



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

October 2011

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 60 NO. 3

## ***CELEBRATION OF THE CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL***

Did you know that men in Stanislaus County voted "yes" to give California women the right to vote and men in San Francisco did not? These are a few of the interesting facts you will learn by attending our evening program to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> California Women's Suffrage Anniversary on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Petersen Event Center of the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE), 12<sup>th</sup> and H St, Modesto.

Therese (Teri) Lunt, who holds a BA and MA from California State University (CSU) Stanislaus and lectures at both CSU Stanislaus and Modesto Junior College, will tell about the development of the national women's suffrage movement and then focus on the California campaign, its leaders and the reasons for its success. We will also pay tribute to Esto Broughton, the first woman to win elected office in Stanislaus County. The Stanislaus County Commission for Women has joined League, American Association of University Women (AAUW)-Turlock and SCOE as a co-sponsor. Refreshments and time to socialize will follow the lecture. Parking is free in the lot behind the SCOE building and on 12<sup>th</sup> Street close to the Center. Need to carpool? Call 524-1698 or email [president@lwvstanislaus.org](mailto:president@lwvstanislaus.org). Bring a friend!

*Hanna Renning, Membership*

## ***SMARTVOTER WEBSITE***

If you are interested in helping for the November 8<sup>th</sup> elections, it is not too late! Some jobs, such as telephoning candidates, require no computer skills. Others can be done by anyone with basic computer skills and a personal computer. I was the first County Coordinator (coco) for our League and have watched this wonderful tool become easier and easier for League members and candidates to use. Contact [president@lwvstanislaus.org](mailto:president@lwvstanislaus.org) if you would like to help. And, by all means, encourage the candidates you know to log on and create a page. All 136 candidates are being sent invitations and letters of instruction!

***Calling All Volunteers!***

**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. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages. With 92 years of experiences and over 800 local and state affiliates, the League is one of America's most trusted grassroots organizations.**

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***Message from our President, Susan Novak:***

In this 100<sup>th</sup> year of California women having the right to vote, our League of Women Voters opened our 62<sup>nd</sup> year of “Candidate Nights” with a forum on the MJC East Campus where our founding President was a librarian. Helen Pierce, along with members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Social Studies Committee, established the Modesto chapter of the League of Women Voters in 1947. They saw the need for a local organization open to *all* women they would work to get Modesto’s citizens involved in making their community a better place to live and raise their children. In 1949, they held their first “Candidates Night.” How fitting that the forum for the first Modesto City Council election for District 3, an area that includes both MJC campuses, was co-sponsored with MJC Community Engagement Project and moderated by Mary Giventer, both a League Board member and President of AAUW Turlock/Modesto. One of the candidates referred to our forums as ‘The preeminent candidate forums’ in Modesto. You cannot get a better thank you than that. Great job, everyone!

Have you checked out <http://www.smartvoter.org> recently? A newer up-to-date look has links to You Tube, Face Book and Twitter. This selection tool has become cool! LWV Stanislaus is a participating county thanks to grants and donations the Smart Voter Central team obtains to continue this award-winning LWVC Ed fund project. The site offers the complete list of all contests on your ballot, including local offices, and will even show your polling place location. The involvement of County elections officials assures the accuracy of the ballot and polling place information. Candidates are invited by local League volunteers to create a free web page using an easy to use online form. In past years, we have had a local Smart Voter team of League volunteers and/or college student interns to help contact candidates and add links to the race pages. Help is still needed this year (see page 1 of this month’s Voter)!

*Susan Novak, President*

***Membership Renewal***

Thank you to everyone who has already renewed!

It is not too late. Please make sure that you include your up-to-date telephone number and email address when renewing. Thank you!

*Colleen Norby, Membership Committee*

### ***Gang Prevention Performance***

The Gallo Center for the Arts is presenting a gang prevention play that focuses on gang violence. The program is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Works.

In addition to the matinee performances for students in grades 7 – 12 on October 27 and 28, there is a teacher/administrator workshop October 12 and an afterschool gang prevention workshop for students October 27 and 28. The play is a multimedia production incorporating various performing arts to tell the story of a young person who was shot and killed in 2003 and to promote more peaceful methods of conflict resolution.

This kind of preventive outreach is consistent with the LWVSC position on gang violence adopted in 2007 that supports intervention and enrichment programs to address the problem of gang activity in our community.

### ***BOARD HIGHLIGHTS:***

- We will move our files to DocUStor in downtown Modesto by 10/1/2011. Cost: \$20 to \$30 per month
- Between the August and Sept. Board meetings, the executive board a) approved renewing our domain name at a modest cost b) approved submitting a letter from Local Action Director, Marie Bairey and President, Susan Novak to the Modesto Bee regarding revisiting the Salida Plan as suggested by Supervisor Witherow.
- The Board agreed with the committee's decision to accept the Stanislaus Commission for Women offer to co-sponsor the Oct. 13th Celebration of 100 years of CA women winning the right to vote.
- Board members will begin phoning members who have not renewed
- Mary Giventer mailed out finance drive letters in early Sept. and a few checks have been received.

