



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

June/July 2008

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 59 NO. 1

Here's Looking at You, Myrtle!

According to dictionary.com, the definition of 'dedicated' is as follows: "wholly committed to something, as to an ideal, political cause, or personal goal." Myrtle Osner is a perfect example of a dedicated member of The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. She has served as a member for roughly 42 years and still remains active in off-board activities. Her eyes are able to see just how much The League has grown and the accomplishments that it carries. Myrtle has dedicated her time to The League of Women Voters and in return The League donated time to her and helped give an idea of dedication to her children.

As a way to keep her mind active, Myrtle joined the League. It was then that she learned that having the voice of many may have an advantage over the voice of one. You can say that it was her strong feeling of being aware of what the government does that kept her so intrigued. Having the government know what the people want is what needs to be brought to the surface. Another thing that attracted Myrtle to The League was that they do a study with every decision. It's every individual's work that brings about a group decision. All are reasons why Myrtle began this lifelong commitment.

While being a wife and a mother, Myrtle still found time to schedule helping the community. She has continued to serve the League either on-board or off-board. In 1979-1981, The League was honored to have Myrtle serve as President. It has been her pleasure to be working on the action committees and she has done so various occasions. She currently serves as being office manager; that has been her position for about ten years now. She informs new interested members and helps direct any questions. Myrtle must be good at scheduling her time.

With The League on her side, Myrtle has been able to gain the confidence to have her voice heard. She has sent letters to Congress, started conversations, been on television doing a Q and A, and is extremely active in Peace/Poverty issues. She was very excited when she told me that she is involved in the publication of The Peace/Life Center Paper. She takes joy educating others about our environment when it comes to issues dealing with energy, peace and poverty. Myrtle very proudly told me how her husband, Henry, would ride his bike everyday to work at Modesto Junior College. We can learn more with the help of others.

Myrtle's children have a great example of being dedicated. She, with the help of her husband, has been able to teach her children what it's like to be active in their community. She emphasizes the fact that they all have service jobs and help improve their community but in their own way that best fits them. Her four kids, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren have a great influence in their life.

In short, one can see just how much can be learned as well as how much can be changed with a little dedication. We are able to see the effects The League had on Myrtle and vice versa. Let me point out that the children are also included in receiving an effect of this wonderful commitment. Myrtle made a joke saying that since she was born in the year women were able to **vote**, that it is her destiny to remain active. When asked what advice she would give to future members as well as present members she said to take advantage of your opportunity to become active in your community and realize how it affects your life too. It's your chance to influence without having to run for office. But if you do choose to run for office, you will have the experience and knowledge of what it is like to be dedicated to something.

Malorie Michael, April 2008

Student Intern

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Dear Members,

I would like to thank all of you for nominating me to serve as your President again. It truly is an honor to represent all of you in our County. Many thanks go to the members who served on and off board with me last year. They all worked very hard to keep our League flowing this last year. Thanks go to all members who attended our annual meeting. The nominating committee did a great job organizing the event, our Speaker DeeDee D'Adamo from Assemblyman Dennis Cardosa's office discussion on agriculture was very interesting and Margie Lipsky's decorative flair made it a beautiful event.

This June, I was very pleased to attend the League of Women Voters National Convention in Portland, Oregon with Patty Beyer as a voting delegate. I cannot tell you how beautiful the city of Portland is and was grateful to be out of the heat in California. I enjoyed learning how National conducts meetings and was very impressed with our President Mary Wilson. She ran a well controlled meeting with grace and warmth. I was also very pleased that she announced BEFORE it was directed to her from membership that she plans to work towards having LWV back in the forefront with National Presidential Debates! We had great speakers and many presentations to attend that offered a larger view into what our League is doing and what is happening with other organizations in the United States that we partner with. I encourage you to go to LWVUS website at www.lwv.org to get all the details. Listed below is some of the important work that was accomplished at our National Convention:

- Delegates set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, voting to undertake work in the areas of health care reform, global climate change, and methods for electing the President of the United States.
- Motion approved to move be it resolved that within 12 months, LWVUS redesign its fundraising requests so they cannot be misconstrued as membership recruitment or dues notices. Be it further resolved that: LWVUS enlist the help of representative state and local Leagues to review or revise any fundraising or recruiting letters.
- Motion approved to adopt the LWVUS Board recommended Program to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.
- Motion approved to adopt a PMP rate of \$28.00 for FY 2008-2009.
- Motion approved to adopt a PMP rate of \$29.20 for FY 2009-2010
- LWV National Convention 2010 will be held in Atlanta Georgia.

