



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

August 2015

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 63 NO.4

## *President's Message*

Welcome to a new year. I am looking forward to some exciting and productive activities already scheduled for the year. What whets your appetite? – Higher Education, Water Crisis, SOS (Stamp Out Sprawl Initiative) Candidate Forums, Pro and Con Forums, Lunch & Learn, Campaign Financing etc. The Board would also welcome someone who would be interested in serving as Local Action Chair. Within the next month information concerning many of these activities will be forthcoming.

Last night (July 15) several of our members attended the Bee's Water Summit meeting at the packed Foster Theater. The concerns of the panelists varied from conservation of water supplies, surface and ground water use, local control solutions, legislation, water quality (increased salinity from the Delta water) legislation and its implementation (Water Bond) and many more issues.

The one thing emphasized by all of the panelists was the need for all stakeholders to co-operate in the solution process, both in the long and short term. As this issue directly determines the future of California as we deal with the effects of climate change, it is imperative to come up with workable and effective solutions.

*Seena Rhine, President LWVSC*

## *A Note from the Editor*

*We are beginning a new article for The Voter this month called **Spotlight** with the intent of highlighting and archiving our most important legacy, our members! The Voter editor will select a League member bi-monthly for a short interview, which will include a biography, how and why they became League members, and what their most important political issue is. I hope you find this section as enjoyable as I do as we learn a little more about our amazing members. And keep an eye on your email, you may be next!*

*Laurie Carley was chosen the LWVS Sustaining Member 2014, and is our first **Spotlight** interviewee. I couldn't think of more appropriate member to kick off our newest installment than with her!*

*Karrie Bullock, Voter Editor*

**LWV of STANISLAUS  
COUNTY OFFICERS**

*President*

**Seena Rhine**

[president@lwwstanislaus.org](mailto:president@lwwstanislaus.org)

*Vice President*

**Mary Giventer**

[Vp2@lwwstanislaus.org](mailto:Vp2@lwwstanislaus.org)

*Secretary*

**Marie Bairey**

[secretary@lwwstanislaus.org](mailto:secretary@lwwstanislaus.org)

*Treasurer*

**Margie Neder**

[treasurer@lwwstanislaus.org](mailto:treasurer@lwwstanislaus.org)

**DIRECTORS**

*Finance Drive*

**Michael Fuller**

*Membership*

**Carmen Morad**

*Action – State and National*

**Tiffany Gordon**

*Action - Local*

**Open**

*Board Administrator*

**Lynn Kelso**

*Public Relations*

**Wendy Scott**

*Voter Service*

**Marsha Blomquist**

[voterservice@lwwstanislaus.org](mailto:voterservice@lwwstanislaus.org)

*Voter Editor*

**Karrie Bullock**

[newsletter@lwwstanislaus.org](mailto:newsletter@lwwstanislaus.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.lwwstanislaus.org](http://www.lwwstanislaus.org)

**June Lunch & Learn**

***California Senior Legislature, Mickey Peabody***

Oakdale’s Mickey Peabody is a Senior Senator representing our area in the California Senior Legislature. In Stanislaus County, 94,000 or 1/5 of the population is over 60 and one in ten lives in poverty. Established in 1979 and funded by income tax return check-off box donations and minimal State support, 120 Senior Legislators meet each October in California’s legislative chambers to develop and introduce proposals that deal with improving the quality of life for the elderly. “There ought to be a law” ideas are discussed in committees and presented to the Body, which selects its Top 10 for advocacy. In January, when the legislative session opens, they “walk the halls” and meet with legislators or their aides to garner supporters to introduce the bills for legislative action. Since 1979, 198 of their proposals have become laws that affect services for seniors. The laws must be reauthorized every ten years. Peabody noted that legislators know the power of older Americans – they vote!

Among the 2015 Top 10 are: Silver Alert (similar to Amber Alert); clarification on medicine bottle labels to indicate not just the name, but what the medication is for; custom fitted hearing aids (not just S, M and L); increased font size on insurance policies in order to read the “small print”; elder-friendly courts (similar to juvenile courts); and requiring that an ombudsman be present to protect the client’s interest when a notary is needed at a board and care facility.

With the advent of electronic tax filing, most of us don’t see the check-off box to direct donations. As a result, the \$250,000 funding needed to cover expenses for the Senior Legislature is down. They are hoping to be included in the State budget to continue their advocacy for seniors. For more information, check the website: [Californiaseniorlegislature.gov](http://Californiaseniorlegislature.gov).

***Marie Bairey, Secretary***

***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

**(Check Website for Updates)**

<b>Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 12pm-1:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch and Learn, Mi Familia Vota <i>Ridgeways, Modesto.</i> \$13 Chef’s Choice</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 12th 6:30pm-8:00pm</b>	<b>Board Meeting Hosted at Marie Bairey’s—please call 524-1698 for directions.</b>
<b>Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm-1:30pm</b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Learn, Pat Portwood of the Stanislaus County Library Foundation. <i>Ridgeways, Modesto.</i> \$13 chef choice.</b>

## *Member Spotlight* **Laurie Carley**

### *Biography*

I was born in Redding, California and raised in Sacramento. My college education included UC Davis, and an internship through the California Children's Lobby. I graduated in 1979 with a B.S. in Human Development, after which I spent several months in Washington, D.C. working for the Family Impact Seminar. I returned to California to marry my college sweetheart in 1980 and subsequently moved to Modesto, as my husband was the Ag teacher at Ripon H.S. We raised three children in Modesto, who are all now living and working in other parts of California. We are now the proud grandparents of two brilliant and funny toddlers! I was president of the local Early Childhood Education Association and held many positions in the Fremont Open Plan Parent Association, including Chairperson. I've been active in St. Joseph's church as a volunteer catechist and in Family Promise (an interfaith support service for homeless families) and helping to prepare and deliver food to the homeless shelter.

### *How, when, and why did you become involved with League?*

I became involved in the LWVS when I moved to Modesto in 1980. I was looking for a way to get involved in this community and stay informed of local political issues. I probably used the phone book to make my first contact with the League. Once I expressed an interest, Margie Lipsky made sure to keep me involved, whether it was by making phone calls (NO internet) to remind people of events, or to make sure I brought cookies to a meeting...can't skip a meeting if you are responsible for something! I was inspired by the commitment and knowledge of the

women I served with on the early board: Dorothy Schmidt, Robyn Martin, Eleanor Goldor, just to name a few. Then several women, who went on to become President, joined when we were involved in the local study of Child Abuse, which we then took to both the state and national level as potential studies. It was a very exciting time in our local League. In addition to child abuse study chair and being a delegate at League conventions, I was Voter Service Director for several years. It was at a time when the Center Plaza first opened and we used it for forums. It was also when we first began to have forums televised on the local cable station. We never had an issue with the fire marshal, but the rooms were full! Over the years I've been 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Membership, Local Action, Secretary, and Nominating Chair. After all of my years in League I continue to be inspired by the women and now men, in this important organization.

### *What are your biggest political issues?*

Education and issues that impact families will always get my attention. League's commitment to an informed and involved electorate has been my motivation for continued membership. I also find that our League's continued attention and commitment to local issues to be another important reason to stay involved.



**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.**