



The Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

October 2018

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California VOL. 66, NO. 4

IN MEMORY OF MARY GIVENTER



Mary Giventer, President of our League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County, passed away unexpectedly on September 15, 2018, due to sudden complications of an illness. Born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Pennsylvania, she was 72 years old.

Mary graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in physical therapy. In 1975 she and her husband, Prof. Larry Giventer, moved to Turlock, California. Mary became Director of Physical Therapy at Modesto's Doctors Medical Center and Modesto (later Guardian) Rehabilitation Hospital.

While Mary made her family (three children and their offspring) her top priority, she also managed to find time and energy for her profession and for volunteer activities, which addressed her concerns and values. She was passionate about equal rights for persons of all backgrounds and races, including equal pay and job opportunities for women. She was a champion of justice and fairness. This is why the League of Women Voters was so important to her. She was not afraid to take on any leadership role, devoting herself to learning about societal and political issues, and passing on this knowledge to others. She was noted for her lucid presentations of proposition Pros and Cons and for her measured and calm moderation of candidate forums. Voter Education of all kinds mattered to her.

Larry Giventer states, "Mary was committed—and she cared deeply about—her family, her friends, her profession, the environment, equal rights, justice and fairness. Mary enjoyed and appreciated the handicraft arts (especially quilting) and the symphony and performing arts."

We will miss and remember Mary for her loving friendship, her wit, her grasp of issues and her collegial wielding of authority.

-Hanna Renning

Donations in memory of Mary may be sent to: LWVSC, P.O. Box E, Modesto, CA 95352 In consultation with Mary's family, the Board will recommend how memorial funds will be used.

As we move forward...

We were all saddened with the unexpected passing of LWVSC President Mary Giventer. We will miss her dedication to League, her leadership and her passion for the values the League represents.

According to our bylaws, in the event of the death of the president, the vice president assumes the duties and responsibilities of the president. The Board will act upon this at the November 14th meeting. Mary will be a tough act to follow. In the last couple of weeks, members of the Board of Directors have graciously taken on tasks in addition to duties of their position.

Mary's family has selected LWVSC and Turlock AAUW as memorial beneficiaries. Mary was a volunteer extraordinaire in both organizations because they supported the values she believed in.

-Marie Bairey



On the Calendar

November 14 • Board Meeting • 6:30 PM

October 25 • Lunch and Learn • Noon • • Ridgway's (2401 E. Orangeburg, Modesto). \$15 per person for a chef's choice luncheon. (Vegetarian or gluten-free available on request.)

Topic: Modesto Mayor Ted Brandvold will be our guest speaker. Please come prepared with your questions and comments on Modesto issues

Directory Update

New address for **Karrie Bullock**: 373 Montana Ave, Turlock, CA 95380

Also, please change the phone listing for **Julie Saugstad** to her cell, 209-484-2361

LWV Stanislaus new phone number: (209) 324-3375

New Member Update

We continue to increase our local membership each month and this month we would like to welcome **Alene Griffin**: 3809 Marsala Way, Modesto, CA 95356, phone 661-753-7145

alenegriffin@msn.com

F.Y.I-Members in our Community

Stella Beratlis, Stanislaus County Poet Laureate, League member and our web-master, will be reading selections of her poetry at the College Avenue United Church of Christ on October 20th at 7 p.m. In addition, LWVS will have a table in the courtyard providing guests with LWVS membership and voter information. Please plan to join us.

Richard Anderson, League member, has worked on the development of the documentary, *Homeless in Modesto*. The panel discussion from the September 27th showing at Gallo is available at: Panel Disc. HIM 9/27/18 (Gallo) <https://youtu.be/rFcxl6QexKI>

LWVSC Supports Ballot Measures D and E

Modesto City Schools has placed two companion construction bond measures, D and E, on the November 6 ballot for voter approval. The \$131 million is earmarked for two areas: health and safety and technology infrastructure. (None of the money can be used for salaries or “disposable” equipment.)

Many of the MCS elementary and junior high schools are 50 – 60 years old and in need of repairs and upgrades to roofs, A/C, security, cafeterias and more. A citizen oversight committee will be formed to oversee expenditures. Individual schools can recommend priorities for site improvements. It is estimated that the cost to tax payers will be \$50 for every \$100,000 of assess property value (not market value.) The proposals are consistent with League positions on education. LWVSC Board of Directors recommends support for measures D and E.

Lunch & Learn

The Lunch & Learn program for September was a presentation on the Pros & Cons of the State Propositions. Seena Rhine presented the program with approximately thirty attendees. There are 11 propositions this year: four bond issues, two constitutional changes, two which are basically labor disputes, and two amending or resending current law. The propositions can be accessed from the Voter’s Information Guide from the county or by going to lwvc.org for the Pros and Cons as well as which propositions the League supports or opposes.

In brief, the League Supports **Prop. 1** (housing bond for veterans, low income, etc.) because of a housing crisis in California affects lower income families negatively. **Prop. 2** (housing bond for homeless, mentally ill people) is supported because of great need and funds already appropriated for mental health. It would be an extension of those funds. **Prop 3.** (water bond) is opposed primarily because it shifts the costs of water from end-users to taxpayers and it fails to provide adequate oversight. **Prop. 4** (children’s hospital bond) is opposed on the principle that public money should not be used to support private enterprise. **Prop. 5** (property tax Prop. 13) is opposed because of expensive shift in tax funds away from schools and local services. **Prop. 6** (gas tax repeal) is opposed primarily because of the great need for road and transportation improvements in California. It also puts transportation funds in the hands of voters, not legislatures. No stance on **Props. 7 and 8**, and there is no **Prop. 9**. **Prop. 10** (rent control) is supported because it allows local communities to respond to housing needs in ways that are appropriate for them. No position on **Prop. 11 and 12**.

It was emphasized that one not be persuaded by TV or other ads but read and study both sides before determining one’s vote. This is preaching to the choir.

-Seena Rhine

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Voter Education Events for November 6, 2018 Election

The purpose of these events is to introduce candidates and issues on the November 6, 2018 ballot to the

voters of Stanislaus County. The events are free and open to the public.

Thursday, October 4 - *Pros and Cons for the state Propositions on the November 6, 2018 ballot.*

Modesto Junior College, West Campus, Sierra Hall, 132.
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 9 - *Candidate Forum.*

Yosemite Community College Board of Trustees, Districts 1, 2, 4 and 7.

Modesto Junior College, East Campus, Forum 110.
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10 - *Candidates Forums.*

City/County Chambers, Basement, 1010 Tenth Street, Modesto Stanislaus County Supervisors, Districts 3 and 4 at 6 p.m. County Superintendent of Schools at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 11 - *Candidate Forums Turlock.*

Walnut Elementary Education Ctr, 4219 N. Walnut Ave., Turlock Turlock City Council at 6 p.m. Turlock Mayor at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 16 - *Candidate Forums.*

City/County Chambers, Basement, 1010 Tenth Street, Modesto State Assembly District 12 at 6 p.m.

Stanislaus County District Attorney at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 17 - *Candidate Forum.*

Community Center, 3600 Santa Fe Street Riverbank Riverbank City Council at 6:30 p.m.

Plan to attend any or all of these LWVSC voter education events. Meet the candidates. Learn about the propositions.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government.

