



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

October 2015

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 63 NO.6

President's Message

What a busy time! E-mails have been flying putting the final touches on the candidate forums. I hope that many of you will be able to attend some of the other community events listed in the alerts recently sent by Marie. Human trafficking and the homeless problems are just two of them. Also of note, the Board decided to support Prop 1, the Stamp Out Sprawl Initiative on the Modesto ballot. It is consistent with our past studies and support of similar issues. A letter will be forthcoming to the Bee. You may have read in the Bee that the LWVSC has been asked to have a representative serve on the Oversight Board for the city of Modesto should Proposition G pass. They want to have the Board in place by October before the election, to assure citizens of Modesto that the added tax revenue will be spent as directed. Richard Jacobs has volunteered to serve on this Board. Thank you Dick, we will be well served.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the consensus meeting/social/ wine tasting event on November 4th at the Rhine's home. You can also celebrate or commiserate the election results from the previous day. It should be a fun event. Also, of course, plan on attending the Holiday Fling at Lynne Fenderson's lovely home on December 1st.

I'm sorry that I will not be around for the forums as I will be hiking, rafting and exploring in Nepal. I trust that there will not be another earthquake when I'm there. The forums are in good hands.

Seena Rhine, President LWVSC

Sending well wishes to our treasured Finance Drive director Michael Fuller, who is undergoing some challenging health issues. The Board has decided to postpone the Finance Drive until further notice, as Michael is truly the driving force behind that successful campaign.

Please join us in sending our best wishes for speedy recovery.

Update of Higher Education Study

The latest information that I have is that the consensus questions and study materials will be published the week of September 20 and will be available on the lwvc.org web site. The study will be in four sections: Equity; Funding and Affordability; Preparedness; and Opportunities/Barriers to Student Success.

Consensus questions will be due on May 16, 2016. Watch for further information in the next *Voter*.

Mary Giventer, Vice President

**LWV of STANISLAUS
COUNTY OFFICERS**

President

Seena Rhine

president@lwvstanislaus.org

Vice President

Mary Giventer

Vp2@lwvstanislaus.org

Secretary

Marie Bairey

secretary@lwvstanislaus.org

Treasurer

Margie Neder

treasurer@lwvstanislaus.org

DIRECTORS

Finance Drive

Michael Fuller

Membership

Open

Action – State and National

Tiffany Gordon

Action - Local

Open

Board Administrator

Lynn Kelso

Public Relations

Wendy Scott

Voter Service

Marsha Blomquist

voterservice@lwvstanislaus.org

Voter Editor

Karrie Bullock

newsletter@lwvstanislaus.org

Nominating Committee

Ann Krabach

Stella Beratlis Co-Chair

OFF-BOARD

Voter Service

Marsha Waggoner

Web Master

Richard Jacobs

Lunch and Learn

Ruby Hennessey

Hanna Renning

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box E, Modesto 95352

209-524-1698

www.lwvstanislaus.org

**September Lunch & Learn, September 24th
San Joaquin Valley Air Quality**

Anthony Presto, a 22 year veteran of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, talked at September's Lunch and Learn about the issues and challenges of air quality in the Valley. He works with an eight-county board that directs this regional public health agency to improve the health and quality of life for Valley residents and to meet or exceed air quality standards established by state and federal agencies.

Geography (situated between two mountain ranges) and meteorology (the inversion layer) in addition to emissions from various sources, contribute to our poor air quality. Particulate matter (smoke and dust) and ground level ozone (formed by warm weather and emissions) are the primary culprits. The worst time for ozone? Now – when it is still warm and students return to school; more driving and more engine idling! The Control District has authority over fixed facilities while the state regulates mobile sources. Twenty-five percent of the pollution originates elsewhere (Bay Area, Asia) and 75% is home grown.

Through rules, incentives and public education the agency has worked to improve air quality. Restricting wood burning fireplaces, suing the Bay Area Air Pollution District to force changes there and funding from a \$12 DMV fee for incentives to replace old, polluting equipment and vehicles, as well as other innovations, have helped the Valley toward meeting or exceeding required standards. Challenges continue, however. Not the least of which is the drought. For some problems, technology is inadequate. For others, it means thinking outside the box such as capturing gas from dairy lagoons and convert it to electricity, grinding orchard trimmings into compost rather than burning and using solar collectors to run irrigation pumps.

