



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

April 2011

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 59 NO. 23

*First Call to the
League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County*

2011-2012 Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 21, 2011

Breakfast Meeting
10:00 am 12:00 noon

Appetez Restaurant
Roseburg Square, Modesto

Guest Speaker
Dr. Gaither Loewenstein
Modesto Junior College President

Reservations required by May 13, 2011
Buffet Brunch
Send \$15.00 check to:
LWVSC, P.O. Box E, Modesto, CA 95352

**LWV of STANISLAUS COUNTY
OFFICERS**

President

Susan Novak

president@lwgstanislaus.org

Vice President

Stella Beratlis

vp2@lwgstanislaus.org

Secretary

Laurie Carley

secretary@lwgstanislaus.org

Treasurer

Seena Rhine

treasurer@lwgstanislaus.org

DIRECTORS

Finance Drive

Mary Giventer

Voter Service

Ellen Dunbar

voterservice@lwgstanislaus.org

Membership

Hanna Renning

State and National Action

Anne Krabach

Local Action

Marie Bairey

Voter Editor

Jean Tenney

newsletter@lwgstanislaus.org

Lunch and Learn

Mildred Kinser

Board Administrator

Lynn Kelso

OFF-BOARD

Voter Service

Marsha Waggoner

Membership

Colleen Norby

Public Relations

Linda Walden

Lunch and Learn

Margie Lipsky

Nominating

Ellen Meyer

Web Master

Diane Bartlett

League Office

720 13th Street, Modesto

209-524-1698

www.lwgstanislaus.org

President's Message

Dear Members,

This April newsletter is devoted to giving you the information you need prior to our most important meeting of the year, our Annual Meeting. As valued members of this grassroots organization, your participation is important to us. Our speaker, MJC President Gaither Loewenstein, has been in the news a lot lately so this will be a good opportunity for us to hear from him directly about the challenges facing community colleges. During the business part of the meeting, we will be voting in a new Board, passing a budget, adopting our local program, and amending our bylaws. And there will be time to do what League members love to do - talk to one another about the topics you're most passionate about.

Many thanks to Nominating Committee members Ellen Meyer (chair), Joan Goldsmith, Virginia Lish, Ellen Dunbar and Stella Beratlis. Also to Budget Committee members Julie Saugstad (chair), Seena Rhine, and Michele McNeil.

Hope to see you Saturday, May 21st at 10 a.m. at Appetez Restaurant, Roseburg Square.

Susan



LWVC Convention 2011

LWVC Convention will be the weekend of May 13, 2011 in Ventura at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The theme is "Grow the Future." This will be a year for political growth and civic engagement, but also a celebration of our history.

One hundred years ago, in 1911, California women won the right to vote. In 1921, the League of Women Voters of California was formed making 2011 also our 90th anniversary as a good government organization.

While we should celebrate the past, we look to seize this present moment in history to mold the future of our state by growing the League in a variety of ways to insure that "**Good Government is the usual, and not the unusual.**"

You can attend as a member observer to soak up training, participate in workshops, and enjoy great speakers while networking over lunch or dinner. Or you can contact Susan Novak (president@lwgstanislaus.org) before the April 13th LWVC board meeting if you would like to be considered for one of our delegate slots. Early bird registration closes April 20th. For more information, go to <http://ca.lwv.org/>

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. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With 91 years of experience and over 800 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.

LWVSC ANNUAL MEETING PACKET

Proposed Slate Local Positions LWVSC Bylaws 2011-2012 Proposed Budget

Nominees for Officers and Directors 2011-2012

Officers

President Susan Novak

Vice President Stella Beratlis

Secretary Laurie Carley

Treasurer Seena Rhine

Directors

Finance Drive	Mary Giventer
Voter Service	Sarah Jamieson
Membership	Hanna Renning
State and National Action	Ann Krabach
Local Action	Marie Bairey
Voter Editor	Patty Beyer
Public Relations	Jean Tenney
Lunch and Learn	Margie Lipsky and Joan Goldsmith
Board Administrator	Lynn Kelso

Off Board Directors

Voter Service	Marsha Waggoner
Membership	Colleen Norby
Webmaster	Dianne Bartlett
Nominating Committee Chair	Amy Wolfe
Nominating Comm. Members	Mercedes Hart and Ruby Hennessey

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Proposed Local Program 2011-2012

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 rehabilitative programs and facilities for 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.)