Membership Dues Renewal letters were sent out in June and I hope you all continue your membership with League. Your membership is greatly valued with not only League at all levels, but with the community! What would they do without us?

This year is going to be an exciting time with League. The new Board has already shown great enthusiasm and is already working hard for you. During this Presidential Election year we have many opportunities to assist those in our community to be involved with the political process AND to showcase our organization to gather more members to help us with our cause.

Thank you again and have a great summer. Stay cool and I look forward to working with all of you!

-Ellen Meyer, President

2008-09 State Leadership Council Meeting Highlights

Adoption of the 2008-2009 LWVC Budget

Delegates adopted the LWVC budget for 2008-09 as proposed by the state board, which included a \$1.00 increase in the per member payment (PMP). Comments from delegates included proposing future PMP increases at conventions (instead of councils) so that more delegates can participate in the debate, and presenting budget information in a

LWVUS President Mary Wilson

LWVUS President Mary Wilson spoke at the Council dinner on Saturday night. She discussed such topics as the national League's strong position on the U.S. Supreme Court's voter ID case and the need for the League to embrace and effectively use technology.

Workshops

Well-attended workshops were held on a wide variety of topics, ranging from Mock Elections to "Unique Roles of the President and Board" to using the Easy Voter Guide Smart Voter.

Invitation to LWVC Convention 2009

Phyllis O'Connor, president of the LWV Long Beach Area, and LWVC Educational Activities Director Lois Ledger, also a member of LWV Long Beach Area, invited delegates and guests to Long Beach for Convention 2009, May 17-19, 2009.

"Meeting the Challenge" Award

Member Services Director Lois Chaney presented the "Meeting the Challenge" award to the LWV Fremont/Newark/Union City, recognizing its numerous activities and its membership increase of over 9 percent in the last year.

Resolution Recognizing Trudell Een

The Council delegates unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing Trudell Een for her years of leadership and dedication as the Smart Voter Project Director.

Recognition of Legislative Analyst Elizabeth Hill

President Hirohama presented a lifetime achievement award on behalf of the LWVC to Elizabeth G. Hill, in recognition of her accomplishments as the California Legislative Analyst.

Jean Ross on the California Budget

Jean Ross, Executive Director of the California Budget Project, addressed the Council on the state budget crisis.

LWVC Nominating Committee

Beverly King, Chair of the LWVC Nominating Committee, asked delegates to help identify candidates for the 2009-2011 state board and nominating committee

*Ellen Meyer, President
Sue Chaffee, State and National Director*

LOCAL ACTION

LWV California Transportation Position

A basic premise of the League of Women Voters is that we do not advocate or take action unless we have studied an issue and adopted a position. With the prospect of a county transportation tax measure on the November ballot, our Local Action Committee is studying the issue within the framework of the LWVC Transportation Position. (The full text can be found on the LWVC website. Find it at lwvstanislaus.org. Click to About League, Action and Advocacy and Natural Resources.)

The position in brief states: [LWVC] Support[s] a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education. (LWVC Action Policies and Position, 2006)

Specific provisions link transportation and land use planning to promote reduced vehicle miles to jobs and alternatives to single occupant vehicles. The position supports strategies to influence travel behavior such as fees, taxes and tolls and funding from all levels of government with flexibility at local and regional levels to select the modes and projects. Funding, whether user fees or taxes, should be designated for transportation uses. Government responsibilities for transportation include early and informed public participation in planning, cooperation and coordination among agencies at different levels and maintenance of existing transportation systems.

Meeting the county's transportation is an urgent and complex issue. LWV Stanislaus County will continue to study the proposition before taking a position for or against. As you learn more about Stanislaus County Transportation Tax Measure ____, consider the issues raised by the LWVC position.

Committee Meetings

The local action committee's usual meeting is held as

follows:

2nd Tuesday, League Office, 11 am. If needed, we will begin the meeting earlier, as notified...sometimes that notification comes too late for the newsletter and is always sent out via email to the committee.

