



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

September 2009

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 59 NO. 12

## Calendar of Candidate Forums

### **Thursday, September 24**

6:30-7:30 pm

City Council District 5  
Coleman Brown Elementary School

Multipurpose Room  
2024 Vera Cruz Drive

### **Wednesday, September 30**

6:00-6:45 pm

City Council District 4  
City Council Chambers  
1010 10th St.

### **Wednesday, September 30**

7:00-8:30 pm

Modesto Board of Education  
City Council Chambers  
1010 10th St

### **Monday, October 5**

6:30-8:00 pm

Riverbank City Council  
and Mayor  
Community Center  
3600 Santa Fe Ave

### **Thursday, October 8**

6:30-7:30 pm

City Council District 2  
King Kennedy  
Community Center  
600 N Martin Luther  
King Dr.

See Back Page for Calendar of other League Events

Check LWVSC Website for updates to calendar  
[www.lwvstanislaus.org](http://www.lwvstanislaus.org)

## **Special Events for our members in September!**



**Local Action Consensus Meeting**  
for Modesto Sewer Extension Advisory Vote  
Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 630 pm  
at the League Office  
See page 4 for details!



## **"Climate Change Impacts on California's Central Valley Resources"**

Saturday, September 12, 2009, 9:30 am.  
At Valley Brewing Company, Stockton  
Hosted by  
The LWV of San Joaquin County  
See page 4 for details!



## **LWV of Stanislaus County Hosts LWVC Regional Workshop**

Saturday, September 26, 2009  
10 am-3:30 pm  
Hampton Suites, Salida

**Learn what the League does and how it does it!**  
See enclosed insert for details and signup sheet

## **LWV of STANISLAUS COUNTY**

### **OFFICERS**

President

**Ellen Meyer 579-1603**

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Treasurer

**Michele McNeil 669-6171**

[treasurer@lwfstanislaus.org](mailto:treasurer@lwfstanislaus.org)

### **DIRECTORS**

Membership

**Colleen Norby**

**Lynn Kelso**

Voter Service

**Ellen Dunbar**

Finance Drive

**Mary Giventer**

Public Relations

**Susan Novak**

State and National Action

**Sue Chaffee**

Local Action

Voter Editor

**Jean Tenney**

[newsletter@lwfstanislaus.org](mailto:newsletter@lwfstanislaus.org)

Lunch and Learn

**Mildred Kinser**

**Lee DeLaMare**

### **OFF-BOARD**

Membership

**Margie Lipsky**

Nominating Committee

**Laurie Carley**

**Seena Rhine**

Voter Service

**Marsha Waggoner**

Web Master

**Stella Beratlis**

League Office

**720 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto**

**209-524-1698**

[www.lwfstanislaus.org](http://www.lwfstanislaus.org)

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Members,

The fall season is drawing near, and so are the many wonderful opportunities League offers to enjoy, learn, and assist! We hope to see you at these events that we have planned for you and our communities.

**Local Action** put on a great informational meeting for members held August 19 where Janice Keating, Modesto City Council; Denny Jackman, Farmland Working Group; Brad Barker, Sierra Club; Ryan Svehla, Sentinel Rock Trust; and Frank Bavarro, land owner, discussed the pros and cons of November Measure M advisory votes for 5 areas. Many thanks go to Marie Bairey for coordinating this event, and to Colleen Norby for creating the postcard announcements. **Do not miss** the follow-up consensus meeting September 2<sup>nd</sup> where our League to decide whether to take a position on the proposed ballot measures. See article on page 4 for details.

The **Regional Workshop** that we are hosting September 26<sup>th</sup> is a great way to learn more about League and meet members of other Leagues that are joined in our mission. Please look over the enclosed insert and sign up for a great day. It was a great honor for our League to be asked to host this event, and we would really appreciate your support with your enthusiastic presence! Thank you, Susan Novak, for taking the lead on this event.

**Voter Service** Directors Ellen Dunbar and Marsha Waggoner have planned many forums, and need your help. This will be an interesting year with many of the races, and with the first-time district races for Modesto City Council.

**Membership** Directors Colleen Norby, Lynn Kelso, and Margie Lipsky say the membership renewals are still rolling in. Renewal reminder cards have been sent, so please send in your dues. Your membership is valued.

**Finance Drive** Director Mary Giventer and her team are all geared up for the Finance Drive that starts in September. The team came up with new, creative strategies for a successful Finance Drive.

**Lunch and Learn** Directors Mildred Kinser and Lee DeLaMare have great speakers planned for this fall and we have had fantastic participation from members over the summer.

Your membership, participation, and support are invaluable in making League of Women Voters of Stanislaus successful. Thank you and see you this fall!

