



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

April 2007

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 57 NO. 21

## Calendar of Events

### **April 4th**

Wednesday, 6:30pm  
Board Meeting  
League office

### **April 20th**

Friday, 11:00am  
Local Action Meeting  
League Office

### **April 24th**

Tuesday, 12:00 noon  
Lunch and Learn  
Appetiz Restaurant



### **May 5th**

Saturday, 10:00am  
Annual Meeting  
Maxi Room  
Doubletree Hotel

### **May 23rd**

Wednesday, 6:30pm  
Board Meeting  
League Office

### **May 18<sup>th</sup> -20th**

State Convention  
Bakersfield, CA

## **Spring Membership Event Very Informative!**

Mr. Kronemeyer graciously spent the evening addressing League members and guests on the subject of the links between transportation and land use. His presentation was well-researched and illustrated principles important for the public and elected officials to consider when making decisions about either transportation or land use. Mr. Kronemeyer noted that it is important for the citizens of the San Joaquin Valley to carefully consider the future we envision for our region and how the decisions that are made support or undermine that vision.

An early point Mr. Kronemeyer made is that when highways are extended or widened through undeveloped areas, the effect is to make the undeveloped areas available for new development, enlarging the developed area and creating congestion on the new highway. Interestingly, removing highways had not been shown to increase congestion. Highways have been removed by disaster (Embarcadero Freeway in San Francisco) and deliberately (San Francisco and Milwaukee) with no adverse effects; in fact, the surrounding areas have once again welcomed pedestrians, transit, and motorists, instead of only being used by motorists.

Supporting this idea, Mr. Kronemeyer demonstrated how limited access roadways, such as freeways and expressways, are actually able to carry less traffic than well-connected street networks, such as those found in older downtown areas. Well connected downtown networks were built before automobiles were available or common, so most people traveled on foot, bicycle, or streetcar. Shorter blocks made it easier for people to reach their destinations on foot-and are also more efficient for automobile traffic. Ironically, as cars have become very common, so have limited-access roadways, which less effectively serve both motorists and pedestrians. Further, the high speeds on these types of roadways are designed to increase the speed at which motorists drive, decreasing safety.

Mr. Kronemeyer went on to discuss land use patterns: before automobiles, daily needs were within an easy walk of every home. After cars, and particularly after World War II, land uses have become increasingly separated from each other, forcing people to drive to satisfy almost all of their needs. But for people too young or too old to drive,  
- *continued on page 5*

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*Gang Study*

**Maria Arevalo**

*Lunch and Learn*

**Doug Chadwick**

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**League Office**

**720 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto**

**209-524-1698**

**www.lwvstanislaus.org**

**President's Message:**

The agenda for our annual meeting has been set – we will need you to finalize our study on gangs, initiate a new local study on the “Election of Municipal Officials by District”, set the budget and welcome our new board. Thank you to Margie Lipsky and the nominating committee who have worked very hard to bring us a slate of officers for approval. You may nominate from the floor, as well. Next year’s board will take on the full impact of our new designation as the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County – the requests for our assistance with voter related activities have already dramatically increased. Your vote counts at this meeting – in fact, without your vote, we cannot proceed with business. As busy as all our lives are, especially in the spring, it can seem like a burden to appear at an annual meeting – however, we have found a venue that has reduced your cost and your time! Please mark your calendars – Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – it is a morning meeting which gives you the afternoon and evening for your gardening, golfing and family activities!

Although the national per member payment was increased again this year, which will assist in their cost of the national immigration study that begins in August, we will not be increasing local dues. Thank you again for your generosity in the finance drive – if you are finalizing your tax return and realize you have misplaced your receipt and need a duplicate, please contact the office – remember only donations to the education fund are tax-deductible!

“Rally in the Valley” – this year’s state convention will be held in Bakersfield – we have room for two more delegates – please email or call me if you would like to represent our League at the convention!

Will April showers bring May flowers? A bone-chilling January and very wet February, followed by a warmer than usual March brought an abundance of blossoms on the camellia plants to the valley. The California poppies have brightened the hills with brilliant splashes of orange but now there is talk of possible tornadoes in April. Long term forecasts predict an earlier and hotter summer. Even if all this extreme weather is not caused by global warming, we remind everyone to reduce emissions into our precious environment – use public transportation, where available, reduce your driving and replace light bulbs with fluorescent. Your activities can significantly reduce or increase the discomfort of those who suffer from asthma and other bronchial ailments.

And, lastly, remember to car pool to one of the community workshops where community members will have an opportunity to have a say in the future growth of the valley. See you at the annual meeting!

