



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

January 2010

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 59 NO. 15

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, January 6

6:30 p.m.

Local Action Committee
Home of Marie Bairey
Call her for
RSVP and directions

Wednesday, January 13

6:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 20

7:00 p.m.

Program Planning Meeting

Tuesday, January 26

12:00 Noon

Lunch and Learn
Appetiz Restaurant
Roseburg Square

Unless noted otherwise,
All meetings are held at the
League Office,
720 13th Street, Modesto

This calendar is current as of
printing. Check LWVSC
Website for updates

www.lwvstanislaus.org

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING: NATIONAL ISSUES

Please save the evening of **Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**, at the League Office, 720 13th Street, for our **annual Program Planning meeting**. It is important that as many members as possible take part in the discussion, so that we can forward meaningful ideas to the national League (LWVUS). **If you cannot attend the meeting, please be sure to fill out the enclosed flyer** and return it ASAP.

Every two years, state and local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues.

While it is important for every League to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss possible issues for study at the national level, it is not essential for every League to select an issue. The response form includes a line to indicate that issues were discussed, but no change is recommended. It will be up to all our participating members to take part in the discussion, in person at the meeting or by submitting the inserted form.

Our board will consider the results of our member discussion and submissions at the February board meeting. The deadline for submitting the resulting response to LWVUS is March 1, 2010.

Hanna Renning, Second Vice President

**LWV of STANISLAUS COUNTY
OFFICERS**

President

Ellen Meyer 579-1603
president@lwvstanislaus.org

1st Vice President

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vp1@lwvstanislaus.org

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Hanna Renning 632-4692
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Secretary

Marie Bairey 523-0663
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Treasurer

Michele McNeil 669-6171
treasurer@lwvstanislaus.org

DIRECTORS

Membership
Colleen Norby
Lynn Kelso

Voter Service
Ellen Dunbar

Finance Drive
Mary Giventer

Public Relations
Susan Novak

State and National Action
Sue Chaffee

Local Action

Voter Editor
Jean Tenney
newsletter@lwvstanislaus.org

Lunch and Learn
Mildred Kinser
Lee DeLaMare

OFF-BOARD

Membership
Margie Lipsky

Nominating Committee
Laurie Carley
Seena Rhine

Voter Service
Marsha Waggoner

Web Master
Stella Beratlis

League Office
720 13th Street, Modesto
209-524-1698
www.lwvstanislaus.org

President's Message

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope all had a peaceful and joyous holiday season. The Holiday Fling was a great way to start the holidays and end another successful year for our League. Many thanks go to Lynn and Albion Fenderson for hosting yet another wonderful evening in their home. The evening's entertainment, YES Company, and delectable food and drink were delightful. Many thanks to all those who attended and assisted to make the evening special.

In 2009 we saw increased attention on our activities from the media with articles on our forums, the printing of our statements and positive comments on our activities. This was gratifying to see and made it very easy for me to forward election news when requested by LWVC. Special thanks go to League member Marjorie Brooks for her article which included this statement:

I worked at three of the League forums this year and can attest to the care taken to ensure that candidates have equal opportunity to participate in the give and take and that audiences are assured an hour worth their close attention.

January 6th is our first Local Action meeting and I strongly urge you to attend. We will be reviewing the results of our Gang Violence Position follow-up study and will be making plans for this year.

January 20th is our yearly planning meeting at the League Office. This is when League members are called to review LWVUS and local positions. This **very important** process is our opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the League will focus its time, talent, and money. At the meeting we will recommend maintaining or dropping positions and/or new studies or revisions of positions. Enclosed is information on this event. For more detailed information, go to www.lwv.org.

LWVC Leadership Council will be held Saturday, May 14-16, 2010 in Sacramento. Please check out LWVC members' only website for more information and let me know if you are interested in going.

We have received a First Call to Convention from LWV. It will be held June 11 - 15, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia. Look for more information on the LWVC members' only website. This is a great opportunity to see our grassroots organization in action and talk with members from around the country. If you are interested in going, please contact me by March 15, 2010 so we may get our reservations in on time.

Wishing you a Happy New Year and I hope to see you at our many activities.