Notification to all members: In lieu of the June 10 meeting, a sub-committee will be meeting with Janice Keating in her office to discuss the transportation tax. That sub-committee consists of Marie Bairey, Alita Roberts, Patty Beyer and Joan Goldsmith. If you have questions you would like submitted, please send them to Patty ASAP. We will probably be moving quickly on the transportation tax this summer so expect a meeting for making a recommendation to the board soon!

Patty Beyer, Local Action Director

SECRETARY'S REPORT

60th Annual Meeting Summary

- 50 year members Doris Scanlon and Ann Sharyon were introduced
- DeeDee D'Adamo, Policy Advisor for Congressman Dennis Cardoza spoke on elements of the Farm Bill that was being considered in Congress.
- 2008-2009 Budget was approved. It included an increase in dues to \$60 for single membership, \$90 for family membership and remained at \$15 for students. The increase has become necessary as we expect increases in Per Member Payments due to LWVC and LWVUS and to reduce the need to spend from reserves to cover expenses.
- Local Program approved including the addition of the position on Election of Municipal Officials which had been approved by the Board.
- Helen Gordon was the 2008 recipient of the Sustaining Member Award.
- Officers and Directors elected for 2008-2009.

Highlights from the April Board Meeting.

- As of April, our membership was 147.
- Revised "Facts for Voters" is getting final touches for printing and distribution
- We will purchase 1000 Pros and Cons for the June election.
- Local Action: Supporting Riverbank Watch document presented in response to General Plan Revision EIR. Continue to monitor Transportation Tax proposal

Marie Bairey, Secretary

VOTER SERVICE

Ellen Dunbar and Marsha Waggoner will be coordinating Voter Service activities beginning with the fall 2008 elections. I will be training and helping them throughout the year in my new role as 1st Vice President. Let any of us know how you would like to help.

A moderator training will be offered at my home in August. Please contact me if you are interested in learning how we moderate League style. We'll try to pick a date when the most people are available.

Are you interested in helping at Voter Registration tables? We plan to expand this service by reaching out to voters at locations around the county prior to the last day to register to vote.

I would like to thank the following League members for their help with spring voter service activities:

May 8 District 5 Candidate Forum.

Cynthia Morgan for making all the arrangements. The folks at City Hall are going to miss her!

Marie Bairey for doing a great job of keeping a 2 person forum interesting.

Laurie Carley, Polly Klopfer, Jennie Sweeny, Margie Lipsky, Lucille Lotko, Joan Goldsmith, Marsha Waggoner, Ellen Meyer, Francie Fovinci, Lynn Kelso, Linda Walden for assisting.

California State University Stanislaus Student Election

Mildred Kinser did a phenomenal job of scheduling League volunteers from 7 to 8 on two consecutive days. Thanks to all of her volunteers! We need to give Mildred and Hal an early bird award for trekking to Turlock while the rest of us were still asleep.

Last Day to Register to Vote Tables

Linda Walden, Joan Goldsmith, Hanna Renning, and Diane Bartlett

We will be posting upcoming opportunities to volunteer on our League website. Hope to hear from you!

Susan Novak, Voter Service Director

DIVERSITY POLICY:

League of Women Voters of Modesto in both its values and practices 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

VOTE411.ORG

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- Early voting options (where applicable)
- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines

BE A PART OF THE ACTION!

Members are encouraged to jump on the bandwagon and help League this hot political year!

π

- Voter Service: Getting Citizens registered, informed, and to the polls.
- Local Action and State and National: Study the issues and/or monitor City Council and County Supervisor's meetings, MID or school boards

We also need your assistance in keeping our organization flowing smoothly in the following areas: Finance Drive, Articles for The Voter, Event and of course Membership-Asking a friend to join!

Please contact the board member in the area that interests you the most today!

The 2008-09 Board

Stanislaus County Town Hall Meeting

The population of Stanislaus County is expected to grow by 60% by 2030 and by more than 685,000 new people by 2050. How will we manage this growth? You have an opportunity to attend a town hall meeting, presented by StanCOG, where you can share your vision for the county's future:

Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Doubletree Hotel, Maxi's Room
1150 9th Street, Modesto

Priorities named by residents during the phase one town meetings held last year include:

- Providing additional public services for all ages;
- Planning proactively for growth, with an emphasis on curbing sprawl, providing adequate infrastructure and preserving agriculture and open space;
- Reducing traffic and increasing public transit, bicycle paths, and road maintenance;
- Controlling crime;
- Improving air quality;
- Increasing educational opportunities and job training;
- Using alternative energy, and
- Identifying new sources of funding.

