



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

*67th Anniversary*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

*Making a Difference in Our Community  
Since 1947*

## **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 2014-2015 budget printed in this report. A majority vote of the members in attendance is required to approve the budget.

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 the members in attendance is required for approval. According to our bylaws, proposals for non-recommended items must be received by the Board at least two months prior to this meeting.

Our bylaws 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 meeting.

A segment at the end of this report is provided for "Direction to the Board". This may be used to provide your suggestions for 2015-2016 including ideas you may wish the Board to consider for changes or additions to local program, for areas of emphasis for program or for any other League activity. Contact information is at the end of this report.

### **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.

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

May 20, 2015, 6:00 P.M.  
Modesto, California

Welcome & Introductions	Laurie Carley Nominating Committee Chair
Speaker	Mike Dunbar Editorial Editor Modesto Bee
<b><u>Business Meeting</u></b>	
Call to Order	Seena Rhine
Parliamentarian	Ellen Dunbar
Credentials Report	Colleen Norby, Membership
Adoption of Order of Business and Procedures	Marie Bairey
Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting	Marie Bairey, Secretary
Selection of Minutes Reading Committee, 2015	Seena Rhine
Budget Presentation, Discussion & Vote	Mary Giventer
Local Program, Discussion and Vote	Mary Giventer, Vice President
Nominating Committee Report	Laurie Carley
Election of Officers and Directors	Seena Rhine
Sustaining Member Award Presentation- Laurie Carley	Seena Rhine
Recognition of 2014-2015 Board	Seena Rhine
Closing Remarks	Seena Rhine

Adjournment

Seena Rhine

## **League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Local Program 2014-2015**

### **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.

**(The Board approved a recommendation to add a separate line on Water – to be studied in 2015-16 and voted upon at the 2015-2016 Annual Meeting)**

### **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 family support, 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 and
- Encourages and offers opportunity for increased voter and candidate participation

**LWVSC Proposed Budget 2015-16**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Budget 2014-15</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Budget 2015-16</b>
Membership	5900.00	4485.00	5000.00
Ed Fund	2500.00	3114.00	2500.00
Gen Fund	4300.00	4910.00	4300.00
Misc.	0.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>12,700.00</b>	<b>12,489.00</b>	<b>11,800.00</b>

**EXPENSES**

Per Member Dues

State	2400.00	1943.50	2300.00
National	3000.00	2619.50	2800.00
<b>Total Dues Payment</b>	<b>5400.00</b>	<b>4563.00</b>	<b>5100.00</b>

Member Expenses

Action	50.00	0	50.00
Board tools	100.00	244.31	100.00
Child care	100.00	0	0.00
Convention	1500.00	0	1600.00
Finance Drive	400.00	620.55	400.00
Lunch & Learn	150.00	52.80	150.00
Meetings	500.00	491.00	500.00
Org. Mem.	20.00	0	20.00
Publications	150.00	175.00	150.00
Supplies	150.00	0	150.00
Workshops	250.00	0	250.00
Publicity	100.00	0	100.00
<b>Total Member Expenses</b>	<b>3470.00</b>	<b>1584.00</b>	<b>3470.00</b>

Category	14-15 Budget	YTD	15-16 Budget
<b>Office Expense</b>			
Equipment	300.00	0	150.00
Insurance	325.00	251.00	275.00
Storage	360.00	270.00	360.00
P O Box	250.00	146.00	200.00
Postage	140.00	112.37	140.00
Supplies	100.00	0	100.00
Telephone	150.00	0	150.00
Newsletter	450.00	125.29	200.00
Website	200.00	160.00	200.00
<b>Total Office</b>	<b>2275.00</b>	<b>1065.00</b>	<b>1775.00</b>
<b>Voter Service Expenses</b>			
Forums	500.00	276.00	500.00
Other Voter	500.00	89.00	500.00
Smart Voter	200.00	200.00	200.00

Total Voter Service	1200.00	565.00	1200.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	355.00	0	255.00
Total All Expenses	12,700.00	7,401.00	11,800.00

Note: LWVC is proposing a \$2.50 per member payment increase for 2015-16 and an additional \$2.50 per member increase in 2015-16. This would bring our local League's payment to LWVC to \$25.50 per member this coming year and \$28.00 the following year. This increase will be voted on at the state convention in May. We drew up the 2015-16 budget proposal to include the proposed increase. With our current financial situation the board feels that we can absorb the proposed increase without raising yearly dues at least for the coming year.