*Ellen Meyer, President*

# LUNCH AND LEARN

## September 29th Lunch and Learn SC District Attorney Brigit Fladager

Our September Lunch & Learn speaker will be Stanislaus County District Attorney, Birgit Fladager, who will discuss the gang injunction her office recently brought against 20 hard core members of the Deep South Side Norteños gang.

Street gangs are a fact of life in Modesto with the problem being particularly acute in a South Modesto neighborhood where residents live in fear. An injunction declares the gang's public behavior a nuisance. For more than a year, the District Attorney's office has collected crime data & interviewed residents to build a case against the Deep South Side Norteños, whose members are mostly Latino, wear red "colors" and spray paint "DSSN" and other gang signs to mark their turf.

On July 2, 2009, Judge John G. Whiteside gave authorities the power to begin enforcing a gang injunction against eight members of the Deep South Side Norteños. Judge Whiteside said in his ruling that any documented member who has been served with a copy of a restraining order may be charged with contempt of court if he violates any of the 14 banned behaviors such as staying out after curfew, wearing gang clothes/colors, or hanging out in public places. Two suspected gang members, Armando Parra, 21, and David Tubera, 28, who are contesting the order, were given two months to mount a legal challenge. The injunctions banned visible gang activity in a 2 ½ square mile "safety zone" south of the Tuolumne River and west of Crows Landing Road. It is believed that the DSSNs have more than 150 members and associates.

We look forward to seeing you on September 29 at noon at Appetez.

*Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. ~*  
*Chinese Proverb*

## July Lunch and Learn Report Mike Dozier, CA Partnership for the SJ Valley

Our July Lunch & Learn speaker was Mike Dozier, the Interim Director of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, an unprecedented public-private partnership which encompasses 8 counties from San Joaquin County to Kern County; including 62 cities, 25,000 square miles and is one of the fastest growing regions in California.

Mr. Dozier distributed handouts outlining a broad-based overview of the challenges, opportunities and work facing the area and the group. Action is focused around ten work groups: air quality; economic development; PreK-12 education; land use, agriculture & housing; advanced communications services; transportation and water quality. Mr. Dozier stated that the Valley will be better off if the agencies in the area speak with one voice and have common goals.

When asked about the potential of "stimulus money" from the Federal Government, he stated that currently the monies go to the State which then distributes it to the counties. The Valley Partnership, in conjunction with other agencies in Northern California, is competing for \$2 billion for infrastructure improvements along trade corridors.

The Partnership is in a unique position to provide a world-class region with a diversified economy, a healthy environment and a high quality of life for all through a collaborative effort which has not occurred in the past. LWV will want to follow the process and monitor the results. You can go to their website [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org) and keep up to date.

*Lee DeLaMare, Lunch and Learn Director  
With Many Thanks to Myrtle Osner*

**Consensus Meeting for Modesto Sewer Extension  
Advisory Vote**  
**Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 pm at the League Office**

As part of its 2009 Urban Growth Review, Modesto identified available land with an eye to maintaining a five year inventory for potential development. The process included several meetings and workshops for public input. The result was a recommendation from the Economic Development Committee that future growth focus on economic development which could produce much needed jobs in our community.

Modesto City Council has recommended November Measure M advisory votes for 5 areas. The advisory vote is required before City Council can approve sewer extensions and annexations. The five areas are:

- A. Kiernan Avenue Corridor - north and south sides to McHenry
- B. College West – MJC West area
- C. North McHenry Regional Commercial – “car dealer row”
- D. Tivoli North – Roselle/Claribel
- E. Hetch-Hetchy – McHenry/Pelandale area

Go to [www.modestogov.com/urbangrowth](http://www.modestogov.com/urbangrowth) for complete descriptions, Open to June 1, 2009 Planning Commission meeting.

LWV Stanislaus County is in the process of studying these proposals. An informational meeting was held August 19 where Janice Keating, Modesto City Council; Denny Jackman, Farmland Working Group; Brad Barker, Sierra Club; Ryan Swehla, Sentinel Rock Trust; and Frank Bavarro, land owner, discussed the pros and cons of each measure.

A consensus meeting will be held Wednesday, September 2 where League members will review our Land Use Position and consider the pros and cons of each measure in order to recommend positions – for or against – to the Board. All members are urged to attend this important opportunity to learn about the growth measures and to help frame the League’s position.

The Local Action Committee

**DIVERSITY POLICY:**

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County 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.

**Climate Change Conference**

Saturday, September 12, 9:30 11:30 am

The LWV of San Joaquin County will hold a special meeting, "Climate Change Impacts on California's Central Valley Resources", at the Valley Brewing Company, 157 West Adams, Stockton (off of Pacific Avenue, south of UOP campus.) The speakers will be Maury Roos, Chief Hydrologist and Consultant Division, CA DWR, who will discuss "Climate Change Impacts on the California Water Supply, Sea Level and Delta;" and, Dr Stuart Wooley, Professor of Biological Sciences at CSU Stanislaus. He will address "Global Warming Impact on Plants and Other Species in the Central Valley." A no-host lunch will follow the meeting.