*-Patty Lundy, President*

**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.

# PLANNING

## MEETING 2007

### Program Planning & Gang Consensus Meeting

The annual Program Planning meeting was held on February 13<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Gang Study Consensus meeting. Ten members attended the meeting. The meeting was opened with a review of the Gang Study Committee findings presented by Maria Arevalo. After some discussion the members in attendance came to the following consensus and at the March 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting it was recommended we adopt this position:

*“In order to address the problem of criminal gang activity within our community, we support the development of culturally diverse intervention and enrichment programs at the elementary school level and beyond.*

*A. Such programs may include recreational, athletic, academic, creative and/or social activities.*

*B. We encourage allocation of resources to fund these programs through public, private and/or non-profit organizations.”*

Laurie Carley opened the program planning meeting at 8:00 and our state and local positions were discussed. The ten members present and the three mail-in responses concurred that we retain all current state positions. The membership did not recommend a state study at this time. We agreed that our local priorities for state issues for Education and Advocacy should be: Redistricting, Water, and Air Quality.

We also agreed to retain our local positions as our local action committee chaired by Marie Bairey has utilized them. It was moved by Marie Bairey and seconded by Maria Arevalo that we recommend a local study on the *“Election of Municipal Officials by District”*. This proposed study would be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, it was recommended that our local program positions be edited to reflect the change in our name from *“League of Women Voters of Modesto”* to the *“League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County”*.

Thank you to all who participated in our program planning process and the Gang Study and Consensus.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Carley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

## LOCAL ACTION

### Local Planning Recommends Study

At Annual Meeting, LWVSC members will be asked to approve a local study on district election of municipal officials. The Local Action Committee recommended the study which was approved at the State and Local Planning meeting in February and the Board in March.

While discussing issues of interest at the January Local Action Committee meeting, district elections for city council came up. This topic is in the news currently in Modesto because of a pending lawsuit, a local initiative and the work of the City Charter Review committee. Under current City Charter provisions, city council members are elected at large for “chairs”. These “chairs” have no residence requirements. The committee realized that while League has a position on legislative redistricting, the position does apply to election systems for local officials. Without a position, League cannot take action.

If approved by the membership, a study committee will be formed in May to commence work during the summer with the goal of bringing information and possible recommendations back to the members for consensus in September. Members interested in this project, please contact Patty Lundy.

*- Local Action Committee*



**Proposed 2007-2008 Budget**

*(please see last page of Voter for budget)*

Membership Event continued from page 1-

the separation of land uses in this way traps non-drivers in their homes, making them dependent upon others for every need. But we have changed our development pattern from walkable to unwalkable in the last 60 years-even traditional downtowns have been made less walkable.

The good news is that the damage can be repaired. Buildings can be oriented to the street with doors and windows facing the street and parking behind the buildings, inviting pedestrians to walk, while still allowing access by car. Streets with too much commercial and high travel speeds, such as lower McHenry Avenue, can be improved by adding residences oriented toward the street, widening sidewalks, adding trees next to the curb, and reducing lane widths to calm traffic. Mr. Kronmeyer showed the audience excellent photo simulations of projects he has worked on that have taken overly wide, high speed, unfriendly roads fronted with parking lots and changed then into streets fit for people: narrower, lined with trees and buildings.

Ultimately, however, plans are only illustrations and text on paper. Village One has graphically demonstrated for Modestans that implementing good plans requires watchfulness and a sustained effort on the part of the public. Likewise, the "Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley" effort will require active, sustained public engagement to implement whatever vision is developed for our region. If it should succeed, we can all enjoy that success and share in the credit. If it should fail, that failure will be the public's alone. Education is just the first step.

*-Cindy van Empel, Membership Director*

**CORRECTION!**

Special thanks to The Honorable Sue and Randy Siefkin for their generous donation to our 2006-07 Finance Drive. My apologies for leaving you both off the list when creating the Voter last month.

*-Ellen Meyer, Voter Editor*

**SECRETARY'S**  
**REPORT**

**MARCH BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- 2007-2008 slate of officers and Board nominations ready for the annual meeting.
- Board supports the update of the Ag Element of the Stanislaus General Plan.
- LWSC Local Action Committee approves Gang Study report.
- Facts for Voters will be updated and revised.
- 2007 Sustaining Member Award recipient selected.
- Board approves recommendation of the Local Action Committee study of election of municipal officials by district.
- Board designated two delegates from the board to the 2007 state convention.

*-Joan Patterson, Secretary*

**I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO  
YOURS BY JOINING THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS OF  
STANISLAUS COUNTY!**

- Student Membership \$15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Individual Membership \$50 \_\_\_\_\_
- Household Membership \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me with more information

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (for directory) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO:

LWVSC 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.**

**League of Women Voters of  
Stanislaus County  
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**

**CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING MAY 5<sup>th</sup> (See end of Voter for flyer)**

## **LUNCH AND LEARN**

**April 24, 2007**

**Speaker: Bev McCullough  
Recycling Program Coordinator  
for the City of Modesto  
Topic: "What's New  
In Recycling"**

**May 29, 2007**

**Speaker: Dianna Olsen  
Executive Director of the Healthy  
Aging Association  
Topic: H.A.A. and their exercise  
program "Healthy Heart"**

