core government issues and possible action in the areas of Health Care, Water, and Climate Change

### National News

The League of Women Voters US focused on the following issues:

Judicial Impartiality-In July 2008, LWVUS president Mary G. Wilson spoke before distinguished experts on the need to maintain fair and impartial courts.

Help America Vote Act-LWVUS, with coalition partners, sent a letter to members of Congress urging them to fully fund the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

Campaign Finance Reform-LWVUS and coalition partners called on the FEC to follow the law in issuing regulations to implement campaign finance legislation. The letter also points out the structural problems with the agency and that President Obama has the ability to change the nomination process for FEC commissioners to provide for a better-functioning agency.

D.C. Voting Rights-LWVUS supports HR 157 and S 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009, and opposed all amendments. A strong campaign was conducted by the League and as of date the U.S. Senate passed S. 160. and LWV is continuing action with letters to the House of Representatives to Pass HR 157.

United States President's 2010 Proposed Budget-LWVUS supports President Obama's 2010 proposed budget for it contains essential funding for health care reform and curbing global warming while making other changes aimed at putting America on a path for economic recovery

Global Climate Change-LWVUS along with partners called on President Obama to address Global Warming and LWV conveyed strong support for clean energy policies and urged leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to develop comprehensive climate legislation that includes substantial investments in developing countries to support adaptation to climate change impacts and the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Health Care-LWVUS urges you to support reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and LWVUS and coalition partners submitted comments to the Department of Health and Human Services supporting rescission of the HHS regulation that would have a negative impact on patient access to health care services and information.

The League of Women Voters as of April 2009 has a role as a national partner in the 2010 U.S. Census.

-Sue Chaffee, State and National Director

### **The Voter Report**

*The Voter* is our primary source of information about the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County, for both the general membership and the community. In addition to the hard-copy, which is mailed, we post it on our Website, as well as on the Website of the national League.

This year, we have published nine issues of *The Voter*, combining June-July, November-December, and February-March. Every issue contained our President's message, highlights of the Board meetings, Calendar of Events, roster of the Board of Directors, Lunch and Learn announcements, and new-member information and enrollment form, as well a statement of our Diversity Policy.

Each Board member regularly contributed articles concerning their area of responsibility. These included reports from the Secretary, Treasurer, Finance Drive Director, and the directors of the Local Action, State and National, Voter Service, and Membership Committees. *The Voter* also publicized upcoming special League events, such as the Holiday Fling and the Annual Membership Event.

This has been a very eventful and exciting year, with elections at all levels of government, and many controversial and complex issues that called for informed voter participation. *The Voter* publicized candidates' forums and educational events on the Pros and Cons of initiatives and propositions. We also included in our September issue the recommendations of the California League of Women Voters on the state propositions.

We were honored to receive, this year, a letter from Janis Hirohama, President of the California League of Women Voters, commending the high quality of our *Voter*. Publishing a newsletter involves the hard work of many people, and I wish to thank everyone who contributed - with articles, editing, mailing, and/or moral support - to the successful production of *The Voter*.

Jean Tenney, *The Voter* Editor

## **Webmaster Report**

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County website ([lwwstanislaus.org](http://lwwstanislaus.org)) is in its tenth year of offering online information to residents of our county. We provide information about local and state elections and League events, as well as an online version of *The Voter*, meeting minutes, and agendas.

In 1999, our local League had a web presence thanks to Joan Goldsmith and Jim Griffin, who collaborated with MJC to provide the community with information vital to civic engagement. Today, the League's website is a stand-alone site made possible through the technical support and infrastructure of the League Easy Web, a project of the LWVC.

As we cycle through election season, it is clear that the League's website is an important channel for disseminating information to members of our own group as well as members of the greater community; our statistics reflect the usage. Since November 2004, when LWVC began tracking the numbers, [lwwstanislaus.org](http://lwwstanislaus.org) has had 156,279 successful requests for pages, with an average of 97 requests per day. Our busiest month to date was October 2008, with 5,431 page requests. Compare that to our next-busiest month, March 2008, when we had 4,420 page requests. Our usage continues to grow in leaps and bounds, especially when compared with comparable time periods in past years (such as the 30-day period prior to elections).

Thank you for your continued support of [lwwstanislaus.org](http://lwwstanislaus.org), your local League's voice online.

- Stella Beratlis, Webmaster

## **Smart Voter Report**

We participated in the Smart Voter website for the November 2008 election. Our League and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund co-funded this project.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

## **The Public Relations Report**

News releases were sent to Stanislaus County newspapers announcing programs, voter registration opportunities, and forums. Public service announcements went to local radio stations promoting our voter registration tables and candidate forums. This year we made use of the Modesto Bee's online Regional calendar. We see our own website as one of our most important PR tools.

- Susan Novak, Public Relations Director

**CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH GOVERNMENT!**

## **Lunch and Learn Report**

This monthly luncheon gives League members and guests the opportunity to hear speakers on varied topics. This year, we covered a variety of issues from health and safety to water and land use. We also started with our Meet the Mayors series so that Mayors of Stanislaus County could introduce themselves and their communities to League. Our members were keenly interested and attendance was very high. Our speakers included:

June, 2008	Chris Crifasi, Mayor of Riverbank
July 2008	Ryan Swehla, Affordable Housing Project
August, 2008	Farrell Jackson, Mayor of Oakdale
September, 2008	Vincent Harris, StanCOG on Ballot Measure S
October, 2008	John Lazar, Mayor of Turlock
January 2009	Anthony Cannella, Mayor of Ceres
February, 2009	Becky Campo, Mayor of Patterson
March 2009	Charlie Goeken, Mayor of Waterford
April 2009	Ed Katen, Mayor of Newman

-Mildred Kinser and Doris Scanlon, Lunch and Learn Directors

## **Membership Report**

Our 2008-2009 membership stands at 144. Although we gained 10 new members, we had a net loss of 7 members from the previous year. Our membership is as follows: 94 individual, 25 family, 4 student, and 2 honorary members (50 years+)

At our 2008-2009 Annual Meeting, membership approved increasing membership dues to prepare us for planned increases in State and National per-member -payments required of local Leagues. Dues are now: \$60.00 individual, \$90.00 family, and \$15.00 student.

