



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

February/March 2008

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 58 NO.7

## SPRING MEMBERSHIP EVENT MARCH 6<sup>th</sup>!

We will be hosting our annual membership recruitment event on Thursday, March 6th at the McHenry Mansion Auditorium. Our speaker will be Mr. Arturo Flores, Superintendent of Modesto City Schools. He will be speaking on his vision for Modesto City Schools. Mr. Flores comes to Modesto City Schools with many years of education experience, from classroom teacher to administrator. He began his career in the Elk Grove/Sacramento area and has spent several years in the Hanford area. Most recently, he was associate superintendent of Sacramento City Unified School District. His comments should prove interesting and informative during these difficult financial times.

The membership event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with socializing and comments will begin at 6:15 p.m. Please use the stairs in the front of the museum to access the downstairs auditorium or the elevator, which can be found at the back of the museum. Parking can be found at the back of the museum as well. Remember, BRING A FRIEND!

As I have worked on preparations and recruitment for this event I have paused to reflect on my own membership in LWV and why I joined League almost 25 years ago. In 1981, I was a 24 year old newlywed, new to Modesto. As a recent UC Davis graduate, I was looking for a way to stay politically informed and connected to my new community. At the time, there were few options in Modesto. I found the LWV number in the phone book (no fantastic web-site at that time) and made the call. I was encouraged to attend a local consensus meeting and very soon I found myself as secretary (with only an electric typewriter!), the rest is history. Over the years, I have attended state and national conventions, held positions as V.P. membership, state and national action, voter service, finance drive, chaired studies, registered voters, marched in a parade, sorted questions and prepared food. In my years with League there have been times of activity and inactivity, but even in those less active times I have remained informed thanks to League's VOTER and other out reach activities. League has provided me with outstanding role models who are educated, informed, and energetic women. They have been committed to Voter Education/Citizen Education and Acton/Advocacy on local issues.

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We can be very proud of the role League women have played in the development of Modesto's plans for growth. I will always be thankful for the women in League who have influenced me in this grassroots organization and for the learning opportunities it has provided.

So, if you know a recent college graduate, a newlywed or someone new to our community...invite them to our membership event and start them on the path to years of involvement. There is a place for everyone's level of commitment in League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County.

*-Laurie Carley, Membership Director*

**LWV of STANISLAUS  
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209-524-1698**

**[www.lwvstanislaus.org](http://www.lwvstanislaus.org)**

**President's Message:**

We have had some exciting times with League since the last printing of The Voter.

- ❖ Our Pro's and Con's Presentation at Modesto Junior College was made to a full house.
- ❖ Our National and Local Planning meeting was well attended.
- ❖ Voter Service registered over 100 voters.
- ❖ Lunch and Learn had the largest attendance this year.
- ❖ The Modesto Bee printed our Local Action team's opinion piece on local ballot measures.
- ❖ City Council Presentations by past League Presidents introducing our League with our new name were started.
- ❖ Local Action presented our position on The Tivoli Project at the Planning Commission meeting and attended the STANCOG Meeting concerning the Tivoli Project
- ❖ Public Service Announcements were aired on local radio stations for voter registration and news printed in newspapers of our events throughout the county.
- ❖ Visits to our League website and Smartvoter website increased due to February elections
- ❖ Finance Drive ended with wonderful results.
- ❖ Two new members joined.

It is so exciting to see all that we have done and the year has just started! We are definitely being seen and heard. This is so important in our process of establishing our league as the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County.

It is also very exciting that all of you are being involved with this process.

Your involvement is the key to helping us grow in membership so we can continue to perform our mission on a larger scale and to do it with the same grace that we have shown for the past 60 years! Many thanks go out to all!

In March we are holding our Annual Membership Recruiting Event. You should have already received a special announcement. Laurie Carley wrote a wonderful article announcing this event. We are also privileged to read about her experience with League. Thank you Laurie!

I look forward to seeing you March 6<sup>th</sup>!