Thank you to Seena Rhine and Margie Neder who served with me on the budget committee. The proposed budget was approved by the board on April 8 and will be voted on at the annual meeting in May. If you have questions or comments on the proposed budget, call Mary Giventer, Treasurer.



## Nominees for Officers and Directors 2015-2016

### *Officers*

President	Seena Rhine
Vice President	Mary Giventer
Secretary	Marie Bairey
Treasurer	Margie Neder

### *Directors*

Finance Drive	Michael Fuller
Membership	Carmen Morad
State and National Action	Tiffany Gordon
Local Action	<i>position available</i>
Board Administrator	Lynn Kelso
Public Relations	Wendy Scott
Voter Service	Marsha Blomquist
Voter Editor	Karrie Bullock

### *Off Board Directors*

Voter Service	Marsha Waggoner
Membership	Colleen Norby
Webmaster	Richard Jacobs
Lunch & Learn	Ruby Hennessey, Hannah Renning
Voter Editor	Karrie Bullock

### *Nominating Committee*

Ann Krabach & Stella Beratlis Co- Chair  
*Position Available*  
*Position Available*



## President's Report

It has been an honor to serve as President of the LWVSC this past year. I have learned much, made mistakes, been inspired, often frustrated by my lack of knowledge, but overall have had a great experience working with many dedicated and perceptive members of the board, off Board members and general membership. This year we provided the Stanislaus County voters with excellent candidate forums, State Proposition forums and speakers to get out our message. Our Lunch & Learn meetings were well attended to educate ourselves and the public about important issues. Our collaboration with AAUW, SCOE and DKG to host a program on **Ending the Culture of Violence on School and College Campuses** was highly successful and well attended. The League also hosted a post- performance Wine and Dessert reception for a Gallo Center production featuring Eleanor Roosevelt.

Overall, we can take pride in our contribution in fostering civic engagement in Stanislaus County.

### 2014-2015 Accomplishments

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

##### Advocacy:

- Wrote letter to the Bee advocating a moratorium on expansion agricultural wells until such time that groundwater sustainability is determined. Does not affect replacement wells of the same size, domestic or city wells.
- Promoted LWV national, state and local environmental positions at a table at Earth Day in Graceda Park.
- Attended the County Water Summit in increase our knowledge and gain perspective on the water crisis and become knowledgeable about the State law requiring Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).
- Collaborated with AAUW, SCOE and DKG to sponsor a program **Ending the Culture of violence on School and College Campuses.**

##### Education

- Sponsored candidate forums for races for Turlock City Council and Mayor, and Waterford City Council
- Sponsored Pros and Cons forums at Cal State Stanislaus and Modesto Junior College
- Spoke to a law class at Humphries College, at a meeting of DKG and at MICL about the history, mission and work of the LWV. Meetings of MICL and DKG included Pros & Cons on the State propositions
- Participated in the Smart Voter Website (<http://www.smartvoter.org>) with links to news coverage of local elections and to host local, state and national issues.
- Published articles in *The Voter* concerning local, state and national issues.
- Sponsored nine well attended no host Lunch & Learn Programs at local restaurant with speakers on a variety of topics of interest to League members

#### To Increase Visibility

- Notices to the newspapers in Stanislaus County regarding candidate forums, Special Events and Lunch & Learn speakers.

- Letter to the Editor regarding our advocacy positions.

- Sponsored a reception at the Gallo Center for the Eleanor Roosevelt presentation.

#### **To Enhance League Leadership**

- Sponsored delegate to the LWVCA Convention in San Diego

- Several members participated in National and State webinars.

#### **To Assure the League's Financial Base**

- The Finance Drive Committee recruited an excellent group of advisors willing to help solicit funds; sent letters to past and potential donors and met our financial goal.

- Published articles in *The Voter* promoting our Finance Drive.

- Conducted a review of LWVSC accounting records according to our bylaws.

