



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

October 2016

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 64 NO.8

President's Message

Ready, set, go!! It is that time of year that we do our most important and public work. Thanks to Marsha Blomquist and the others who have worked so hard to make this year's forums happen. Mary Giventer also deserves a big thank you for taking on the huge task of analyzing all 17 state propositions and presenting the Pros & Cons forums. I hope many of you will be able to attend many of the forums and especially one of the Pros & Cons forums. I know that I certainly do not know enough about all of them to be able to make intelligent choices.

We have four new people who were trained by Mary and Marie to be new moderators and some of these will be trying out their new skills this year. Those newly trained moderators are Karrie Bullock, Wendy Scott, George Britton and Seena Rhine. Thanks to Julie Saugstad for also rejoining the ranks of moderators. Marie Bairey and Mary Giventer will continue their excellent work of moderating of forums. I can't overlook all the other members who are volunteering their time to work at the forums. We cannot do this without you.

Check out the Voter and bulletins for the dates and times for all the forums and for the Holiday Fling. It will be on Nov. 29 at Lynne Fenderson's again. Our speaker will be the director of the Great Valley Museum.

Seena Rhine, President LWVSC



LWVSC Holiday Fling!

This year's Holiday Fling will be at Lynn Fenderson's and our speaker will be Arnold Chavez from the Great Valley Museum.

Tuesday, November 29th, 6:30pm social, speaker at 7pm

Directions: El Rio is located off La Loma Avenue, directly across from Kewin Park, between Morton and Buena Vista. From Downtown: Take G Street east to La Loma, turn right on El Rio. **221 El Rio** is nearly at the bottom of the hill on the right.

**This is a potluck event, so please come armed with your favorite goodie to share.*

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LWVSC Lunch & Learn, August 25, 2016

Rebecca Ortega-Harrington, S. Modesto Municipal Advisory Council

Rebecca Ortega-Harrington, Chairperson for the South Modesto Municipal Advisory Council, was the speaker at the August Lunch and Learn meeting. She chairs monthly meetings which are attended by Supervisor Jim DeMartini, law enforcement, county department heads and several community organizations. In this venue the county comes to the community to discuss the needs and concerns expressed by the residents in a more comfortable setting for the residents.

Rebecca talked about some of the issues the children face in their neighborhood and schools in the unincorporated area south of ninth street. Many of the families live in rental houses which are poorly maintained with leaky roofs and windows that don't work. The houses also lack sewer connections. There are no sidewalks so flooding is a problem when it rains making it difficult for the neighborhood children and their parents to walk to school. Jr. High students who are bused to school face intimidation by gangs and drug dealers at their bus stop. Rebecca noted that law enforcement have been very responsive when called to address gang or drug issues. Parents, however, are often reluctant to call due to language difficulties and fear of deportation.

Rebecca described many of the students as struggling to succeed at school. Parents are often unable to help so the students depend on adults at school for the extra help they need. She stated that the children tend to be 2-3 years behind in their reading skills. The schools do offer extra help through after school programs but are always looking for adult volunteers to offer encouragement and support.

The presentation concluded with an invitation to attend the Fourth Annual Community Celebration of Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at the Tenth Street Plaza.

Ruby Hennessey, LWV member

LWVSC Has New Forum Moderators

Congratulations to LWVSC's four new candidate forum moderators. George Britton, Karrie Bullock, Seena Rhine and Wendy Scott recently participated in a moderator training conducted by Mary Giventer and Marie Bairey.

As LWVSC is being called upon to conduct more candidate forums throughout the county, it became apparent we would need more people to staff the events – especially moderators. (Check out the LWVSC calendar of Voter Service for the 2016 election!) Thanks to George, Karrie, Seena and Wendy for stepping forward and to the other volunteers who make these well-respected community events possible.

Voter Service: Upcoming League Forums

October 5th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., **Turlock City Council's Forum**
Council Chambers located at 156 S. Broadway (upstairs).

October 8th, 11:00 a.m.. **Pros and Cons for Democratic Group**
Denny's Restaurant located at 2052 W. Orangeburg, Modesto.

October 10th, 6:30p.m., **Possible Pros and Cons (general public) at MJC.**
More information coming.

October 13th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., **Yosemite Community College District Board's Forum**
Forum Building, Modesto Junior College, East Campus, Room 110

October 17th, 6:00 p.m., **Pros and Cons for Democratic Group**
Denny's Restaurant located at 2052 W. Orangeburg, Modesto

October 18th, 6:30 p.m., **Pros and Cons for the general public**
CSUS in the Mary Stuart Rogers Building, Room 130.

October 19th, 10:00am, **Pros and Cons for MICL**
El Capitan Building, Modesto Junior College West Campus

October 19th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., **Member of State Assembly representing District 12 Forum: Candidates, Ken Vogel and Heath Flora**
City of Modesto, County of Stanislaus' Chambers, located in the basement of the building at 1010 Tenth Street. Enter through Tenth Street entrance.

For questions or **WISH TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP**, please contact
Marsha Blomquist [209-844-5323](tel:209-844-5323) blomq@att.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[\(Check Website for Updates\)](#)

Thursday, October 27th 12:00-1:30pm	Lunch & Learn: Eunice Lovie, Transit Manager for the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works Ridgeways, Chef's Choice \$13
Thursday, Nov. 27	NO Lunch & Learn: Happy Thanksgiving!
Tuesday, November 29th 6:30-8:30pm	Holiday Fling hosted by Lynn Fenderson, speaker TBA Mark your calendars, more information forthcoming!
October, various times	Forums and Pro Cons Series throughout the Month of October: please see the insert in Voter and in your emails.

**League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
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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.