Information for Annual Meeting

- Proposed Slate of Officers
- Proposed 2011-2012 Budget
- Local Program
- Proposed bylaws revisions

If you receive your *Voter* by USPS, the information is included in this issue.

If you receive your *Voter* by e-mail, the proposed Slate of Officers and Local Program are included in the newsletter. The budget and bylaws are being sent as attachments. If you are unable to access these items, contact Susan Novak or Marie Bairey.

February 22 Lunch and Learn

Dr. Richard Anderson, MJC Professor Emeritus Why the Confusion About Global Climate Change?

Dr. Richard Anderson, MJC Professor Emeritus, discussed reasons for confusion about global warming at the February Lunch and Learn. The question is not whether there is climate change, but is it caused by man, nature or both? Though he agrees with the scientific bases for anthropogenic climate change, in the spirit of fairness and inquiry, he presented arguments pro and con. Among the issues contributing to the confusion are the following:

- Global warming science has become politicized.
- Global warming is a complex, interdisciplinary field (e.g., meteorology, climatology, biology, geology, oceanography) which requires a broad, not narrow, view.
- There are inferential data to support man-made causes and skepticism.
- Some people are more disposed to think we can harm the earth than others.
- Some people and scientists make up their minds early and refuse to change or to read studies that argue with their conclusions.
- Some people will agree with the majority while others will not though many contrarians in history have been right.

Dr. Anderson recommended two books which represent each side of the issue. *Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Climate Change and Energy in the 21st Century* by Burton Richter and *Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 Years* by S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery. Who do you believe? He cautioned that when reading books or articles or when listening to speakers, be critical; consider the qualifications or agenda of the writer or speaker. The controversy goes on!!!

Marie Bairey

State and National

Redistricting in California remains a League priority. Soon census data will be released and the Citizens Redistricting Committee will begin public hearings throughout the state. Follow the commission's work and see how you can be involved in this unusually transparent process at CAvotes.org.

The LWVUS supports the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Mercury and Air Toxic Standard. Thirteen leading public health and environmental agency groups estimate this action will save 17,000 American lives and prevent 120,000 asthma attacks. This standard will ensure that power plants with good pollution control will no longer compete unfairly with those with no controls.

Learn more about how to support these regulations and how to oppose legislation weakening environmental protection. Go to the LWVUS web site and sign up for Action Alerts.

Ann Krabach, State and National Director

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: _____

Please deliver my *Voter* by: E-mail _____ US mail _____

MAIL TO

LWVSC

P.O. Box E

Modesto, CA 95352.

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 Stanislaus County
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(Check Website for Updates.)

- Tuesday, April 5** **6:00 p.m. *California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We can Fix It.* Presented by Mark Paul, Co-author**
Mary Stuart Rogers Educational Services Building, Room 130
CSUS Campus, Turlock
- Wednesday, April 13** **6:00 p.m. - Board Meeting, League Office**
720 13th Street, Modesto
- Tuesday, April 26** **12:00 Noon - Lunch and Learn**
Appetez Restaurant, Roseburg Square, Modesto
Speakers: Mayor Jim Ridenour and City Manager, Greg Nyhoff
Topic: The Strategic Plan for Modesto
\$11. Call one day ahead for special dietary needs
- Saturday, May 21** **10:00 a.m. to Noon - LWVSC Annual Meeting (See flyer in this *Voter*)**
Appetez Restaurant Roseburg Square
Guest Speaker: Gaither Lowenstein, MJC President