*-Ellen Meyer, President*

**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.

Many thanks to the following League members who helped register voters at the libraries on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. We registered over 100 voters!

Modesto Library: Margie Lipsky, Jim Beyer,  
Myrtle Osner, Polly Klopfer,  
Susan Novak, Linda Walden

Turlock Library: Diane Bartlett, Cynthia Morgan,  
Ann Krabach

Patterson Library: Joan Goldsmith

Salida Library: Marie Bairey

Mark your calendars for our forum on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. for candidates running for 3 seats on the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. Thanks to the City of Modesto, we will be using the Board Chambers at 1010 10th Street and the forum will be televised on local access channels. We encourage League members to attend and bring questions. Watch for more about this in the next Voter.

*Susan Novak and Cynthia Morgan.*  
*Voter Service Co-Directors*

## Program Planning Meeting Update

At our January 23rd program planning meeting, we discussed our local and national programs. It was the consensus that we retain all local positions and that not review or update any of them at this time. As we foresee the necessity to direct our energies to intensive education and action related to the issues already covered by our positions, especially land use, we did not feel we should take on a new study.

We also recommended that the National League retain all positions and not review or update any of them, nor did we propose any adoptions by concurrence. Again, we did not believe we should begin a new national study, but should continue to educate and act regarding issues we can address under the existing positions.

*-Ann Krabach, Vice President*

The Local Action Committee continues with a very busy schedule - so busy, in fact, that we now meet monthly at 10:00 am rather than 10:30 on the second Tuesday of each month. We invite any members with interests in the topics to please join us at the League Office.

Issues we have watched or continue to follow include:

- Tivoli Project - located north of Sylvan, east of Oakdale, west of Roselle and south of Claratina - we support because it provides for mixed uses in residential and regional serving commercial, allows for an educational facility, parks and open space, and ensures adequate public facilities and services. We attended the meeting of the Planning Commission and cautioned about its impact on local traffic; we also attended the City Council meeting and asked that in addition to the traffic problems that they maintain the affordable housing in the Specific Plan, which was not done in Village One.
- Local Sales Tax - under study; attended the STANCOG meeting and expressed an interest in the absence of two parts of the prior sales tax measure - Commuter Rail Transit and paratransit for Seniors and Disabled Citizens - we were assured that the local portion of the sales tax would allow local governments to include the paratransit for Seniors and Disabled Citizens but the Commuter Rail Transit could be considered when the tax, if it succeeds, is renewed in 20 years.
- Riverbank - will begin discuss latest developments at the March 11th meeting.
- West Park Development - We continue to monitor this development.

*-Patty Beyer, Local Action Director*



**www. SmartVoter.org**  
**for election information**

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# STATE AND NATIONAL REPORT

"In this legislative session, we are fortunate to see active an interest in finding a solution to the severe crisis affecting healthcare in California. The LWV has long held a position in support of single payer universal health care reform as embodied in Senator Sheila Kuehl' bill SB 840. Single payer provides universal, affordable, comprehensive coverage on a continuous basis to all. It ensures maximum choice of provider and exemplifies shared responsibility that is equitable, accessible and requires contributions from individuals and employers that are related to ability to pay. Because it includes robust methods to control costs, it is sustainable over time. It makes significant contributions to improving the quality of our health care system, and because it is patient centered, it will bring measurable improvements to health outcomes." To read more of this text go to LWV California and search healthcare reform. Senator Kiehls bill will be reintroduced this month. In light of the recent budget crisis however, it may be March before it comes out of committee again. Visit the California League's website for updates on what you can do to support Senator Kuehl's bill. You can join a new thrust to interview small businesses re:support of Senator Kuehl's bill. this is a new outreach the League has taken on to inform small business owners of how the bill will affect them. The drive hopes to garner support for Senator's Kuehl's bill from that sector.