Membership events included our traditional Holiday Fling and the Spring Membership Event. The Holiday Fling was graciously hosted by Albion and Lynne Fenderson and featured guest speaker Dean Daryl J. Moore of the College of the Arts at California State University Stanislaus. The Spring Membership event was held at the Stoneybrook Lodge. Members and guests enjoyed meeting Gary Nyhoff, the new City Manager of Modesto and hearing his vision and concerns for the City of Modesto.

Our greatest challenge is to bring in additional members and strengthen the voice of the League throughout Stanislaus County. We encourage all members to bring in one new member this year!

-Colleen Norby, Lynn Kelso and Margie Lipsky, Membership Directors

## **Sustaining Member Award**

The Sustaining Member Award is a tradition in our League originated in 1986 by former League President Jean Hamp. This honor, which is meant to be a surprise to the individual and the membership, is given by the Board of Directors each year in recognition of someone other than a Board Member who has put forth substantial effort to sustain our organization. The recipients of this award exemplify the meaning of the term “sustain; to keep in existence, maintain or prolong; carry the weight or burden of and to strengthen the spirit.”

### **Previous Sustaining Member Award Recipients**

1986 Susan Woodworth	1994 Alita Roberts	2001 Joan Goldsmith
1987 Lulu Jenkins	1995 Hazel Gotshall	2002 PatrickMcKee
1988 Kay Black	1996 Marge Fovinci	2003 Julie Saugstad
1989 Bev Sturtevant	1997 Ralph Sturtevant	2004 Gloria Skol
1990 Mildred Kinser	1998 Lynn Kelso	2005 Kenni Friedman
1991 Margie Lypsky	1999 Polly Klopfer	2006 Linda Walden
1992 Eleanor Goldor	2000 Susan Novak	2007 Stella Beratlis
1993 Myrtle Osner		2008 Helen Gordon

### **2009 Recipient: Debbie Kleinfelder**

Debbie Kleinfelder is the 2008-2009 LWV Stanislaus County Sustaining Member Award honoree. In her “other, pre-League life”, Debbie was an accountant and budget director for Modesto City Schools. Debbie then became a stay- at -home mom and has contributed her skills and talents as a volunteer for League, Salida Library and her children’s school.

Debbie joined League and immediately became an active member. She served on the Board as Finance Drive Director from 2002-2006. She and her committee updated and streamlined the Finance Drive procedures. In 2005, Debbie hosted a lovely backyard Spring Membership Event with Elizabeth Hill, California’s Legislative Analyst, as speaker. Debbie can always be counted on to give a hand with Voter Service activities – registering voters and serving as question sorter at candidate forums. For the last 5 years, Debbie has chaired or served on the League’s budget committee. Her knowledge of budgets and accounting has contributed to League’s ability to plan its financial future.

We are pleased to recognized Debbie Kleinfelder for her on-going participation and contributions to LWV Stanislaus County. Thank you, Debbie.

-2008-2009 Board of Director

***Serving the community in League!***

## **Volunteer Recognition**

The Board recognizes all the many volunteers, both members and non-members, who have given their time, donations and assistance to make League successful in its mission. Without the richness and reliability of your contributions, we would not be able to accomplish our goals. Committed volunteers have always been the centerpiece of League work and that passion keeps our organization going. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
2008-2009 Board of Directors

### **Officers**

Ellen Meyer, President  
Susan Novak, First Vice-President  
Hanna Renning, Second Vice-President  
Marie Bairey, Secretary  
Polly Klopfer, Treasurer

### **Directors**

Amy Wolfe, Finance Drive  
Colleen Norby/Lynn Kelso, Membership  
Ellen Dunbar, Voter Service  
Patty Beyer, Local Action  
Sue Chaffey, State and National  
Jean Tenny, *The Voter* Editor  
Mildred Kinser/Doris Scanlon, Lunch and Learn

### **Off-Board Directors**

Margorie Lipsky, Membership  
Marsha Waggoner, Voter Service  
Stella Beratlis, Webmaster  
Myrtle Osner, Office Manager

### **Direction to the Board:**

Ideas and suggestions are welcomed by the 2009-2010 Board of Directors.

Mail to:       LWV Stanislaus County  
                  P. O. Box E  
                  Modesto, CA 95352

Or Call:       (209) 524-1698

Your ideas or suggestions will be forwarded to the appropriate board member.

## *League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Diversity Policy*

*League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County in both its values and its practice affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.*

“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.”

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters has two separate and distinct roles.

- Voters Service/Citizen Education: we present unbiased nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues.
- Action/Advocacy: we are also nonpartisan, but, after study, we use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.

To conduct our voter service and citizen education activities, we use funds from the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which is a 501(c) (3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization. The League of Women Voters, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c) (4) corporation.

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County  
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Modesto, CA 95352  
209-524-1698  
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