- Stayed within the current budget with respect to overall spending.

#### **To Grow Membership**

- Co-sponsored our voter service events with partners such as AAUW, CSUS, MJC and DKG. Had available handouts to promote the LWV as well as membership. Handouts were available at Lunch& Learn, forums, speaking engagements etc.

- Held our popular Holiday Fling membership event in December.

- Conducted the annual Membership Renewal Drive.

- Continued our presence on Facebook and our Website to attract new members.

- Maintained a calendar of our activities on the Website.

- Instituted a new procedure that gives new members joining on or after March 1 of any year continued membership through the next fiscal year without any further dues obligation.

#### **To Embrace Technology**

- Updated our League website regularly.

- Participated in the Smart Voter Website.

- Promoted our website in *The Voter* and on written communication sent out by our League.

- Continued the expanded use of e-mail alerts to members to remind them of League events and action alerts.

### **Vice President's Report**

The annual Holiday Fling was held again in the lovely home of Lynn Fenderson. The speaker for the evening was Jeff Jardine, who shared his experiences in journalism and his perspective on the future of newspapers. Thanks to all who helped coordinate the Fling and brought the delicious food. A special thank you goes out to Lynn Fenderson for opening her home to us. This has become a holiday tradition we truly appreciate.

The annual Program Planning meeting was held on February 11, 2015 at the home of Seena Rhine. Local and state positions were discussed. The review of LWVC positions resulted in the

consensus that we not recommend any changes to the current positions. We anticipate participating in the state Higher Education study in the coming year. Mary Giventer will chair this study committee and is beginning to assemble background information as it is made available.

A recommendation was made to update the local position on Natural Resources in regard to water issues. If it is determined at the annual meeting to undertake this update, Seena Rhine will chair the study committee.

This spring our League collaborated with the American Association of University Women, Delta Kappa Gamma and the Stanislaus County Office of Education on a program, **Ending the Culture of Violence on School and College Campuses**. Due to our expertise in putting on forums, we were asked to moderate the panel discussion. Five hundred people attended this informative program at the Peterson Event Center.

*Mary Giventer, Vice President*

### **Local Action Report**

While having the position of Local Action Chair vacant this year, some local activities have been pursued. The critical issue of water supply due to drought conditions has been addressed by a letter sent and published to the *Modesto Bee* as well as the Turlock and Oakdale papers. Two Lunch & Learn programs this year have been devoted to the water issue which included Terry Withrow, who serves on the Water Advisory Committee, and Walter Ward, who is the Water Resource Manager for Stanislaus County. It is also recommended that a separate statement on water be included in the League's positions and that a study to draft that position be conducted in the coming year.

Another local issue addressed at Lunch & Learn meetings includes a report on SOS (Stamp Out Sprawl) which has qualified for the Nov. 2015 election. The League will study the issue further to see if support is warranted.

A presentation on the expansion of the ACE train into Stanislaus County was another Lunch & learn topic which may require a position to be taken on a potential ballot measure.

## **Membership Report**

As of April 1 we have 94 members. Three of these members are Lifetime members (50+ years). Currently we have one student member. Dues are currently \$60 for individuals, \$90 for family, and \$25 for students.

The December Holiday Fling, once again at the home of Lynn Fenderson, featured speaker Jeff Jardine columnist for the Modesto Bee. There was substantial group of attendees which were enthusiastic about his presentation and reflections concerning his position on the Bee and the status of the printed news.

We have gained new members through personal recruitment as well as through our website. Our Lunch and Learn meetings and voter information forums have provided good venues for involving new prospects. Several of our new members have joined this year as a result of attending these meetings.

*Carmen Morad, Membership Director and Colleen Norby, Off-Board Membership*

## **State and National Action Report**

The League of Women Voters of California's core issues are redistricting, elections, initiative and referendum process, voting rights, campaign finance reform and reproductive choices. In our newsletter, we reported the League's position regarding legislation related to some of these issues and informed members of helpful tools, such as the Bill Status Report site, for keeping abreast of legislation.

The League is working to register voters and to expand voting rights in the courts. The League wishes to expose the role of money in politics. Following Governor Brown's pronouncement, the California League wants to find ways to protect California's water supply.