Ellen Meyer, President

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

PROGRAM PLANNING 2010

There are two (2) options for your participation in this year's Program Planning.

Complete the form below and **MAIL** to LWV Stanislaus County, P.O. Box E, Modesto, CA 95352, or **BRING** it to the Program Consensus Meeting on January 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the League office, 720 13th Street, Modesto. Please complete by January 18 if mailing.

More information is available at the LWVUS website (www.lwv.org).

NATIONAL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

LWVUS Program Positions

Representative Government

- Voting Rights
- Election Process
- Citizen Rights
- Congress and the Presidency

International Relations

- United Nations
- Trade
- U.S. Relations with Developing Countries
- Arms Control
- Military Policy & Defense Spending

Natural Resources

- Resource Management
- Environmental Protection and Pollution Control
- Public Participation
- Agriculture Policy

Social Policy

- Equality of Opportunity
- Fiscal Policy
- Health Care
- Meeting Basic Human Needs
- Child Care
- Early Intervention for Children at Risk
- Violence Prevention
- Gun Control
- Urban Policy
- Death Penalty

I recommend (if more than one, rank as 1, 2, 3):

_____ Adopt a new study on (topic & under which of the general headings above it belongs):

_____ Review position on:

_____ Adopt by concurrence position on:

If you are proposing adoption of a new study, write a brief comment addressing areas to be explored, possible parameter of the study, the emphasis on a particular aspect of the study.

LOCAL PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

LWV Stanislaus County program positions

- Municipal Election System
- Land Use
- Housing
- Gang Violence
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Local Library Finance
- Adult Criminal Justice

_____ Adopt a new study on:

_____ Update position on:

Circle the positions you wish to retain; draw a line through those you wish to drop.

LUNCH AND LEARN

January 26 Lunch and Learn

Mary Sherwood, Coordinator

Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps

On Tuesday, January 26, at noon at Appetez, the LWV will begin our new year of Lunch and Learn with a program outlining the Emergency Preparedness Program for Stanislaus County. A big thank you to Jill Sousa for suggesting this topic.

The program will be presented by Mary Sherwood, Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator. She will tell us about how the county is planning for disasters in our area. Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects both to people and property. In our area we can all remember the flooding of 1997, the tire fire, and even the Loma Prieta earthquake in the Bay Area of 20 years ago. The H1N1 epidemic is just the most recent disaster we have faced.

Mary will talk about the history and purpose of the Medical Reserve Corps. She will outline potential hazards in Stanislaus County and the importance of agency coordination (training and exercise) and the establishment of Alternate Care Sites (ACS) and Points of Dispensing (POD). She will touch on the importance of our being personally prepared and show us the opportunities we have for volunteering,

This should be an interesting program and an important one. We look forward to seeing you there and, why not invite a friend or neighbor to come hear what Stanislaus County is doing to be prepared for what ever is down the road?

DIVERSITY POLICY

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County 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.

October 27 Lunch and Learn

Michael Sullivan, CEO, Golden Valley Health Centers

On Tuesday, October 27, 2009, our Lunch & Learn speaker was Mr. Michael Sullivan, the Chief Executive Officer of the Golden Valley Health Centers, a non-profit community/migrant health care provider. According to a handout that Mr. Sullivan provided, GVHC provides comprehensive primary medical, dental and behavioral health care to an ethnically diverse population including migrant and seasonal farm workers, Southeast Asian refugees and Modesto's homeless population. It is a JCAHO-accredited, private, non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center system with 23 clinical sites and seven dental sites. There are two free-standing women's health centers, three school-based centers and a homeless health care program plus two mobile medical clinics called MOMobiles serving Stanislaus County with an additional MOMobile serving the farm worker and homeless population of Merced County. Revenue comes from patient dollars and charitable sources, as well as Federal and State grants. No patient is turned away because of inability to pay. Currently, of the total patient caseload, 64% are covered by some kind of insurance, private or Medicare or MediCal, and 36% are uninsured. Asthma and diabetes are the two health problems most commonly seen. Currently, the clinics are seeing 6,500 confirmed diabetics in the area and the hope is that with education, these patients can learn to manage their disease and avoid complications

Mr. Sullivan went on to tell us that in addition to the primary services listed above, GVHC provides specialty services in ENT, Optometry, Podiatry, Endocrinology, and OBGYN. Health and Community Education are important aspects of the services available and Mr. Sullivan mentioned their Reach Out And Read program wherein every child who is seen in any clinic is given a book to take home in keeping with the philosophy that good minds lead to good health. Especially in today's political world, it was interesting to learn how some of the less fortunate in our county are given the health care they need to continue to function as healthy members of our society.

