

The Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO



September 2003

Vol. 55 No. 9

Local Action Urges Measure M Vote

Calendar of Events

Wed., 9/10 BOARD MEETING 5:30 pm
LWV Office

Sat., 9/20 LWV Training Wkshp.
Fresno (see p. 4 & 7)

Fri., 9/19 LOCAL ACTION--12:00
1608 F Street, Modesto

Mon., 9/22 Voter Registration at
Modesto Library, 3-8 pm

Tues., 9/23 LUNCH AND LEARN
12:00 Appetiz (see p. 5)

Thurs, 9/25 CANDIDATE FORUM 7 pm
Modesto City Council

Mon., 9/29 CANDIDATE FORUM 7 pm
Modesto School Board

Wed., 10/1 CANDIDATE FORUM 7 pm
Modesto Mayor

Tues., 10/7 Election Day

Wed., 10/8 Board Meeting 6 PM
LWV office

Our local action committee has determined that our local land use position warrants support of the November ballot "Measure M" votes. When sewer trunks are to be extended, Measure M requires an advisory vote. Areas proposed for extensions include 642 acres in an area called Johansen/Empire North, and 80 acres bordered by Pelandale, Tully, Carver, and Bangs.

Our land use position states that we support land use planning that protects farmland outside clearly defined urban boundaries to avoid unnecessary conversion of farmlands and planning that provides urban development contiguous with existing development where urban services can be provided. The areas slated for Measure M votes are inside the Modesto Urban Area General Plan and are already substantially surrounded by development.

The committee believes that the time has come for land use planning for these areas which will eventually be annexed to Modesto. This will be an opportunity for city leaders to require inclusion of low and moderate-income housing, something we will continue to promote based on our housing position. **The committee will make League's support of these measures public by sending a letter to the Modesto Bee.**

--Julie Saugstad

President's Message

Coming back from our two-week vacation in Ireland, we were greeted by a stack of newspapers and mail. We quickly realized how out of touch we were with local issues. But, as is our want, we always looked for newspapers from whatever community we visited. These kept us in touch with international news and provided insights into issues of the region. Not surprisingly, these local issues are often similar to our own – scrutiny of public office holders, concerns about student educational achievement, economic woes or bonanzas and their potential impact on the local citizenry.

What we were not prepared for was the extensive coverage given the California gubernatorial recall election and how it was perceived. Typical is a half page story from the Irish Times (August 8, 2003) which begins, “It was entirely in keeping with the zany nature of the California recall election that Austrian-born Arnold Schwarzenegger... should announce his decision to run for governor on a television talk show.” A television news feature called Frivolities focused on the California recall. Everywhere we went when California was mentioned, people wanted to know more about what was going on. A delightful English woman finally understood. “Oh, that’s like a vote of no-confidence.”

Our world is smaller than we think!

--Marie Bairey

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LWV of MODESTO

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THANK YOU LWV VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many League members who volunteered for recent community events. Through these activities we carry out our mission and increase our visibility in the community.

Lynn Kelso, Bob Jackson, Polly Klopfer, Julie Saugstad and Myrtle Osner counted the ballots from May's Wat Cambodian Buddhist Temple Society Board of Directors election. League also provided oversight during the election process.

League members were present everyday at the Stanislaus County Fair assisting the Stanislaus Elections Department with demonstrations of electronic voting machines. (**Marie Bairey, Margie Lipsky, Lee Means, Marie Arevelo, Deborah and Ed Buettner, Bev and Ralph Sturtevant, Mildred Kinser, Patty Lundy, Judith Cantrell and Stella Beratlis**) Fair attendees were enthusiastic about the capabilities of the electronic machines and asked excellent questions regarding cost, efficiency and security.

--Marie Bairey

League Candidate Forums

Thursday, Sept. 25 7:00-8:30 p.m. Council/Board Chambers, 10th St. Place	Modesto City Council Moderator: Susan Novak
Monday, Sept. 29 7:00-8:30 p.m. Council/Board Chambers, 10th Street Place	Modesto City Schools Board of Education Moderator: Alita Roberts
Wednesday, Oct. 1 7:00-8:00 p.m. Council/Board Chambers, 10th Street Place	Modesto Mayor Moderator: Julie Saugstad
<p>All forums will be televised live on the local access cable TV channel. The public is encouraged to attend in person (at Tenth Street Place) or call in questions. The forums will also be re-broadcast at a later date.</p> <p>Members interested in helping should call the League office, 524-1698, and leave their name and telephone number.</p>	

The League of Women Voters of California is opposing Propositions 53 and 54 on the October ballot. For more information, see the State League web site at <http://ca.lwv.org>

For Regional Workshop registration form, go to
<http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/modesto/calendar.html>.