The League tried to pursue an interview with Assemblywomen Kristin Olsen but was unable to do so.

On April 18, at the Earth Day celebration in Graceda Park in Modesto, Karrie Bullock and Ann Krabach staffed an advocacy booth, presenting the League's national, state and local positions. President's note. Thanks to Marsha Blomquist for taking over this position at a very late date.

*Marsha Blomquist, State and National Action Director*

## **Voter Service Report**

The Voter Service Committee was headed by Amy Wolfe. Mary Giventer and Marsha Waggoner were on the committee and during the course of putting on the events Marsha Blomquist joined the committee. As usual fall was a very busy time with candidate forums, presentations on the Pros and Cons of ballot propositions, voter registration and Easy Voter distribution. Thank you very much to our many members who volunteered their time and efforts to make these activities successful.

For the first time our League provided a candidate forum for Waterford City Council. We had a full house in the council chambers for the Turlock City Council and the Turlock Mayoral Candidate forums. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Riverbank City Council forum due to a miscommunication between the city and the committee. This provided us an opportunity to refine our procedures and the committee has developed guidelines to prevent this from happening in the future. Pros and Cons presentations were given at both California State University Stanislaus and Modesto Junior College. Voter registration events were held at the Modesto and Turlock public libraries and at CSUS. The League's Easy Voter brochures in English and Spanish were provided to all Stanislaus County Libraries.

Another new activity this year was a reception for members and prospective members at the Gallo Center for the Arts following a one woman show portraying Eleanor Roosevelt. We wish to give a special thank you to Karrie Bullock for the work she did in making this event successful.

At all events, we distributed information about the League, Smart Voter bookmarks and Join League brochures. We are fortunate to have support from the local print media in publishing our activities and often in doing follow up articles.

*Amy Wolfe, Voter Service Director; Marsha Waggoner, Off Board Voter Service Director*

### **Smart Voter Report**

We participated in the Smart Voter website ([www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)) for the November 2014 election. Funding was provided through the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. Mary Giventer served as our County For the November 2014 election the League launched the pilot program of a collaboration with Maplight, which enables us to offer even more information to the voter. The positives and the areas needing improvement in that collaboration are being evaluated by LWVC to ensure that Smart Voter continues to be the premier one-stop source for election information.

*Mary Giventer, Smart Voter Coordinator*

## ***The Voter* Newsletter Report**

*The Voter* is our major tool for sharing information with both the membership of the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County and the community. Most of our members receive *The Voter* through e-mail although it is also available by mail. However, the e-mail version offers interactive participation by the reader. We also post this version on our website.

This year we have published seven issues of *The Voter*: July-August, September, October, November-December, January-February, March, April and May/June. Every issue contained our President's message, highlights of the Board meetings, Calendar of Events, roster of the Board of Directors, Lunch and Learn information (including a summary of the last speaker's address and an introduction to the upcoming speaker and his or her topic) new-member information and an enrollment form.

Each Board member has 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.

*The Voter* publishes information about candidate forums, educational events, and LWVSC consensus meetings and positions on local issues. It also reflects state and national League positions on matters of broader political concern. In this way our newsletter plays an important role in informing our members and the public and in encouraging their active involvement in the democratic process.

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, printing and distribution of *The Voter*. As *the Voter* editor, editing *The Voter* has given me the opportunity to be part of the inner workings of LWVSC and most importantly, has allowed me to work with and familiarize myself with the many League members in our community. League's core principles and goals inspire me to do more locally, think politically and civically, and to aspire to other positions on the Board. I was happy to be involved with the Eleanor Roosevelt presentation at the Gallo Center and to represent the League at this year's Earth Day, along with Ann Krabach. I am pleased to be asked to serve as *The Voter* editor for another year and look forward to many years in LWVCD to come.

*Karrie Bullock, The Voter Editor*



## **Public Relations Report**

News releases were sent to Stanislaus County newspapers announcing our programs and candidate forums. Both the *Modesto Bee* and the *Turlock Journal* regularly published our announcements and covered our candidate forums. All the Lunch & Learn programs were publicized through press releases to the *Modesto Bee*. Press releases were also sent out to all local media outlets in September concerning our candidate forums and public forums addressing the Pros & Cons of ballot measures.

