



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

January/February 2017

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 65 NO.1

President's Message

After a holiday break the Board met on Jan. 10th to catch up and plan for the spring. Our first action was to wish Marsha Blomquist a speedy recovery and return to "active duty". We also are hoping for a return to the fold of Lynn Kelso, who has been busy with her knee replacement and husband's health issues.

The Board discussed and made recommendations to changes to our bylaws. Some of these changes are required by National and others would allow for a more efficient and workable Board. When these revisions are complete all members will receive a copy. Please evaluate them carefully so that they can be voted on at the annual meeting.

The Board and members spent time February 8th conducting the annual Program Review for next year. A copy of our positions will be provided and voted on my membership at the annual meeting, hosted by Marsha Waggoner and held Wednesday, May 10th.

PLEASE HELP! The nominating committee headed by Ann Krabach will probably be contacting you to fill the position of officers and directors for the Board next year. Many of the current Board members, including myself, are termed out of their positions. Please contact Ann if you can possibly fill any of these open positions. Without a viable Board we cannot function and conduct the vital work we do in this county.

Seena Rhine, President LWVSC

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING



Wednesday, May 10th 6:00pm

Assembly Member District 1, Kristin Olsen is the keynote speaker.

Potluck event, hosted by Marsha Waggoner

916 Kenilworth Ct, Modesto 95356

**LWV of STANISLAUS
COUNTY OFFICERS**

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Mildred Kinser

Hanna Renning

Membership

Colleen Norby

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***LWVSC Lunch & Learn, January 26th
Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan***

Meg Gonzalez, Education Director from the Tuolumne River Trust, spoke at the January Lunch and Learn about water flows and salmon on the Tuolumne River. The river flows into the San Joaquin River and joins the Sacramento River at the Delta. A video highlighted the Delta as an ecosystem and the importance of adequate water flows to protect it. Less than 50% of the natural flow reaches the San Francisco Bay through the Delta because of upstream diversion. Eighty-percent of diverted water goes to agriculture and 20% for urban use. With the drought years, the slow moving, warm water flow has changed the chemistry and temperature of the Delta making it ripe for invasive species such as bass and water hyacinth, threats to salmon which require more and colder flows to survive, and encroachment of salinity in the Delta and surrounding soil.

The Trust holds that California water belongs to all of us, not just for our use but to also maintain the environment. Others claim historic rights to access river water for other purposes. The State can decide the best use for the water. The Bay-Delta Plan was to be reviewed every three years, but it has been more than 20 years since it was implemented. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is now charged with developing a plan to improve the Delta's water quality and identify beneficial use for the water. Phase I focuses on the San Joaquin River Watershed, and Phase II will focus on the Sacramento River Watershed.

The SWRCB proposal is politically charged, especially in our area, becoming a fish vs. farmer or environment vs. people issue. Other steps are being taken to balance the divisive mindset. Conservation has contributed to increased flows. Though farmers and researcher are investigating more efficient ways to use water, Ms. Gonzalez suggested irrigation water is too cheap and does not incentivize farmers to improve efficiency (MID customers are charged 20% of the actual cost to deliver their water). Ms. Gonzalez suggested that the drought has bought these lingering issues to a head, and common ground is resulting from discussions among the stakeholders. Questions were posed about surface storage, California WaterFix (tunnels) and validity of studies on salmon and the rivers.

Marie Bairey, Secretary



Board Highlights

- Confirmed date for Annual Meeting is May 10.
- Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for officer and director positions for 2017-18.
- LWVC Program Planning was held February 8 at 6 p.m. at the home of Seena Rhine.
- Bylaws are being reviewed for possible updating.

Voter Service: **THANK YOU** to Election Forum Volunteers

There would be no forums without your dedication and hard work, your tireless effort is greatly appreciated.

Marsha Blomquist

Colleen Norby

Karen Tobacco

Ed Tobacco

George Britton

Julie Saugstad

Hanna Renning

Micheal Fuller

Ruby Hennessey

Ellen Dunbar

Carmen Morad

Mary Giventer

Seena Rhine

Marsha Waggoner.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thursday, February 23rd 12:00-1:30pm	Lunch & Learn: Pat Portwood, Stanislaus County Library Tax Ridgeways, Chef's Choice \$13
Thursday, March 30th, 12:00-1:30pm	Lunch & Learn: TBA Ridgeways, Chef's Choice \$13
Wednesday, March 8th, 6:30pm	Board Meeting Hosted by Seena Rhine. Call for directions.

**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.