Board Highlights August 13, 2003

► The Board authorized the Local Action Committee to support the Measure M issues on the November ballot and to determine how best to take action on our support (see article on p. 1).

► The Board agreed to include questions to candidates on the Smart Voter candidates page.

► Patty Lundy and Linda Walden were appointed to the nominating committee.

-- Mildred Kinser
Secretary

Volunteers Needed During Election Season

✓ **Become a poll worker.** There are now two elections within a month that will need to be staffed. Contact the County Elections Department.

✓ **Register voters** at the Modesto Library on September 22 (last day for Oct. 7 election) or October 20 (last day for November 4 election), from 3-8 p.m. To sign up for your shift, call the League office and leave your name and phone number.

✓ Assist with **candidate forums** for mayor, city council and MCS Board of Education. See page 3.

✓ **Prepare letters** to civic and service organizations. Contact Angela Keith or Marie Bairey.

September Lunch and Learn ***Tuesday, September***

12:00 at Appetez Restaurant

\$11.00 for Chef's entree

(Call restaurant one day in advance for special requests)

Guest Speaker:

Toina Vickers

of Parents for Prevention



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.

Membership Dues Undergo Changes

The League of Women Voters of Modesto membership approved a change in dues and when they are paid at the Annual Meeting in May. Previously, the League collected dues on the anniversary of the month one joined. With the new policy, all dues will be payable July 1. You should have received a letter in July that showed the amount you now owe in dues through July 2004. They will be delinquent as of September 30th!

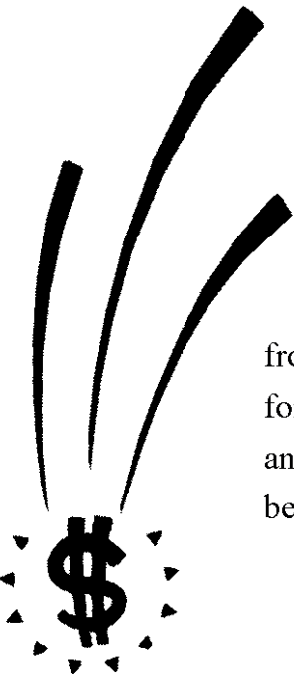
This change will result in easier bookkeeping and tracking of current members. It will also ensure a solid count of Modesto's membership for the National League. As a courtesy to our members, I will be calling and/or emailing members the month of September if the dues have not been paid. If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email me. You may also contact me if you have any address, phone or email updates. The 2003-2004 membership directory will be available in October.

Thank you,

Patty Lundy

Membership Director

League Launches Annual Finance Drive



Modesto LWV's annual Finance Drive began September 1st. These donations from members and friends of League fund local programs such as the upcoming candidate forums, SmartVoter, Pros & Cons, and our local *Voter*. Contributions are both appreciated and crucial to our continued existence. Please consider making a donation. Your money will be used to help make democracy work in our community.

-- Debbie Kleinfelder

Finance Drive Director

News Briefs

TRAINING WORKSHOP

LWVC is offering regional training opportunities for local Leagues. These are an excellent way for new members to learn more about League and for veteran members to learn what other Leagues are doing. Proposed topics include "League 101" (about League), "Effective Action through Coalitions" (presented by a National Board member who is also on the staff at UCLA), "Membership" and one more topic. The training workshop will be September 20 in Fresno. I will be attending and would love to have a group join me. Interested? See the

the registration form on p. 4.
Call me for more information.

--Marie Bairey



LWV SPEAKERS

Election season is always busy because of the many League activities. It is made even more so by community organizations that request presentations from League members. To date, Daughters of the American Revolution, Delta Kappa Gamma education sorority and Casa de Modesto have invited us. In addition, we will offer speakers to civic and

service clubs regarding Smart Voter and other election information. Keep us in mind for your group.



NEW MEMBER

Bev Finley
1001 Copper Lake Court
Modesto, CA 95355