*Wendy Scott, Public Relations Director*

## **Webmaster Report**

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County website ([lwvstanislaus.org](http://lwvstanislaus.org)) is in its sixteenth year of offering online information to residents of our county. We provide information about local and state elections and League events, as well as a PDF version of *The VOTER*, meeting minutes, and agendas. 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 webmaster, my first year has been dedicated primarily to learning how to edit the League's website and starting to bring it up to date. The task is still not fully completed, as there are policy details that are in process of being addressed. For example, the website is publically accessible, and for that reason we need to balance openness with the need for a minimal level of confidentiality in an online world that is increasingly vulnerable to mischief-makers. As requested, I also have presented the Board with the pros and cons of creating podcasts of Lunch& Learn speakers. After discussion of the technical and legal requirements of such an undertaking, the Board decided to set aside the option as not feasible at the present time. During the coming year, I look forward to fully updating the website and making it even more attractive to members and other interested persons as an information source.

*Dick Jacobs,, Webmaster*

## **Lunch and Learn Annual Report**

Lunch and Learn meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month. Meetings were held at Jacobs Restaurant until March when the restaurant closed. They are now held at Ridgway's. The luncheon is open to the general public as well as League members. Speakers are chosen to address local or state issues and concerns as well as League studies and programs. Program speaker recommendations from members are always welcome.

### **2014-2015 Lunch and Learn speakers:**

June: Denny Jackman discussed farmland preservation and the Stamp Out Sprawl initiative he is spearheading. The basic need for food is the impetus of Jackman's interest in land planning.

July: Marian Kaanon of the Stanislaus Foundation spoke on "Why Philanthropy Matters in Community Transformation". She praised Stanislaus County for being a very generous community and talked about some of the many positive outcomes of giving locally. The mission of the Stanislaus Foundation is to secure and invest resources into the community for lasting impact.

August: James Strong, CSU provost, presented on issues facing higher education. Among the many concerns are affordability, access, and availability of courses for students. Colleges also struggle with tight budgets and the increasing concern that college degrees do not necessarily result in a successful career following graduation.

September: District Supervisor Terry Withrow discussed local and statewide water issues. He explained that the county does not oversee water agencies but does have enforcement power. Water agencies have experience. Working together, a Water Advisory Committee and Tech Advisory Committee have been formed to make decisions regarding the selling of water and sustainability issues.

October: Ken Adair, Government and Economics teacher, discussed local educational issues and young voters. He shared his strategies for trying to engage apathetic students in politics and voting. It is a difficult task since the students are mostly involved in their own teen world and don't see the relevance of politics.

January: Virginia Madueno spoke on the ACE train project. The train will link the Central Valley with Silicon Valley. It currently goes as far as Lathrop/Manteca and is waiting for County approval and funding to continue expanding in a southern direction. The expansion would service CSUS and UC Merced using existing tracks.

February: Lee Balance, MD and Mary Selkirk of the Citizens Climate Lobby discussed the effects of climate change on humans and the environment. Their grassroots organization is working to get Congress to act on their proposal for a Carbon Fee and Dividend Policy as the primary way to limit carbon pollution and stimulate investment in clean energy.

March: Walter Ward, Water Resources Manager for Stanislaus County, gave us an update on the drought and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The core of the law is a local program, ground water management and regulatory process, sustainability plans and ground water basin control. This legislation requires local development of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by 2017 and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2020 for each water basin in the state.

April: Peggy Fiske, Director of Student Financial Services at Modesto Jr. College discussed the rising cost of a college education, financial aid and other resources to assist students.

*Ruby Hennessey and Joan Goldsmith, Lunch & Learn Chairpersons*

## **Finance Drive Report**

The annual finance drive provides the extra funds needed to carry out the League's educational and voter service programs and to fund ongoing activities. The Finance Committee, with the valuable assistance of our Finance Advisors, organizes and oversees the drive.

