



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO

September 2006

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL.57 NO.16

Calendar of Events

Sept 13th

Wednesday, 6:30pm
Board Meeting
League Office

Sept 15th

Friday, 11:00am
Local Action Meeting
League Office

Sept. 26th

Tuesday, 12:00 noon
Lunch and Learn
Appetiz Restaurant

Oct 11th

Wednesday, 6:30pm
Board Meeting
League Office

Oct 23rd

Last Day to Register to
Vote



President's Message:

Another election season begins! If you have never helped with voter activities in the past, I encourage you to participate this year. We have 13 initiatives on the state ballot so far and one more in the signature verification stage. Many locals were disappointed that the SOS initiative did not make it to the November ballot – the League is in the process of comparing it to state and local positions before we can make any statement regarding our position. The meeting on the transportation tax will have occurred before you receive this newsletter and any decisions will be announced in the next Voter. Be on the look out for messages from Linda Walden and Susan Cassidy, who will be seeking your help and participation with voter service activities!

On a personal note, I have had a wonderful summer of travel and during those travels had conversations with residents of the states of Michigan, Minnesota, Colorado and Alaska about their concerns. As might be expected, those along the border of Canada have concerns about future identifications needed to cross the border – sports teams and employees frequently cross the border from Minnesota and Michigan. The citizens of Canada whom I met just seemed to shake their heads over the proposals. In Alaska, the concerns were centered on the leaky pipeline and the proposed natural gas pipeline – their economy is very dependent on oil. Folks around Fairbanks were particularly distressed to have just had their troops pulled back into Iraq after welcome home parties were in progress – some made it home only to be immediately sent back. I took a partial tour of one base and discovered that the cutbacks were particularly troublesome – we see the increases in military spending but I had not thought there would have been dramatic cutbacks in the local base spending. I am once again reminded of the importance of travel – we seem to get so necessarily and justifiably caught up on our own local concerns and forget that residents elsewhere might experience very different issues than those at home. My only regret in all my traveling this summer was that I never saw a moose in Alaska and the halibut fishing was pretty dismal – we did see a wolf, which is pretty rare, and the salmon fishing was extraordinary. If you are a golfer, I definitely recommend Michigan golf courses and the canoeing in Minnesota was fabulous. As we go to press with the Voter, I drive to Colorado to visit family. Hopefully your families endured the heat wave of this summer and are enjoying the rest of it. Remember to encourage your friends and neighbors to register and vote!

-Patty Lundy, President

LWV of MODESTO
OFFICERS

President

Patty Lundy 551-1558
pattylundy@sbcglobal.net

First Vice President
Susan Novak 526-9534
snovak2@sbcglobal.net

Second Vice President
Laurie Carley 578-3145
modestocarley@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
Joan Patterson 575-1644
grammajmp@earthlink.net

Treasurer
Julie Saugstad 526-0795
saugstad@ainet.com

DIRECTORS

Membership

Cynthia Van Empel

Jennie Sweeney

Voter Service

Linda Walden

Susan Cassidy

Finance Drive

Joan Goldsmith

Local Action

Marie Bairey

State and National Action

Betty Ann Vencill

Public Relations &

Voter Editor

Ellen Meyer

ellen-e@sbcglobal.net

OFF-BOARD

Membership

Gloria Skol

Lunch and Learn

Doug Chadwick

Web Master

Stella Beratlis

Office Manager

Myrtle Osner

Office Address

League Office

720 13th Street, Modesto

209-524-1698

www.lwvmodesto.org

STATE & NATIONAL



September 8-10, 2006 Holiday Inn on the Hill, Washington, DC

WHAT: A national conference detailing the nuts and bolts of how to run and win campaigns for publicly financed elections at the local, state, and national level.

WHO: The League of Women Voters of the United States along with Public Campaign, Common Cause, Democracy Matters and other coalition partners invite grassroots activists, national reform advocates, and experts from diverse backgrounds, spanning civil rights, the environment, labor, and women's and other social justice movements.

What a time this is! Fresh money-and-politics scandals pop up daily: from lawmakers playing golf on government time to storing cash in their freezer, these scandals have generated new interest and energy for federal public financing efforts.