Each of us can do our part: walk or bike more and reduce driving miles, use pump dispensers rather than aerosol, avoid vehicle idling (such as drive-up windows), trade in your gas mower (equal to 12 trucks!) for an electric. Check out an electric barbeque. Other ideas? Learn about being a Healthy Air Living Partner at www.valleyair.org.

Marie Bairey, Secretary

LWVSC Supports Measure I

At its September meeting, the LWVSC Board voted to support Measure I – Stamp Out Sprawl, Modesto – on the November ballot. The Measure is consistent with our Land Use Position which focuses on preserving prime farmland and directing residential, industrial and business growth to more appropriate areas.

Whereas we believe that land-use planning should involve cooperation between and among various government agencies to serve the best interests of all, that does not always happen. As a result, other strategies are necessary. If passed, Measure I would establish urban boundaries and require approval of a majority of Modesto voters to extend development outside those limits. We urge Modesto voters to vote **yes** on Measure I as an effective means to protecting agricultural land and assuring long-term planning for growth and development in and around Modesto.

Go to www.stampoutsprawl.com for details and maps.

Spotlight! Hanna Renning

This second installment of Spotlight! continues, featuring Hanna Renning who's remarkable life is an inspiration to many. Spotlight! is a bi-monthly article that seeks to highlight League's most important asset: our members. Enjoy!

Hanna Renning was born in Berlin, Germany, in January 1936, third child of an editor and his social worker wife. She started life as a "racial disgrace" (in the eyes of the governing Nazis), since her mother was born Jewish and her father an "Aryan" Protestant. Her father was under surveillance as an active member of the anti-Nazi Staatspartei.

Shortly before the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics, the family, now all baptized, fled Germany, bound for Panama, where her father taught for four years at the University of Panama. In 1940 they immigrated to the U.S., spending the WWII years in Ohio and settling in Michigan after the war.

Hanna received her BA in Social Sciences at Michigan State University and her MA in History at the Johns Hopkins University. She married recent immigrant, Dieter Renning (also a LWVSC member) in 1961, when he was beginning his college teaching career in Economics. Two children, John and Mike, were born in the Midwest before the family moved to Turlock in 1970. While Dieter taught at Cal. State Stanislaus, Hanna worked as a library assistant there and at the Turlock Public Library.

It was the natural thing for Hanna to join the League of Women Voters in her twenties in Illinois and Ohio. Her paternal grandmother had marched for women's suffrage in Germany, and Hanna helped her mother to study for her citizenship exam when she was ten years old. The right to vote was "sacred" in her family, and political topics were the stuff of dinner conversations.

Current attempts to restrict voting rights in some U.S. states and to remove parts of the decades-old Voting Rights Act are of paramount concern to Hanna. The League acts as a powerful watchdog in guarding the voting rights of all citizens. Affordable and universal health care, preferably single-provider, is another area of particular concern to her. We may tout our medical care system as the best in the world, but access for all must be ensured if it is to be relevant.

Hanna Renning

Ending the Culture of Violence

Last March our League partnered with AAUW and Delta Kappa Gamma to put on a very successful program on Ending the Culture of Violence on School and College campuses. Based on feedback from that program AAUW and Delta Kappa Gamma have decided to Keep the Conversation going. They are doing so with a Speaker Series that will delve more deeply into more specific aspects of the issue. The focus of the series this year is on sexual violence, particularly on campuses. The current lineup of speakers is:

Thursday, October 22, 2015, 4 PM

Title IX: Preventing Sexual Misconduct on the College Campus

Speaker: Sarah Beal, Victim's Advocate CSUS

Location: CSUS (call Hanna Renning, 632-4692, for exact room number)

Thursday, November 12, 2015, 7 PM

Ending the Culture of Violence: hearing the Youth Perspective

Speaker: Debbie Soro Adair, Enochs High School teacher

Location: Royal Oaks Conference Room, Medical Office Building (corner of H and Ash Streets, Oakdale)

Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7 PM

Community, Peace, and Children's Rights

Speaker: Heather Sherburn, former principal at Orville Wright Elementary

Location: TBD

Friday, May 6, 2016, 7PM

The Sirens, a play by Darrah Cloud dealing with domestic violence

Gallo Theater for the Arts

Constitutional Wine Evening

Please join us on Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30PM at Seena Rhine's home, 2008 Torrid Ave., Modesto, for some wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and an interesting discussion on amending the US Constitution. While LWV has supported proposed constitutional amendments, such as the Equal Rights Amendment, it has never had a position on the process of amending the constitution. That is what it wants to do now and it is looking for input and consensus from League members. LWV has posed several questions for us to discuss and provided some background material and pros and cons statements to aid us in our discussion. The questions relate to what kind of issue we feel rises to the level of requiring a constitutional amendment vs. legislative action, what the League should consider in determining whether or not to advocate for an amendment as a solution and what parameters we feel the process itself should have. Following this evening's meeting I will forward our consensus on the questions to LWV for input as they formulate a position to be voted on at the next national convention. We will provide the wine, the food and the discussion materials; we need you to provide your presence and your thoughts. If you want a preview of the questions they are available on the lwv.org web site or you can e-mail mgiventer@pacbell.net and I will forward them to you. Please join us for a social, stimulating evening.

HOLIDAY FLING! DECEMBER 1ST, Speaker Sue Richardson, General Manager of the State Theatre



Mark your calendars for the League's annual Holiday Fling, to be held at Lynn Fendersons beautiful home. The State Theatre is a Modesto gem, sponsoring community and art events, bringing cutting-edge theatre and events to patrons, and ensconcing us its beautiful facilities. If you have been to the State recently, you'll have noticed the big changes underway—come hear Sue Richardson talk about challenges and successes, and what the State has done to make itself an invaluable resource to our community.

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Go to www.stampoutsprawl.com for details and maps.

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Total	565	1200
Miscellaneous	0	355
TOTAL ALL	9362	12700

LWVSC YEAR END REPORT 2014-15

	Actual	Budgeted
INCOME:		
Membership	6275	5900
Ed Fund	3214	2500
Gen Fund	4880	4300
Misc.	0	0
Total	13,069	12,700

Checking Account

\$ 13,367.72
 10,744.00
 7,746.85
 16,064.87

EXPENSES:		
LWVSC PMP	1943.5	2400
LWV PMP	2619.5	3000
Total Dues	4563	5400
Member Expenses:		
Action	0	50
Board Tools	244	100
Child care	0	100
Convention	1118	1500
Finance Drive	621	400
L&L	144	150
Meetings	641	500
Org. Memb.	0	0
Publications	175	150
Supplies	4	150
Workshops	0	250
Publicity	0	100
Total	2947	3470
Office Expense		
Equipment	0	300
Insurance	251	325
Storage	373	360
P.O. Box	146	250
Postage	112	140
Supplies	4	100
Telephone	88	150
Newsletter	157	450
Website	160	200
Total	1287	2275
Voter Service:		
Forums	276	500
Other voter	89	500
Smart Voter	200	200

LWVSC Expenditures 2014-15

Date	Check#	Amt.	Category	Category	Category
8-Jul	1307	.699.57	Finance Drive	Board Tools	
15-Jul	1308	.30	Storage		
15-Aug	1309	.30	Storage		
15-Aug	1310	.1309.75	LWVUS PMP		
18-Sep	1311	.96	voter service		
11-Sep	1312	.30	Storage		
24-Sep	1313	.160	LWV web		
3-Oct	1314	.140	Publication		
14-Oct	1315	.660	Gallo - member event		
8-Oct	1316	.89	voter service		
10-Oct	1317	.30	Storage		
10-Oct	1318	.146	PO Box		
30-Oct	1319	.1457.63	LWVSC PMP		- 1320 ok paid / 1321 void
7-Nov	1322	.115	voter service		
12-Nov	1323	.165.29	Finance Drive		
12-Nov	1324	.30	Storage		
8-Dec	1325	.280.4	L&L, Voter, postage		
17-Dec	1326	.30	Storage		
17-Dec	1327	.34.82	Publication		
19-Jan	1328	.9.8	Postage		
19-Jan	1329	.30	Storage		
5-Feb	1330	.251	LWVSC Insurance		
6-Feb	1331	.65	voter service		
13-Feb	1332	.30	Storage		
13-Feb	1333	.200	Smart Voter		
12-Mar	1334	.30	Storage		
9-Apr	1335	.30	Storage		
11-May	1336	.43.19	Storage		
20-May	1337	.150	annual meeting		
20-May	1338	.1117.82	convention		
8-Jun	1339	.226.58	L&L, Voter, phone		- 1340 void
16-Jun	1341	.30	Storage		