Lee DeLaMare, Lunch and Learn Director

League of Women Voters Internship

When I applied for the internship, I had never heard of the League of Women Voters. But after I met with Ellen and we discussed what was involved, I quickly decided this was the group for me. I was fortunate that at the beginning of my internship the LWV of Stanislaus County held a regional training workshop in Modesto that I was able to attend. That workshop gave me the basics of the League and how it works. I enjoyed meeting all the women who attended from our local League and the surrounding Leagues.

This semester there were local elections. I had the pleasure of attending and working at a few of the forums that the LWV sponsored. I liked the fact that they get the audience involved in writing the questions; you really get a feel for the concerns of the local citizen. One of my main tasks was getting the candidates to put their information on the Smart Voter Website. This election we had a total of 17 candidates who filled out the questionnaire, which was a few more than last year. I am now focusing on helping to prepare and mail the gang study survey.

I have had the opportunity to attend some of the other League functions. The League cosponsored with the AAUW a dinner, the speaker was Roy Wasden. I had a lovely time talking with the women from both groups. It was interesting listening to Roy Wasden speak about his new position in Turlock. I hope that the League has more functions with AAUW. This one was both educational and entertaining.

The thing that I have taken from this internship is that it is possible to be nonpartisan. I learned how to look at the big picture, not the party affiliation. This is a great organization that does wonderful work. Every good organization has been built on wonderful people. The women and men who are involved in the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County are wonderful people. I look forward to being a member for years to come.

Holly Craytor Student Intern

In Memory

It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to dedicated member Bette Belle Smith. Bette Belle was a long time member and loyal supporter of our League. Her involvement with League and our community has been an inspiration to all. She will be greatly missed.

Board Highlights

November 11, 2009

- YES Company Ambassadors invited to sing at the Fling
- Finance Drive \$1900 short of goal. Reminders will be sent to previous donors.
- Three members will monitor the S.E.I.U. Local 521 election and League will be paid \$50. The Voter Service Committee will meet to review our forum procedures.
- Webmaster Stella reports that our Website had over 3,500 hits in the last two weeks of October.
- MJC Intern Holly Craytor is working on follow up on gang study to be sent to groups with at risk programs.

Marie Bairey, Secretary

Successful Turlock Event

On November 5th members of the League and Turlock Branch, American Association of University Women met at Henry's Restaurant for their first joint event in Turlock. Turlock City Manager, Roy Wasden, complimented the group for their civic involvement and reminded everyone through numerous stories and anecdotes that we are able to shape the community we want. The event was successful on several levels: those who attended had an enjoyable evening, the League increased its visibility in the Turlock community, and two vital groups, whose interests often coincide, had an opportunity to become better acquainted, opening up the possibility of working together in the future. Based on the success of this first joint venture, we are seriously considering a similar joint event in the spring.

Mary Giventer, Finance Drive Director

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

Student Membership \$15 _____

Individual Membership \$60 _____

Household Membership \$90 _____

Please contact me with more information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone (for directory): _____

E-mail: _____

MAIL TO
LWVSC
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 9535

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan 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
LWV Modesto
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
(Check Website for Updates)

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| Wednesday, January 6 | 6:30 pm Local Action Committee
Home of Marie Bairey
Call her for directions |
| Wednesday, January 13 | 6:00 pm Board Meeting
League Office, 720 13th Street, Modesto |
| Wednesday, January 20 | 7:00 pm Program Planning Meeting
League Office, 720 13th Street, Modesto |
| Tuesday, January 26 | 12:00 noon Lunch and Learn
Speaker: Mary Sherwood, Coordinator,
Stanislaus County Medical Reserve Corps
Appetiz Restaurant, Roseburg Square. Modesto
\$11.00. For special dietary needs call one day ahead |