

The Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO



November 2003

Vol. 55 No. 11

Library Election Set For March Ballot

In 1995, Stanislaus County voters passed a historic 1/8 cent sales tax to fund the county public library. Since that time, communities throughout the state followed Stanislaus County's lead and voted to tax themselves to provide a stable, secure source of funding for their libraries. Stanislaus voters renewed the tax in 1999, and will be asked to do so again in March, 2004.

Before the tax was first passed in 1995, budget cuts had forced the library to make drastic cuts in hours, staff, materials and programs. In 1994/95, there were no children's programs, no telephone reference, very limited hours, and only 12,000 books purchased for all 13 libraries. Since the library has been funded by the sales tax (which provides 80% of the library's budget), the Modesto library is open 7 days a week, a new regional library has been built in Salida, larger libraries

have opened in Keyes, Empire and Hughson, internet access is readily available at all branches, books can be reserved or renewed online, there are weekly children's programs at all branches, and the book budget has increased 10 fold.

The League of Women Voters of Modesto adopted a Local Library Finance position in 1994, which was updated in 1997 and 2003. The position reads:

The League of Women Voters of Modesto supports 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

--continued on p. 5

Calendar of Events

Tues., 11/4	Election Day
Wed., 11/12	BOARD MEETING 6 p.m. LWV office
11/12 & 11/13	CSUS Special Election--League will assist
Fri., 11/21	LOCAL ACTION COMMITTEE 12:00 1608 F Street, Modesto
Mon., 12/1	Holiday Fling, 7 pm -9 pm (see p. 7)
Wed., 12/10	BOARD MEETING 6 pm. LWV office
March 20, 2004	Stanislaus Commission for Women Outstanding Woman Recognition

President's Message

Among my goals when I took the position as League president in 2002 were to increase communication and increase member involvement. They go hand in hand: members who know what is going on become more interested and get involved. We have seen increases in both areas.

Thanks to e-mail and the Internet, League members receive a steady stream of information about our local activities as well as updates from state and national League. Our local network currently includes 40% of our members; we would like to see that number grow to include all members who are on the Net. It's a cheap and quick way to keep members connected. Both state and national League organizations are relying more and more on the Net and e-mail. By doing so, they have cut operating costs and have more immediate contact with members. This is major for an organization that used to mail double copies of all documents to all Leagues.

The monthly Voter continues to be our primary means to reach all members. With the calendar of events in the Voter (as well as our web page), members can mark their calendars to attend or assist with events.

We have seen an increase in attendance at Lunch and Learn. Our candidate forums were well staffed with experienced and new members. Many members helped with the Elections Department County Fair booth last summer. Members have contacted me to participate in coming events.

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LWV of MODESTO

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Bob Jackson

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Local Action

Committee (Myrtle Osner, chair)

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Mailing Address

PO Box E, Modesto, CA 95352

Office Address

723 13th Street, Modesto

Telephone

209-524-1698

www.lwvmodesto.org

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

October 8, 2003

◆ The Local Action Committee prepared statements in support of Measures L, M and N (land use planning), and in opposition to Measure K (term limits for mayor and city council). The statements were submitted to the Bee in the form of letters to the editor.

◆ The Finance Drive is at 75% of the goal.

◆ Plans are being made for the Holiday Fling in December (see p. 7) and a membership event in March.

◆ Membership is at 150. A few members have yet to renew through June 2004. By-law change put all members on the same renewal calendar.

--Mildred Kinser

There will be no November or December Lunch and Learn.

Lunch and Learn will resume in January.



Missed the 2003-2004 LWV Modesto Member Directory at the October Lunch and Learn?

Pick it up at the Holiday Fling on Dec. 1. To get yours before then, contact Myrtle Osner.



Visit the League on the Web

LWV of Modesto
LWV of California
LWV of the U. S.
Smart Voter

www.lwvmodesto.org
www.ca.lwv.org
www.lwv.org
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League Hosts Successful Forums

A big thank you to all the League members who contributed to the success of our candidate forums this fall. Within the span of one week in late September we held three forums, covering Modesto races for mayor and city council, and the Modesto City Schools board of education.

In addition to outstanding jobs by veteran moderators Julie Saugstad and Alita Roberts, Susan Novak moderated her first forum with all the dignity and professionalism our League is known for.


A number of League members volunteered for their first forum this fall. Special thanks to Debbie Whitmore, Cindy Van Empel, Nancy Smith, Wendy Byrd, Patty Lundy and Jennie Sweeney. They were joined by veteran forum volunteers Michelle Murphy, Ellen Meyer, Beth Dippery, Joan Patterson, Laurie Carley, Marianne Klink, Deborah & Ed Buettner, Ralph and Bev Sturtevant, Jim & Linda Griffin, Margie Lipsky, Honor Denney, Marie Bairey and Mildred Kinser. Special thanks to Lynn Kelso who helped organize the volunteers.

Thanks also to the Modesto City Clerk's office and City Manager Jack Christ for their help in arranging the facilities.

All the candidates for each race participated and provided the community with an excellent opportunity to hear their views on a variety of topics. The question sorters were kept busy with a heavy volume of questions that were compiled by subject to avoid duplication.

The forums will continue to be re-aired until the November 4th election on Access Modesto, cable channels 7 & 8. You will find them replayed in rotation on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 P.M. and Mondays and Wednesdays at 3 P.M.

