



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO

February 2006

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL.57 NO.11

Calendar of Events

Feb 8th

Wednesday, 6:30 pm
Board Meeting
1104 Wellesley Ave

Feb. 9th

Thursday, 6:30 pm
Local Program Planning
Meeting
1313 Broughton Place

Feb. 10th

Friday, 11:00 am
Local Action Meeting

Feb. 21st

Tuesday, 6 pm
Gang Study Meeting
1104 Wellesley Ave.

Feb 27th

Tuesday, 11:45am
Lunch and Learn
Appetiz Restaurant
Roseburg Square

Mar. 7th

Thurs. 5:30-7:30 pm
Spring Membership Event
Mistlin Art Gallery

Anti Sprawl Initiative

Former Modesto Councilman Denny Jackman and Councilman Gerrard Marsh attended the January meeting of the Local Action Committee. They are in the process of developing a county-wide initiative designed to curtail residential development into unincorporated areas of the county by requiring voter approval of amendments to the County General Plan. The purpose of the initiative is to minimize sprawl, reduce transportation costs, maintain farmland and secure the fees necessary to provide for the cost of needed services by directing development into incorporated cities.

At this time Mr. Jackman is seeking input and refining the language. He welcomes suggestions and ideas. For the text of the initiative, questions or suggestions, contact him at 523-5821 or dennyj@clearwire.net.

He also discussed an idea to establish a coalition of diverse groups who have a stake in transportation land use decisions. By creating a forum for groups with divergent interests, he hopes they could identify common ground and shared concerns which, might lead to more effective planning and reduce land use conflicts.

Marie Bairey, Local Action

Don't Forget!

Local and National Program Planning Meeting:

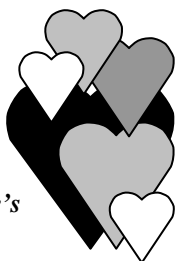
Thursday, February 9, 2006, 6:30 pm

Laurie Carley's Home

1313 Broughton Place, Modesto

Each year the League has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the League will focus its time, talent, and money. At this meeting we will review the positions and make decisions concerning retention, dropping, studying and revisions. The positions can be found in this month's Voter on pages 5-7. All League members are encouraged to attend and give your input in this very important process.

Laurie Carley, Second Vice President



*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

LWV of MODESTO

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President Message:

According a British researcher, the gloomiest day of the year was January 23, 2006. Our days can only get brighter! February is a very busy month for this league so pull out your calendars and plan to attend at least one of the many events scheduled!

Our finance drive continues – it is never too late to send a contribution - a full report will be in next month's Voter. Nominating committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the board next year. The gang study committee has met and is currently interviewing citizens from throughout the community – it is not too late to be a part of this important committee who will meet again February 21st to report preliminary findings. February 1st was the planning meeting for the upcoming election – we will be sponsoring Pros and Cons presentations at the local colleges and forums for four local elections – Sheriff, District Attorney, and County Board of Supervisors and County Superintendent of Schools. At our February 8th board meeting we will discuss our findings regarding the proposed name change to “The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County”. February 9th is the meeting for the update of our national and local program planning. Local Action committee meets February 17th and Lunch and Learn on February 28th. In addition, the Civic Engagement Project with Yosemite Community College District is rapidly preparing its spring events. Plans are being finalized for our annual membership event, which has been scheduled for March 9th with Carol Whiteside as our esteemed speaker!

We are a grassroots organization and always welcome your input so please do not hesitate to call or email us with your comments or recommendations!

Patty Lundy, President

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crises. The great point is to bring them the real facts.

- Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States

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.

Gang Study Meeting:

The Gang Study committee met on January 18. The committee formulated questions and identified persons to interview to gather data for the study. Another meeting of the committee is scheduled for February 21, 2006, at 6 pm at 1104 Wellesley, Modesto. Please come if you would like to participate or have suggestions on the study. Please call Maria Arevalo if you have questions or need directions at 527-7517. Refreshments will be provided.

-Maria Arevalo, State and National Action

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

April 10: Candidates Forum
April 13: MJC Pros and Cons presentation
April 19: Candidates Forum
May 3: CSUS Pros and Cons presentation
May 8: Absentee ballots can be returned
May 22: Last day to register to vote- booths at Modesto and Turlock libraries

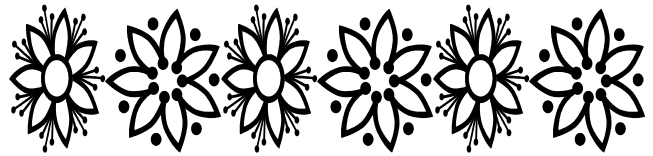
How quickly time flies! The Special Election has been over for less than two months and already we are gearing up for the June 2006 election. And, what an event it will be! Many of the initiatives that did not qualify for the November 2005 ballot will be up for decision, as well as national, state and local offices.

If you are interested in helping with the many opportunities that will be available, please contact Amy Christensen at 529-9497 or email: Amy v Christensen@hotmail.com.

-Amy Christensen, Voter Service

If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter

-George Washington, 1st President of the United States



Spring Membership Event

Speaker:

Carol Whiteside

Great Valley Center

When: March 7, 2006

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm.

Where: Mistlin Art Gallery

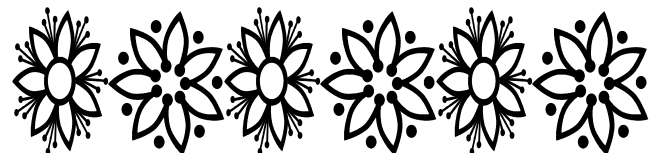
1015 J Street, Modesto

(Downtown Modesto) validated parking

in the Modesto City Parking Garage

RSVP Pat Paul 847-5451

Bring a Friend!



January Board Meeting Highlights:

- Treasury Report: accepted. Office manager is to assume responsibility of acknowledging deaths of members to families with card.
- Denny Jackman will make a presentation at Local Action meeting.
- MID water meeting for Salida was informative.
- DeSilva Development offered to make a presentation to League County Plan.
- City of Modesto Charter Review is coming up and Marie Bairey will apply to be appointed to represent the LWV.
- Gang Study is planned for next four months. Nominating Committee meets 1-12-06
- Current membership is 164
- Legislative Interview upcoming. State assigns legislator to us to interview.
- Twenty members attended last 2005 Lunch and Learn.
- Finance Drive goal was achieved and exceeded and more expected in. Goal \$8,000.00. Current \$8285.00.
- League Name change to be addresses at March Board Meeting.

-Joan Patterson, Secretary



Please Welcome New Members

This month we had two new members join the League:

**Carol Barr
Everett Stephens**

Welcome, we look forward to seeing you!

-Myrtle Osner, Office Manager

January Puzzle Answers:

Across:

- 4. Impact**
- 9. League**
- 10. Position**
- 12. Democracy**
- 15. Advocate**
- 16. Sheppard Towner**
- 18. Votes**
- 19. Community**
- 20. Suffragette**

Down:

- 1. Woman**
- 2. Observer**
- 3. Missouri**
- 5. Action**
- 7. Participation**
- 8. Registration**
- 11. Nonpartisan**
- 13. Forums**
- 14. Policy**
- 17. Reform**

-Ellen Meyer, Editor

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
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LWV Modesto
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Modesto, CA 95352
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
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LUNCH AND LEARN

Tuesday,
February 27, 2006 at 11:45am
Appetez Restaurant
in Roseburg Square
\$11.00 for chef's entrée
For vegetarian entree,
you must call Appetez one day ahead.

SPEAKER: To Be Announced