*Laurie Carley, Vice-President*

### ***"Privatization Study Discussion List"***

The privatization study list is now available for members to hold discussions on this topic. Sign up for the list at this website: <http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track>. Papers written by the Study Committee will be posted on the website in the coming weeks. As a reminder, the scope of this study is "to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state, or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good." Consider what is happening in your local community or state with regard to transferring some government services to the private sector. Are you aware of the policy issues associated with such a transfer? The study papers will offer some guidelines for best practices that should be considered in these efforts, whether they affect your public libraries, your public schools or your state's highway system. If interested in participating in the Privatization Study, please contact Stella Beratlis at [vp@lwvstanislaus.org](mailto:vp@lwvstanislaus.org).

Stay tuned for a presentation related to Ed Study topics at the October Lunch & Learn as well as a consensus presentation for LWVSC members during late October or early November. Please check the League Calendar of Events at [lwvstanislaus.org/calendar.html](http://lwvstanislaus.org/calendar.html) for updated information on both presentations.

### ***"Consensus Meeting"***

WHAT: Consensus Meeting. "Role of the Federal Government in Public Education"  
WHO: LWVSC Members  
WHY: To present findings of Education Study Committee  
WHEN: 10:00 a.m. – noon, Saturday, November 5  
WHERE: Oak Valley Community Bank conference room, 3508 McHenry Avenue, Modesto CA 95356 (Northeast corner of Sylvan & McHenry Avenues)

*Stella Beratlis, Vice-President*



***Carnegie Arts Center Preview***

Attendees at the August Lunch and Learn received a preview of the re-opened Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock with a virtual tour and an actual tour. Following the lunch program by Executive Director Rebecca Phillips Abbott, guests were invited to take a private behind-the-scenes tour of the new facility.

The original Carnegie library was built in 1916 – one of 1600 in the US. It became an arts center in 1979, and then was destroyed by fire in 2005. Funded by insurance, Redevelopment funds and local contributions, the multi-use facility – four times larger than the original – became a reality. The regional center includes areas for exhibit galleries, performing arts, classes and studios. It is operated by the Carnegie Arts Foundation. They hope to offer “something for everyone” and many opportunities for volunteers. The Grand Re-Opening is September 9.

A series of changing exhibits is scheduled throughout the year. The first exhibit – Ansel Adams CALIFORNIA - includes some of his never-before-seen works as well as some familiar ones that focus on California’s agricultural areas. The exhibit was curated in cooperation with Adams’ family. In January, the works of local fiber artist Yvonne Porcella will be featured.

Touring the Carnegie Arts Center was a special bonus for Lunch and Learn attendees.

*Marie Bairrey*

***Lunch and Learn***

Our Lunch and Learn topic for the September 27th luncheon is WATER. Our speaker is Jane Wagner-Tyack, Past President of the San Joaquin League of Women Voters and the current Treasurer for that League. She is a resource person for water issues for the State LWV. She serves on the LWVC water committee and is an alternate on the California Water Plan Advisory, focusing on groundwater and finance issues.

We invite you to come hear the Facts and the myths on Water. We meet at noon at Appetiz Restaurant in Roseburg Square, no reservations required. The price for lunch is \$11.00 and guests are welcome.

Our October Lunch and Learn, **The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Standards, Funding & Equity**, will begin with a briefing on our Education Study. Then, Sue Rich from the Stanislaus County Office of Education will be our speaker.

*Margie Lipsky, Lunch and Learn Director*

**In 1911, California passed Amendment 8, granting women the right to vote in state elections almost a decade before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment provided women’s suffrage throughout the United States”**



**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) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver my *Voter* by E-mail  US mail

**MAIL TO**

**LWVSC**

**P.O. Box E**

**Modesto, CA 95352**

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**League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County  
P.O. Box E  
Modesto, CA 95352**

***CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

**(Check Website for Updates)**

<b>Thursday, October 6 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Beyer High School, Little Theatre, 1717 Sylvan Avenue, Modesto FORUM: Modesto City Council: District 5: Jenvieve Kenoyer, Stephanie Burnside, Joshua Esteves &amp; District 6: Dave Cogill, Jr., Douglas Dyrssen</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 12 6:30 pm</b>	<b>Chambers, 1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto FORUM: Modesto Mayor: Garrad Marsh, Brad Hawn, Armando M. Arreola, Bill Zoslocki</b>
<b>Thursday, October 13</b>	<b>A CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE 7:00 p.m. Petersen Event Center, Modesto CA</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 19 6:30 – 7:15 pm  7:30-8:15 pm</b>	<b>Agnes Baptist School, 2410 Janna Ave, Modesto FORUM: Stanislaus Union School District Board of Education: Susan S. Elliott, Thomas L. Freeman, Jeff McKay FORUM: District 1 Modesto City Council Philip Moyer, John Lane Gunderson</b>
<b>Tuesday, October 25</b>	<b>12:00 Noon – Lunch and Learn - The LWV's Education Study Appetiz Restaurant, Roseburg Square, Modesto Speaker: Sue Rich, Stanislaus County Office of Education Topic: The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education: Standards, Funding &amp; Equity.</b>