**Both At 12:00pm Appetez Restaurant in Roseburg Square  
\$11.00 for chef's entrée  
For vegetarian entree, you must call Appetez one day ahead**

**Check out Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley and Schedule at  
[www.lwvstanislaus.org](http://www.lwvstanislaus.org)**

**League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County**  
**2007-2008 Proposed Budget-Compared to 2006-2007 Budget**  
**PROPOSED AS OF February 5, 2007**

	Proposed 2007-08	Budget 2006-07	Difference	Explanation
<b>Estimated Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>19549.9</b>	<b>21254.9</b>		(Assets at the beginning of each year)
<b>Income:</b>				
Dues	6615	7125	-510	(32 Family/84 Individual/1student)
Finance Drive	5700	6000	-300	(unrestricted)
Finance Drive-Designated Education	3000	2000	1000	(tax deductible)
Interest Income	200	150	50	
Miscellaneous		0	0	
Publication Sales		0	0	
Voter Ads		0	0	
Voter Service Income	300	400	-100	(CSUS)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>15815</b>	<b>15675</b>	<b>140</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Office Expenses:				
Equipment	0	0	0	(no specific requests made)
General Postage	500	400	100	(PO Box, board mailings, permit)
Insurance	425	400	25	(general liability thru LWVC)
Rent	2400	2400	0	(\$200/mo)
Supplies	250	250	0	(stationary, envelopes)
Telephone	250	250	0	
Voter Newsletter	2000	2000	0	(postage, printing)
Website	160	160	0	(yearly rate from lwvc)
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>5985</b>	<b>5860</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>(45% can be reimbursed from Ed Fund)</b>
Dues Expenses:				
State PMP	2824.5	2995	-170.5	<b>(32 Family@ 31.50/ 84 Individual @ 21.00/5 extra @10.50)</b>
National PMP	3534.5	3425	109.5	<b>(32 Family@ 40.20/ 84 Individual @ 26.80/</b>
<b>Total Dues Expenses</b>	<b>6359</b>	<b>6420</b>	<b>-61</b>	<b>5 extra @ 13.40 and credit 14 people @\$5)</b>
Membership Expenses:				
Action	50	50	0	
Annual Meeting	600	600	0	incl. Ann. Rpt., budget increased from 400, 2-07
Board Tools	50	50	0	
Child Care	100	100	0	(reimburse moms so they can do lwv stuff)
Convention	2500	1500	1000	(send 1 delegate to National)
Finance Drive	500	500	0	(postage & printing)
Meetings	250	200	50	(lunch&learn, holiday fling)
Membership	900	800	100	(Spring Public Event)
Publications	300	350	-50	(pubs, directory)
Workshops	100	100	0	
<b>Total Membership Expenses</b>	<b>5350</b>	<b>4250</b>	<b>1100</b>	
Voter Service Expenses:				
Candidate Forums	200	200	0	
Public Relations	200	50	150	
Publications	600	600	0	(pros/cons)
<b>Total Voter Service Expenses</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>(100% can be reimbursed from Ed Fund)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>18694</b>	<b>17380</b>	<b>1314</b>	
<b>Income less expenses</b>	<b>-2879</b>	<b>-1705</b>		
<b>Estimated Ending Balance:</b>	<b>16670.9</b>	<b>19549.9</b>		(Assets remaining at the end of the year)
<b>Restricted Reserve:(Do not Touch)</b>	6500	6500		
<b>Unrestricted Reserve (Available)</b>	10170.9	13049.9		



# CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING



League of Women Voters  
Of Stanislaus County

Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Breakfast Meeting  
10:00 - 12:00 noon

Maxi Room  
(Formerly Maxi's Fine Dining)  
Across from Lobby Bar  
Double Tree Hotel // Modesto Centre Plaza  
Complimentary Parking with Validation  
9<sup>th</sup> and K Parking Garage

Guest Speaker: Judge Donald Shaver,  
Stanislaus County Superior Court  
Presiding Judge  
"FROM MODESTO TO THE HAGUE"

Reservations required by May 1st Send \$15.00 check and your food selection to: LWV

Margie Lipsky, 2704 A Sherwood Ave., Modesto, 95350-2233

.....  
Breakfast SELECTIONS:

FRENCH CONNECTION; Two thick slices of French Toast  
WITH MAPLE SYRUP  
Baked Fruit and Link sausage  
Freshly brewed coffee or Tea \_\_\_\_\_

AMERICAN STYLE BREAKFAST;  
Scrambled Eggs, Breakfast potatoes  
Choice of 1 bacon and 1 sausage \_\_\_\_\_  
Or Ham steak \_\_\_\_\_  
Breakfast Muffin California Orange Juice  
Tea or Coffee

WAFFLE with a side of Fresh Fruit  
Freshly brewed coffee or Tea \_\_\_\_\_

JOIN US FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING  
OF THE YEAR