Meanwhile, national lawmakers do next to nothing about these problems, claiming that the public doesn't care. State and local activists, however, have been claiming great victories. In 2005 alone, reformers in Connecticut helped to pass a new law providing full public financing for statewide and legislative races; the Portland, Oregon city council said yes to Voter-Owned elections for citywide races; and the voters of Albuquerque, New Mexico approved a similar system for their city. In California, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, and over 20 other states, activists are working to inject democratic participation and representation into our campaign finance system by advancing the debate on publicly financed elections—and making impressive progress.

It's time to *seize the moment* and use this corrupt and scandalous atmosphere to drastically change the way we finance campaigns in this country. *Seize the Moment: a National Conference on the Public Financing of Elections* will bring together grassroots activists, national reform advocates and experts from diverse backgrounds and varied experiences in the fight for our democracy. The three-day conference will allow participants to explore new opportunities, refine strategy, hone their advocacy skills, learn new organizing techniques, share experiences with peers—and learn from those who have made change happen where they live.

If you have additional questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact Monika Gerhart at mgerhart@publiccampaign.org or (202) 293-0222. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in September! From LWV Website.

VOTER SERVICE



Voter Service Gearing Up

League is gearing up for a busy fall election season. We are planning a number of county and city candidate forums and have already received several requests for presentations on the state propositions.

According to the County Elections Dept. the first absentee ballots will be in the mail on October 9th. The last day to register to vote is Monday, October 23rd. October is the busiest month of the year for League.

This November's ballot will feature 3 federal races, 13 state races, 28 local races, 10 local ballot measures and 13 state propositions. A healthy democracy requires informed voters. Please help us fulfill our voter education mission by volunteering to help. If you're a member of League, you're eligible; call 577-0570 or 521-4180 to volunteer.

*-Linda Walden and Susan Cassidy,
Voter Service Directors*

Democracy is no easy form of government. Few nations have been able to sustain it. For it requires that we take the chances of freedom; that the liberating play of reason is brought to bear on events filled with passion; that dissent is allowed to make its appeal for acceptance; that men chance error in their search for the truth.

- Robert F. Kennedy

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.

FINANCE DRIVE



League Launched Annual Finance Drive

Modesto LWV's annual Finance Drive begins in

This yearly giving by members and friends of League funds local programs such as the upcoming candidate forums, voter education, and voter registration. 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.

- Joan Goldsmith, Finance Drive Director

LOCAL ACTION



Local Action Report

The Local Action Committee meeting started to study the local transportation tax initiative at August meeting. The meeting is to study the local transportation tax initiative. We should have an update on this meeting in the October Voter. September's Local Action Committee meeting is Friday, September 15th at 11:00 am at the League Office. All are welcome to attend.

-Marie Bairey, Local Action Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

As required by our By-Laws, this Voter contains a fiscal report to the members for the July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006 year submitted.
-Julie Saugstad, Treasurer.

| Category Description | Budget 7/1/05 Through 6/30/06 | | 6/30/06 Difference |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | 7/1/05 | Budget | |
| EXPENSES: | | | |
| Membership Expenses | | | |
| Action | 0.00 | -50.00 | 50.00 |
| Annual Meeting (net0 | -286.99 | -400.00 | 113.01 |
| Board Tools | 0.00 | -50.00 | 50.00 |
| Child Care | -50.75 | -100.00 | 49.25 |
| Conventions | -1,204.89 | -2,000.00 | 795.11 |
| Finance Drive | -217.03 | -300.00 | 82.97 |
| Meetings | -227.89 | -300.00 | 72.11 |
| Membership | -873.13 | -800.00 | -73.13 |
| Publications | -273.81 | -220.00 | -53.81 |
| Workshops | 0.00 | -100.00 | 100.00 |
| TOTAL Membership Expenses | -3,134.49 | -4,320.00 | 1,185.51 |
| Office expenses | | | |
| General Postage | -483.00 | -300.00 | -183.00 |
| Insurance | -398.00 | -350.00 | -48.00 |
| Other | -25.00 | 0.00 | -25.00 |
| Rent | -2,400.00 | -2,400.00 | 0.00 |
| Supplies | -304.04 | -300.00 | -4.04 |
| Telephone | -200.37 | -275.00 | 74.63 |
| Voter-Newsletter Expenses | 0.00 | -2,000.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Postage | -324.45 | 0.00 | -324.45 |
| Printing | -1,524.27 | 0.00 | -1,524.27 |
| Total Voter-Newsletter Expenses | -1,848.72 | -2,000.00 | 151.28 |
| Website | -160.00 | -110.00 | -50.00 |
| TOTAL Office Expenses | -5,819.13 | -5,735.00 | -84.13 |
| PMP | | | |
| National | -3,262.20 | -3,845.00 | 581.80 |
| State | -2,919.00 | -3,845.00 | 926.00 |
| TOTAL PMP | -6,182.20 | -7,690.00 | 1,507.80 |
| Voter Service | | | |
| Candidate Forums | - 251.25 | -200.00 | -51.25 |
| Public Relations | 0.00 | -50.00 | 50.00 |
| Publications | -1,335.34 | -400.00 | -935.34 |
| Smart Voter | 0.00 | -500.00 | 500.00 |
| TOTAL Voter Service | -1,586.59 | -1,150.00 | -436.59 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | -16,722.41 | -18,895.00 | 2,172.59 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Dues | 8,330.00 | 8,075.00 | 255.00 |
| Finance Drive | 5,810.00 | 8,000.00 | -2,190.00 |
| Education | 2,700.00 | 0.00 | 2,700.00 |
| TOTAL Finance Drive | 8,510.00 | 8,000.00 | 510.00 |
| Interest Income | 274.55 | 100.00 | 174.55 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 1,215.00 | 0.00 | 1,215.00 |
| Publication Sales | 0.00 | 25.00 | -25.00 |
| Voter Ads | 0.00 | 450.00 | -450.00 |
| Voter Service Income | 1,450.00 | 300.00 | 1,150.00 |
| TOTAL ONCOME | 19,779.55 | 16,950.00 | 2,829.55 |
| OVERALL TOTAL | 3,057.14 | -1,945.00 | 5,002.14 |