Our Governors' Nunez-Perata healthcare reform bill did pass through the Assembly but died in Senate health care committee, due to its many flaws. Known as ABX1, it was not supported by League. The California Nurses Association joined League in its opposition to ABX1. Its primary flaw was that it focused on protecting insurance companies' assets rather than providing care for all consumers.

Recently, a group of nurses from Doctor's Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,

participated in a Statewide Capitol Day in conjunction with March of Dimes. Their focus was on infant mortality. Two of my high school students were invited to accompany the nurses on their day in Sacramento. Both came back speaking of being touched by how assessable the legislators were and how willing they were to listen to nurses who care for infants.

Nationally, President Bush vetoed funding of SCHIP in October 2007. This bill facilitated health care programs for children living at or below the poverty level Nationwide. As of yet the funding is still not in place. The LWV has long supported access to quality health care, and works to ensure that all children should have access to quality health care including preventative and primary care. Programs like SCHIP play a key role in promoting the health, well being and full development of children. Statewide and locally many clinics are trying to continue to provide services without a funding source. Contact your US Assemblyman and Senator re: an override of this veto.

*-Sue Chaffee, State and National Director*

## Why Should You Attend the LWVUS Convention in June?

Have you ever experienced the excitement of being with a thousand people who care about our democracy? Have you had the opportunity to network with others who have achieved great things at local, state and national levels? Would you like a chance to learn from national speakers, professional trainers, League members and staff with special expertise? Then don't miss the LWVUS National Convention on June 13-17 in Portland, OR! Join with Leaguers from all over the country to discuss, debate, have fun and meet the amazing people who, like you, care about the League of Women Voters. For the Convention Preview and information about registration check out LWV website at: [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org)

From Leaders Update: February 21, 2008 LWVUS  
President Mary G. Wilson



## “Bridge to the Future”

Saturday May 17 - Sunday, May 18  
Reception: Friday, May 16 at LWVC Office

Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza  
300 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Please join in enjoying these educational and networking opportunities; the diversity will enliven our discussion and provide an introduction to people new to the League.

Interested? Contact Ellen Meyer, 209-579-1603

### MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

Melda Gaskins      Nancy Lee

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

-Jennie Sweeney, Membership

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Finance Drive: Thank you letters sent to donors. Names will be in March Voter. Joan’s totals: \$8145 (\$3535 General Fund, \$4610 Ed Fund). Member contributions - \$4775, Donors \$3370. Joan expressed satisfaction with efforts to reach out to new donors in the county.
- Membership: Two new members bringing total to 147. Discussion of membership renewal deadlines
- Vice President: Thirteen members attended Program Planning meeting. Nation Program suggestions forwarded to LWVUS. Local Program: Retain current program, no new studies, present Municipal Election System to Annual Meeting.
- Voter Service: Registered 105 voters at 4 libraries. Supervisors Forum May 8 at City/County Plaza.
- Nominating: Committee is meeting to prepare slate of officers. Approve May 3 Brunch at the Double Tree Hotel for Annual Meeting.

-Maire Bairey, Secretary

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

- Student Membership \$15
- Individual Membership \$50
- Household Membership \$75
- Please contact me with more information.

MAIL TO: LWVSC  
P.O. Box E  
Modesto, CA 95352

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for directory) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**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.**

**League of Women Voters of  
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## ***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

- Tuesday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>      Lunch and Learn 12:00 noon    Appetez Restaurant  
Roseburg Square, Modesto  
Speaker: Roy Wasden, Chief of Police, Modesto**
- Thursday Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>      Annual Membership Recruitment 5:30 Social 6:15 Speaker  
McHenry Museum 1412 I Street, Modesto  
Speaker: Arturo Flores' Superintendent Modesto City Schools**
- Tuesday Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>      10:00 am Local Action Meeting  
League Office 720 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto**
- Wednesday Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>      6:00pm Board Meeting  
League Office 720 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto**
- Tuesday Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>      12:00 noon Lunch and Learn    Appetez Restaurant  
Roseburg Square, Modesto  
Speaker Jerome Thiele, Airport Manager  
Modesto City-County Airport**