



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

April 2008

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 58 NO. 9

## Calendar of Events

**April 8th**

Local Action Committee Meeting  
10:30 a.m.

**April 9th**

Board Meeting  
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>**

Monitoring Student Body Elections  
CSUS, Turlock

**April 29**

Jeff Grover  
Lunch and Learn  
Appetiz Restaurant

**May 3rd**

LWVSC  
ANNUAL MEETING  
10 a.m. to Noon  
Maxi Room  
Double Tree Hotel

All meetings are held at the League Office,  
720 13<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Modesto, CA

## ON-THE-WEB

LWV Stanislaus  
Local Action Program  
[http://www.lwvstanislaus.org/local\\_action.org](http://www.lwvstanislaus.org/local_action.org)

## Single Payer: It's Time to Have Hope

*“Politically feasible” is just another way of saying that folks are scared to stand up to insurance companies. I don’t accept that. It’s time to take a stand for what we really want. It’s time to have hope.”*  
- Senator Sheila Kuehl

SB 840 is alive and well in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, much further along in the legislative process than it was in 2006, just before its historical passage out of both houses of the legislature and onto the Governor’s desk. Legislative deadlines for passage out of fiscal committees aren’t until August 15<sup>th</sup>, and between now and then grassroots organizing and education efforts are really taking off. Every day, Senator Kuehl and her staff receive requests for presentations regarding SB 840, the truly universal healthcare bill.

On Sunday, January 27th and Monday, January 28th, the American Medical Students’ Association held their hugely successful third annual rally and lobby day in Sacramento, which included a day long training that drew nearly 400 med students from all over the state. The fact that so many overworked medical students spent an entire weekend, even taking a rare day off from school, to advocate for single payer health care shows an unparalleled level of dedication and passion. AMSA students give every single payer supporter hope and inspiration as they push for passage of the bill.

Single payer advocates are also busy preparing for a historical strategy summit taking place in Los Angeles later this month that will bring together representatives from the broad coalition of organizations dedicated to bringing single payer to California. The summit demonstrates the unprecedented development of the organized and operational single payer movement necessary to bring universal health care to California. It’s the kind of grassroots movement that has been largely absent in the history of health reform, and it’s just one example of the changing landscape of health care politics.

On that note, my “leisure” reading lately is a book called, *One Nation Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance*. It chronicles the 20th century’s long line of failed attempts at achieving national health insurance. There’s an unmistakable pattern to each major attempt, in that there seems have been an attempt once every decade, and each time national health insurance is within our grasp, it is defeated with a capitulatory “compromise”.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

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**League Office**  
**720 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto**  
**209-524-1698**  
**[www.lwwstanislaus.org](http://www.lwwstanislaus.org)**

**President's Message:**

Dear Member:

Special thanks to Membership Event Coordinator Laurie Carley and all who assisted her on our Annual Membership Event. The venue was very warm and inviting, the food was delicious and our speaker Arturo Flores' presentation was interesting, humorous and informative. Thanks go to all of our members who came to this event and special thanks go to those members who brought friends to join. As of this date two new members have joined from this event. YEAH!

This year I have been addressing membership in my President Messages and once again membership will be addressed. This League year we have been incorporating a "Join League message" while doing our usual activities and doing it on two fronts:

1. Maintaining and increasing our exposure to increase membership in the present incorporating The Join League message in our usual and new activities:

- The Voter and the Website.
- PA announcements on the Radio and a Comcast Cable segment.
- Finance Drive letters sent to communities in the County.
- City Council Presentations introducing our league as a county league.
- Membership material available at all of our events.
- Annual Membership Event

2. Maintaining and increasing our exposure with youth to encourage awareness and membership in the future:

- Modesto Junior College Pros and Cons Presentations.
- Internship Program- currently with Modesto Junior College
- Stanislaus County Office of Education Youth Summit- with Susan Novak and our MJC Intern Malorie Michael attending.
- Monitor Student Elections at CSUS Stanislaus ( in April)

Overall we have had 14 members join this year and 20 members drop. We have moved forward and backwards with Membership before and perhaps we have yet to reap the benefits of what we are doing now. **However, I am calling on all members to be committed in assisting our League with bringing ideas to the table where we can attract new members.**

*(Continued on page 3)*

**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.

*President's Message (Continued from Page 2)*

Please contact anyone of us on the Board and/or attend the next Board meeting April 9<sup>th</sup> and present your ideas. We all know how the League of Women Voters has enriched our lives. Let us get others in on the fun.

Enclosed is a special insert with the entire scoop on our 2008-2009 Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting is THE EVENT of the year. Please Mail in your Breakfast request with check to our League office. See you there!

*-Ellen Mever, President*

*Single Payer (Continued from Page 1)*

I couldn't help but notice that, historically, the compromises are forged by the exact same powerful interests every time, working like scavengers randomly picking through the ideas of national health insurance, with little consideration given to whether any "reform" was actually going to improve the health care system for the average American.

In fact, a century of such "health care reform" has brought our health care system to the point where it is deeply fragmented, unimaginably costly and the least effective system in the entire developed world at delivering either health or care. I can't help but wonder where we might have been in terms of universal health care had proponents not forfeited their goal quite so fast.

Most striking? The grassroots role that physicians repeatedly played in defeating national health insurance. The American Medical Association functioned as an exceptionally effective grassroots movement that was embedded in every community across the nation. They organized education and lobbying campaigns against universal health care, labeling their efforts as "protecting the public health". They hired PR consultants who admitted that they were attempting to label national health insurance as "socialized medicine" for the simple reason that Americans were opposed to socialism.