MEMBERSHIP



DON'T FORGET!

Last reminder that membership dues are now due. We sent out notices in June with a survey concerning the Voter. (See LWVM Website Survey) We only send out one notice so this is a reminder to send in your membership dues! And do not to forget to send in The Website survey so we know to continue mailing you The Voter or that you will check for The Voter on our Website.

If you cannot find your notice the membership dues information is at the bottom of this page and just add on if you would wish to continue receiving the Voter in the mail.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This last month we had these new members join the League:

Mary Williams

Welcome, we look forward to seeing you!

*Cindy Van Empel and
Jennie Sweeney, Membership*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

AUGUST BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved Voter Services recommendation to hold forums in October for County Superintendent of Schools and Board of Supervisors, Districts 3 & 4 on the same evening. Additionally, agreed to pursue holding a forum in Turlock for the Mayor's race and to offer a moderator and question sorters to Riverbank for their city races. Exact times and dates to be announced.
- Voted to participate in Smart Voter if a league member is willing to accept the position of County Coordinator by August 30th.
- Reviewed results of the membership survey regarding the *Voter* newsletter. Will try to accommodate the wishes of those who prefer to receive it exclusively online.
- Treasury report made.
- Approved non-partisan policy.

*Submitted for Joan Patterson, Secretary
by Susan Novak, 1st Vice President*

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

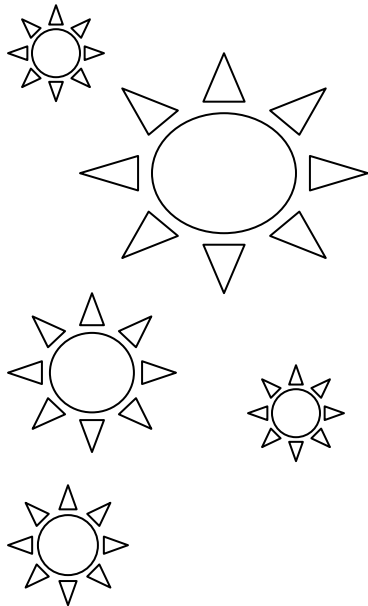
Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 Phone (for directory) _____ Email _____

MAIL TO: LWVM P.O. Box E, Modesto, CA 95352

The League of Women Voters®, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Modesto
Tear off and send to:
LWV Modesto
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Modesto, CA
Permit No. 69



LUNCH AND LEARN

**Tuesday, September 26, 2006 at
12:00pm Appetez Restaurant
in Roseburg Square
\$11.00 for chef's entrée
For vegetarian entree, you must
call Appetez one day ahead.**

**Speaker: Birgit Fladager
Stanislaus County District Attorney
"Current DA Issues"**

SEE US ON LINE!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.lwvmodesto.org