**Board Highlights**

August 12, 2009

- There is interest among candidates in smartvoter.org. Ellen is looking for a coordinator.
- League computer is making it easier to track expenses and income.
- LWVC Regional Workshop September 26 at Hampton Inn, Salida/Modesto. Excellent opportunity to learn more about League. \$25 registration includes lunch.
- Eighty-nine membership renewals to date. Deadline September 30.
- Mildred Kinser and Susan Novak approved to represent Board on Nominating Committee.

*Marie Bairey, Secretary*

Correction: Barbara DeLaMare-Cremer's name was misspelled in the August Voter. Our Apologies!

Reminder: if you haven't already sent your check for 2009-2010 dues, please do so ASAP. Thank you.

*Colleen Norby, Membership Director*

**Welcome Our  
Newest Member**

Albion Fenderson

*We look forward to seeing you at our events*

## Voter Service News

Candidate forums are planned for September and October. We have scheduled a forum for each of the three Modesto City Council seats, the Modesto City Schools Board of Education, and the Riverbank City Council and Mayor. Modesto City Council forums will be held in, or near, the district. The following forums are scheduled:

**Sept. 24, 6:30-7:30 pm: City Council District 5**, in the Multi-Purpose Room of Coleman Brown Elementary School, 2024 Vera Cruz Drive (off Celeste and Coffee).

**Sept 30, 6:00-6:45 pm: City Council District 4**, at City Council Chambers, 1010 10th St.

**Sept 30, 7:00-8:30 pm: Modesto Board of Education**, in the City Council Chambers, 1010 10<sup>th</sup> St.

**October 5, 6:30-8:00 pm: Riverbank City Council and Mayor**, at the Riverbank Community Center, 3600 Santa Fe Avenue.

**October 8, 6:30-7:30 pm: City Council District 2**, at King Kennedy Community Center, 600 N. Martin Luther King Dr.

*Ellen Dunbar, Voter Service Director*

**I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO  
YOURS BY JOINING  
THE LEAGUE 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): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO**

LWVSC

P.O. Box E

Modesto, CA 9535

## PUBLIC OPTION IS ESSENTIAL TO HEALTH REFORM

**Washington, DC** – "The public option in health care reform may not be essential to bureaucrats or insurance companies but it absolutely is essential to the almost 47 million uninsured Americans who live day to day without health care coverage," said League of Women Voters National President Mary G. Wilson. Calling on Congress and the President not to succumb to the bullying tactics being used by special interest groups, Wilson urged Congress and the President not to waver in their support of the public option included in H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009, recently passed by three House committees.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves millions of Americans without any coverage. "The current health care system is endangering our economy, our health, and our national security," Wilson said. "Last fall, voters elected a Congress and President that promised to reform our health care system. Voters made it clear that they want a change in our health care system, a change that puts the brakes on the excesses created by a system dominated by large insurance companies," she continued.

"It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system and a public option will make that possible for Americans who cannot obtain coverage through the traditional employer-sponsored plans," noted Wilson. "We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents. "But the possibility of universal coverage is not the only advantage of the public option," warned Wilson. "We must control costs and the public option is the best chance to bring costs into line with reality."

Health care reform must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans is key to lowering costs."

"The public option is critical to health care reform," Wilson concluded. "Now is not the time for politicians to get cold feet just because a handful of special-interest-backed protesters spread lies and make noise at public forums. Congress and the President need to demonstrate real leadership and move forward with true health care reform."

LWVUS Press Release, August 19.2009

**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.**

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

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Wednesday, September 2</b> | <b>6:30 pm Local Action Consensus Meeting Modesto Sewer Extension League Office,<br/>720 13th Street</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday, September 9</b> | <b>6:00 pm Board Meeting<br/>League Office<br/>720 13th Street, Modesto</b>   |
| <b>Saturday, September 12</b> | <b>9:30 am “Climate Change Impacts on CA’s Central Valley Resources”<br/>Hosted by the LWV f San Joaquin County, at the Valley Brewing Company, 157 West Adams, Stockton (off of Pacific Avenue, south of UOP campus.)</b>  |
| <b>Saturday, September 26</b> | <b>10:00-3:30 pm LWVC Regional Workshop<br/>Hampton Suites, 4921 Sisk Road, Salida<br/>See insert for details</b>   |
| <b>Tuesday, September 29</b>  | <b>12:00 Noon Lunch and Learn<br/>Speaker: Birgit Fladager, Stanislaus County District Attorney<br/>on the use of the injunction as a gang control measure<br/>Appetez Restaurant, Roseburg Square, Modesto<br/>\$11.00. For special dietary needs call one day ahead</b> |