*-Sue Chaffee, State and National*

## FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Do you know someone who might be a new friend to League?"

At the last board meeting we discussed the ways we managed our fund drive this year. Because we missed our goal by about \$400, I wanted to review what we did and get board comments for next year's drive. Two points have stuck in my mind:

1: Our league program is sustained by finance drive monies. Of the \$50.00 in dues we collect, only \$1.75 is available for our local league to use. The rest goes to required payments to National LWV and State LWV.

2: We need to solicit more donors. This year, we have had new requests to service the 9 cities of Stanislaus. Our support help is regularly requested throughout the county. The average donation from members and donors is about \$80.

I suggest that we try to increase our support base now. Letters, alone, do not seem to bring in new donors. What works is for members to meet potential donors, face to face and ask for donations.

Do you know of someone who likes league? Would you be willing to approach him or her for a donation? Would you want a member of the finance committee to go with you?

Look for a sign up sheet at the annual meeting. I hope to hear from you.

Contact me, Joan Goldsmith, joan.goldsmith@sbcglobal.net, or 522-1518

*- Joan Goldsmith, Finance Director*

# Voter Service

## Making Each Vote Count

The League had a table at the Youth Summit on Voting on February 29<sup>th</sup> at the SCOE Petersen Event Center. About 40 high school age students attended the event co-sponsored with CSUS Stanislaus Service Learning. Thanks to Julie Fox for including League at this event. Mallory Michael, our MJC student intern, helped staff the League table.

- We monitored the SEIU Local 521 Delegate Election on March 17<sup>th</sup> in Modesto. Thanks to Mallory Michael, our MJC student intern, for helping out!
- We will be monitoring student elections at CSUS Stanislaus on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Mildred Kinser has graciously agreed to contact and schedule League members to staff the polling place from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you can help, call Mildred at 523-4222.
- We are sending letters to candidates for the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors regarding a forum on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 1010 10<sup>th</sup> St. A forum will take place and be televised if both candidates for District 2 and District 5 can attend. There will be no forum for District 1 because Supervisor O'Brien is running unopposed.

*-Susan Novak, Voter Service*

## CANDIDATE FORUM

### COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.

Board Chambers  
1010 Tenth Street  
Modesto CA 95354

Forum will be televised on local access channels.

## Registering to Vote

There are TWO statewide elections remaining in 2008:

- June 3, 2008 "Regular" Primary Election: to choose candidates from each political party for U.S. Congress and the state legislature and vote on state ballot measures (plus local candidates and measures depending on where you live).
- November 4, 2008 General Election: to choose a President and other elected representatives plus vote on state and local ballot measures.

A person is entitled to register to vote in Stanislaus County if they are:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of California
- A resident of Stanislaus County
- Not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- At least 18 years of age on the date of the election

Voters who have moved or changed their name can fill out new registration cards to update their information. For more information, call the League office at 209-524-1698.

## Salary Setting Committee Public Hearings

Member Ellen Meyer was selected to serve on the Salary Setting Committee along with the Honorable Hugh Rose III, Retired, Rick Dahlseid, Raymond Newman, and Dave Thomas. The Salary Setting Commission, established by the passage of Measure M in November, is holding two public hearings. The Commission is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations for salaries for Modesto's mayor and city council members. The hearings will be:

Monday March 31 at 5:30 pm in the City/County Chambers (1010 Tenth Street)

Thursday April 10 at 5:30 pm in the City/County Chambers (1010 Tenth Street)

## LUNCH AND LEARN

In February our Lunch and Learn Speaker was Roy Wasden, Modesto City Chief of Police. Chief Wasden was full of energy and very informative. He loves Modesto and enjoys working with all in the community. We received good information on Neighborhood Watch and security. Modesto, Chief Wasden informed us, has one of the largest neighborhood watch program in the United States!

In March our Lunch and Learn guest was Jerome Thiele, Manger of Modesto City County Airport. New to Modesto, Mr. Thiele is working on plans to develop our airport to have improved facilities and flights to more locations. We have 150 flights going in and out of our airport on peak days with most commercial flights going to Los Angeles and San Francisco with FREE over night parking! Our airport is one of the first commercial airports in the United States first built in 1910!

Many thanks go to Chief Wasden and Jerome Thiele.

*-Helen Gordon, Lunch and Learn*

### **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

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **MARCH BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The Board recommends that, at the Annual Meeting, members approve an increase of annual dues of \$10 for individuals (to \$60) and \$15 (to \$90) for family. Currently dues cover our Per Member Payments to LWVC and LWVUS. There is discussion that these may be raised. Also, for the last few years we have approved deficit budgets to bring down our reserve balance. That has been accomplished. Now is it time to maintain that balance and assure there is adequate funding for program, which currently relies entirely in Finance Drive.
- Annual Legislative Interviews will be scheduled with Assembly members Berryhill and Galgiani.
- Forum for Supervisors' election is May 8. There are two contested seats.

*- Marie Bairey, Secretary*

**Welcome Our  
Newest Members**

**Phyllis Hart  
and  
Lee DeLamare**

**We look forward to seeing you  
at our events!**

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.

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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**LUNCH AND LEARN**  
April 29

**Speaker:**  
**Jeff Grover**  
**Stanislaus County Supervisor**

At 12 Noon, Appetez Restaurant in  
Roseburg Square  
\$11.00 for chef's entrée  
For vegetarian entree,  
call Appetez one day ahead!

May 3  
**LWV Stanislaus**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
10 a.m. – Noon  
Maxi Room- Double Tree Hotel

**Guest Speaker:**  
**United States Representative**  
**18<sup>th</sup> District**  
**Dennis Cardoza**

*(See Special Insert)*