Additional meetings to be held in several communities. Call StanCOG, 209-525-4600, for further information.

Adapted from StanCOG public invitation

I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO YOURS BY JOINING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY!

Student Membership \$15 _____
Individual Membership \$60 _____
Household Membership \$90 _____

Please contact me with more information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone (for directory): _____

Email: _____

MAIL TO

LWVSC
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352

SENATE'S CLIMATE CHANGE EFFORT "MAJOR STEP FORWARD" SAYS LEAGUE

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today reacted to recent action on America's Climate Security Act in the Senate.

"Fifty-four Senators voted for cloture on America's Climate Security Act or announced their support. This is a major step forward in our nation's fight against global warming," said Mary G. Wilson, national President of the League of Women Voters. "We now have a majority of the Senate on the record, supporting aggressive action to combat climate change."

"The progress is clear," said Wilson. "The number of Senators who deny the consensus of scientific experts in this arena is dropping precipitously. And public opinion polls indicate that an overwhelming majority of Americans are looking for action that will address the growing climate crisis in this nation and around the world."

"We won't let a few Senators who are members of the flat earth society stand in the way of clean-energy policies. It is time for a fresh start and we call on all our elected leaders to take action now against global warming," Wilson said.

"The League congratulates and thanks Senators Boxer, Lieberman, Reid and Warner for their leadership on this legislation in the Senate. "We are going to continue fighting for America's transition to a clean-energy economy," said Wilson.

June 2008, LWV National Website

Welcome Our Newest Members

Robin Cooper

John Heinslus

Kevin Mc Bride-Luman

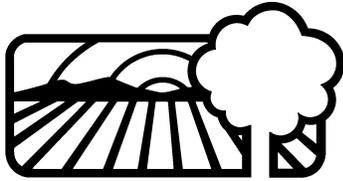
Marianne Mayerie

Malorie Michael

Katherine Moncrief

*We look forward to seeing you
at our events!*

Lynn Kelso, Membership Director



CITY of MODESTO

May 21,

**The Modesto Citizen's
Districting Commission
Invites You To:**

2008

“Draw Your Future”

The Modesto Citizen's Districting Commission is developing districts for use during future City Council elections. The Commission needs your help to “Draw the Future” of Modesto.

Modesto voters recently adopted Measure N implementing districts for City Council elections. Measure N also says the Council districts must be drawn to reflect and unite Modesto's vibrant and varied communities.

The Commission wants to hear what you consider your “community” within Modesto. Is it the neighborhood around a local park? Around a local school? In a development or historic area? Please share your thoughts – the districts are up to you!

The first round of Commission hearings starts June 3rd. This round is your chance to influence the future before the first pen is put to a map. Come and share with the Commission what you consider your “Community.” Learn how to develop and submit your own district map. Make your voice heard as together we “Draw Your Future.”

Tentative Hearing Schedule

Round 1 public hearing:.....Tuesday, June 3.....4pm – 5:30 pm, City Hall Room 2008 **
Round 1 public hearing:.....Saturday, June 14.....11am, Maddox Youth Center **

Commission Meetings (Draft Map).....July

Round 2 public hearingSaturday, September 6.....11 am, American Legion Hall **
Round 2 public hearing.....Thursday, September 11.....6pm, Hanshaw Middle School **
Round 2 public hearing.....Tuesday, September 16.....6pm, YMCA **

Commission Meetings (Final Map).....October

All times and locations are proposed.

Final details will be available at www.DrawModesto.org along with all project-related information.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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.

Tear off and send to:
League of Women Voters of
Stanislaus County
LWV Modesto
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Modesto, CA
Permit No. 69

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, July 1 **11:00 am Local Action Committee**
League Office 720 13th Street, Modesto

Wednesday, July 9 **6:00 pm Board Meeting**
League Office 720 13th Street, Modesto

Saturday, July 12 **10:00 am - Noon Stanislaus County Town Hall Meeting**
Doubletree Hotel, Maxi's Room
1150 Ninth Street, Modesto

Tuesday, July 29 **12:00 Noon Lunch and Learn Appetez Restaurant**
Roseburg Square, Modesto
Speaker: Ryan Swehla re: Nonprofit Affordable
Housing