--Linda Walden



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MESSAGE *continued from p. 2*

There is always a way to be involved with League that fits your time and schedule. November 12 and 13, League members will oversee a **special election at CSUS**. Patrick McKee (529-9122) is lining up volunteers to share shifts. Give him a call if this interests you. Lynn Kelso (529-3273) is already planning our **Holiday Fling** in December. Call her if you can lend a hand. The **Local Action Committee** meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at the office of Eddy Cash-Dudley. We will be working on the library tax that will be on the March ballot. **Monthly Board Meetings** are open to all members. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the League office.

See you at the next League event.

--Marie Bairey

LIBRARY TAX

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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.


Under the provisions of Proposition 13, the library tax requires a 2/3 majority of the votes cast in order to pass. In the previous successful elections, 1995 and 1999, the library tax was the only item on the special election ballot. In the coming election, the library tax will share the ballot with

a wide variety of issues and candidates, including the presidential primary. Because the library will need to compete with other issues and candidates for voters' attention, this campaign will require a significant bank

account and many, many volunteers.

League members are encouraged to get involved in this election. Sign up to help by returning the separate form in this issue of the Voter.

--Susan Cassidy

 <p>PETER H. SMITH</p>	<p>PETER H. SMITH ATTORNEY AT LAW Member of the California and Oregon State Bars</p>
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Yes!

I want to add my voice to yours by joining the
League of Women Voters of Modesto.

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (for the directory) _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: P.O. Box E, Modesto, CA 95352

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.

DIRECTIONS TO HOLIDAY FLING AT 221 EL RIO

PLEASE CAR POOL IF POSSIBLE--PARKING IS VERY LIMITED

El Rio is located off La Loma Ave.,
directly across from Kewin Park,
between Morton and Buena Vista.

From Downtown, take G street
east to La Loma, then turn right on
El Rio. 221 El Rio is nearly at the
bottom of the hill on the right.

From east Modesto, take Yosemite
to La Loma Avenue (or Yosemite
to Las Palmas to La Loma), then
turn left on El Rio. 221 El Rio is
nearly at the bottom of the hill on
the right.



YOSEMITE



LWV MODESTO

HOLIDAY fLING

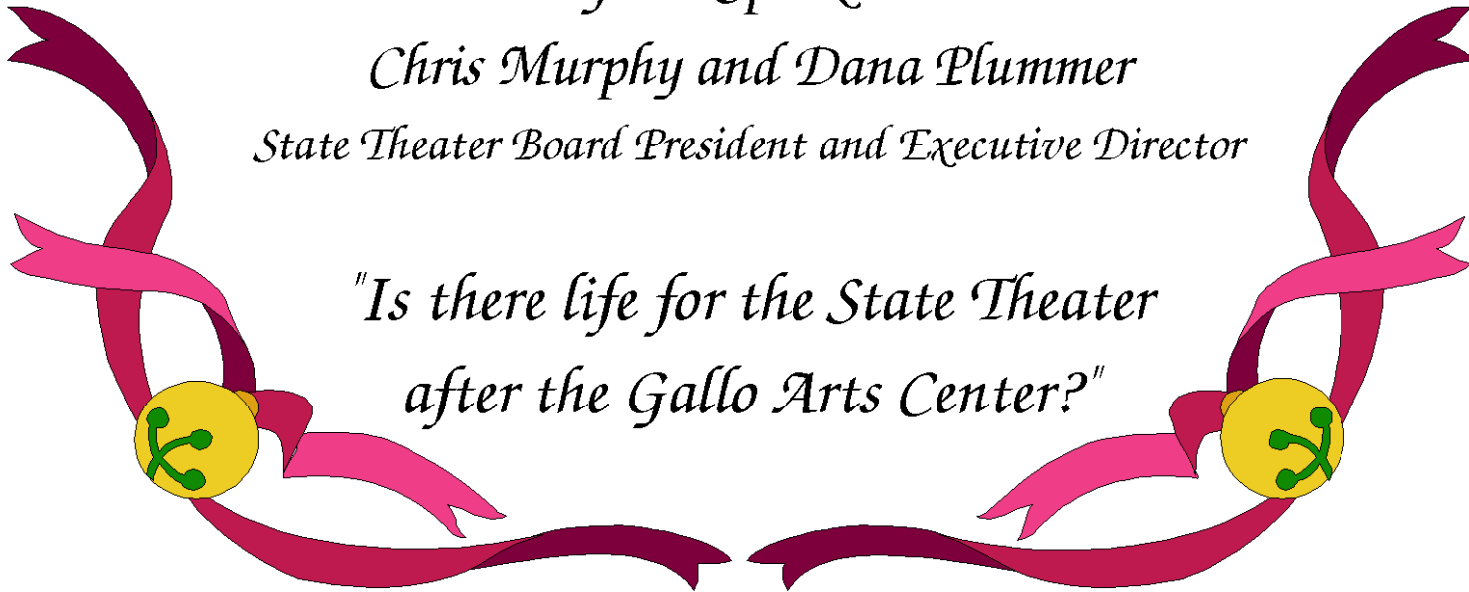
*Monday, December 1
7 P.M. TO 9 P.M.*

*At the home of Lynn & Albion Fenderson
221 El Rio Drive, Modesto*

Guest Speakers:

Chris Murphy and Dana Plummer

State Theater Board President and Executive Director



*"Is there life for the State Theater
after the Gallo Arts Center?"*

The League of Women Voters®, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Modesto

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