Each year the Finance Committee reviews and revises the lists of members and friends who have contributed in the past and seeks potential new donors. Personal contact is an important component of our fundraising efforts: our dedicated Finance Advisers and committee members include a personal note on letters to potential donors. We feel that this personal outreach contributes to our success. In addition, our appeal includes highlights of the League's work during the past year. We strive to show our current and prospective donors the accomplishments of our organization. The inclusion of the year's activities serves as evidence of how we responsibly steward the donations we receive.

Donors can indicate whether they want their contribution to go to the Educational Fund or to the General Fund. All Education Fund contributions are tax deductible and are used to gather and provide information to the community about current issues at the local, state, and national levels as well voter service activities. The General Fund is used to maintain local League operations. Contributions to the finance drive support the candidate forums: this year they were supported by the General Fund.

Our members and other donors responded favorably to our appeal: we received a total of \$7,663.41 - \$4,640 for the General Fund and \$3023.41 for the Education Fund. Both the committee and board are very pleased with this response. We cannot thank our members, donors and Finance Advisers enough for their continued dedication and commitment to the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County.

*Michael Fuller, Finance Drive Director*

## **Sustaining Member Award**

The Sustaining Member Award is a tradition begun 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	1995 Hazel Gotshall	2004 Gloria Skol
1987 Lulu Jenkins	1996 Marge Fovinci	2005 Kenni Friedman
1988 Kay Black	1997 Ralph Sturtevant	2006 Linda Walden
1989 Bev Sturtevant	1998 Lynn Kelso	2007 Stella Beratlis
1990 Mildred Kinser	1999 Polly Klopfer	2008 Helen Gordon
1991 Margie Lypsky	2000 Susan Novak	2009 Debbie Kleinfelder
1992 Eleanor Goldor	2001 Joan Goldsmith	2010 Lee DeLaMare
1993 Myrtle Osner	2002 Patrick McKee	2011 Marsha Waggoner
1994 Alita Roberts	2003 Julie Saugstad	2012 Ellen Meyer
2013 Colleen Norby		

### **2014 -15 Sustaining Member Recipient: Laurie Carley**

Laurie Carley has been selected as this year’s Sustaining Member for her many years of service to the LWV Stanislaus County in both on and off-Board capacities. She joined the League in 1996. While raising her family and continuing her teaching career, she found time for League. Over the years Laurie has been Membership Director, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary and Nominating Committee chair or member (some more than once). As second Vice President in 2006-07 she oversaw our local study on gangs which resulted in a local program position approved in 2007. During that time it was also recommended to initiate a study of municipal election systems in anticipation of district elections in local entities. This year Laurie again accepted the challenge of Nominating Committee, successfully presenting a slate of officers and directors for 2015-16 and making arrangements for the 2015 Annual Meeting. While Laurie accepts a task, we know that it will be done thoughtfully and thoroughly. As an active volunteer Laurie exemplifies the spirit of the League.

## **Volunteer Recognition**

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

## **2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY**

*Respectfully submitted,*

#### *2014-2015 Board of Directors*

##### **Officers**

Seena Rhine, President  
Mary Giventer, Vice President  
Marie Bairey, Secretary  
Mary Giventer, Treasurer

##### **Directors**

Amy Wolfe, Voter Service  
*Vacant* Local Action  
Marsha Blomquist, State and National Action  
Michael Fuller, Finance Drive  
Public Relations Wendy Scott  
Carmen Morad, Membership  
Ruby Hennessey, Lunch and Learn  
Lynn Kelso, Board Administrator  
Karrie Bullock, Voter newsletter

##### **Off Board Directors**

Marsha Waggoner, Voter Service  
Colleen Norby, Membership  
Joan Goldsmith, Lunch and Learn  
Richard Jacobs, Webmaster  
Laurie Carley Chair Nominating Committee

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

Ideas and suggestions are welcomed by the 2015-2016  
Board of Directors.

Mail to: LWV Stanislaus County, P.O. Box E, Modesto CA 95352  
E-Mail: [webmaster@lwwstanislaus.org](mailto:webmaster@lwwstanislaus.org)  
Phone: (209) 524-1698

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



## About the League of Women Voters

*“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 has two separate and distinct roles:

- **Voter 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 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  
P.O. Box E  
Modesto, CA 95352  
209-524-1698

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