Total expenses = \$ 7,746.85

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LWVSC Expenditures 2014-15

Date	Check#	Amt.	Category	Category	Category
8-Jul	1307	.699.57	Finance Drive	Board Tools	
15-Jul	1308	.30	Storage		
15-Aug	1309	.30	Storage		
15-Aug	1310	.1309.75	LWVUS PMP		
18-Sep	1311	.96	voter service		
11-Sep	1312	.30	Storage		
24-Sep	1313	.160	LWV web		
3-Oct	1314	.140	Publication		
14-Oct	1315	.660	Gallo - member event		
8-Oct	1316	.89	voter service		
10-Oct	1317	.30	Storage		
10-Oct	1318	.146	PO Box		
30-Oct	1319	.1457.63	LWVSC PMP		- 1320 ok paid / 1321 void
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12-Nov	1324	.30	Storage		
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17-Dec	1326	.30	Storage		
17-Dec	1327	.34.82	Publication		
19-Jan	1328	.9.8	Postage		
19-Jan	1329	.30	Storage		
5-Feb	1330	.251	LWVSC Insurance		
6-Feb	1331	.65	voter service		
13-Feb	1332	.30	Storage		
13-Feb	1333	.200	Smart Voter		
12-Mar	1334	.30	Storage		
9-Apr	1335	.30	Storage		
11-May	1336	.43.19	Storage		
20-May	1337	.150	annual meeting		
20-May	1338	.1117.82	convention		
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16-Jun	1341	.30	Storage		

Total expenses = \$ 7,746.85

Board Highlights

September 9, 2015

- Accepted Carmen Morad's resignation as Membership Director
- November 4 LWVUS Consensus on Constitutional Amendments and wine-tasting social,
- Adopted voter registration procedures: make forms available or encourage on-line registration. Do not assist as it would require entering personal information on the registration form,
- Voted to support Modesto Measure I, Stamp Out Sprawl,
- Candidate Forums scheduled, and
- August Lunch and Learn speaker summary correction: Library tax election is in 2017, effective 2018.

Voter Service

Fall means it is election season and election season means it is time for Candidate Forums. This fall we have four forums scheduled:

Tuesday, September 29, 7- 8 PM, Oakdale Irrigation District at the Gene Bianchi Community Center, 110 South Second Avenue, Oakdale.

Tuesday, October 6, 7 – 8 PM, Modesto City School Board at the Board Chambers, 426 Locust St., Modesto.

Monday, October 12, 6 – 7 PM, Modesto Mayor at City Council Chambers, 1010 10th St., Modesto.

Monday, October 12, 7:15 – 8:30 PM, Modesto City Council at Modesto City Council Chambers, 1010 10th St., Modesto. This forum will include candidates from all three council districts up for election.

We need moderators, question sorters, timers and question takers/ushers for all of these forums. In addition, we need help setting up and taking down chairs at the Bianchi Center in Oakdale. Please check your calendars and see when you are available to help and then contact Marsha Waggoner (marshawag@sbc.global) or Marsha Blomquist (blomq@att.net).

Candidate forums are what we are most noted for in the community. Your time investment is only a couple of hours, but we do need everyone's help to make them successful.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Tuesday, October 6th 7:00-8:30pm	Modesto City School Board Forum, Modesto City School Board Room, Locust. Please contact Marsha Waggoner to help run forum.
October	NO OCTOBER BOARD MEETING
Monday, October 12 6:00-8:00pm	Mayoral Forum, and Council Districts 1, 3, and 6; Modesto City Hall, 1010 10th Street, Modesto. Please contact Marsha Waggoner to help run forum.
Wednesday, Nov. 4th 7:00pm-8:30pm	Constitutional Amendment Study Group Home of Seena Rhine. Please call for directions.
Wednesday, Nov. 11th 6:30pm-8:00pm	Board Meeting Host location TBA.
Tuesday, December 1st 6:30-8pm	Holiday Fling! Hosted at the home Lynne Fenderson. Speaker: Sue Richardson, General Manager, State Theater, Modesto. Contact Ellen Meyer if you can assist with refreshments.

**League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
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.