

The Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO



January/February 2005

Vol. 57 No. 1

Local air quality programs receive funding

At its December 16 meeting, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District joined five other air districts in approving a \$2 surcharge on motor vehicle registrations in the counties served by the Air District. This was authorized by AB 923 that was signed by the governor in September 2003. The fees will be collected by DMV beginning April 1, 2005. This is in addition to previously authorized DMV surcharges dedicated to improving air quality.

The surcharge is expected to generate \$4.8 million annually to fund pollution reduction programs. According to the District Board's agenda statement, the funds may only be used to reduce emissions from certain motor vehicles and agriculture sources, including Carl Moyer Program projects and for the new purchase, retrofit, repower or add-on equipment for previously unregulated agricultural sources, school buses and an accelerated

retirement or repair program. The additional surcharge offers the District a funding source for the matching funds required to receive approximate \$ 7 – 10 million from the State's Carl Moyer Program. The Board then awards incentive grants for local proposals that meet established criteria with the applicant

vehicle responsible for 20% – 50% of costs. In the past 12 years, the Board has awarded \$42 million in incentives from motor vehicle surcharge fees which resulted in reduction of over 7 million tons of emissions.

Before approving the additional fee, Board members expressed concerns that the

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Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Fri., 1/21 | LOCAL ACTION COMM. 12 noon, LWV office |
| Tues., 1/25 | LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon Appetez (see back) |
| Wed., 2/2 | PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING 6 PM
1004 Stanton Place (see p. 4) |
| Wed. 2/9 | BOARD MEETING 6:30 PM LWV Office |
| Fri., 2/18 | LOCAL ACTION COMM. 12 noon, LWV office |
| Tues., 2/22 | LUNCH AND LEARN 12 noon Appetez (see p. 3) |

President's Message

Happy New Year! There is much to celebrate as we close one year and embrace a new one. Membership is up and I extend a very special thank you to our veteran members for their renewals and a warm welcome to our new members. The transition to our new membership billing system was successful and most importantly, no call to volunteer was left unanswered.

2004 was a great year for the League and would not have been possible with out the selfless hard work, volunteer time, and dedication of our board and active members.

- We registered a record number of new voters for the recent election.
- We attended many meetings, wrote letters for local and state action, and worked actively for the passage of our library tax.
- We enjoyed a wide variety of speakers at Lunch and Learn, which also attracted a larger number of participants.
- We met our goals for our finance drive. Since this is our primary source of income, we could not keep the Modesto League activities going another year without this success.

The upcoming year will bring challenging issues for us on the state and local levels. To save time and resources we have combined the January and February issues of the *Voter*. Please read and respond to the article about program planning on p. 4 as this is our opportunity to refresh our planning for both state and local issues. Your opinion matters! Please participate in these planning meetings, or, if your time is too limited, mail, phone in or e-mail us your thoughts and ideas.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming membership social and annual meetings – dates will be posted soon. Thank you again for your dedication; let's make 2005 another rewarding year for the Modesto League.

--Patty Lundy

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.

LWV of MODESTO

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LWVM Lunch and Learn

"Housing Options for the Homeless and Mentally Ill"

Julie Beckweather and Glen Hutsell of the
Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Tuesday, February 22

12 noon Appetez

\$11.00 for chef's entree (call restaurant one day in advance
for special menu requests)

See back cover for January Lunch and Learn information

Air Quality

continued from p. 1

that the money be used efficiently
and that there be increased
accountability to the Board and the
public about how the money will be
used. Supporters noted that drivers
are part of the [pollution] problem,
and they should be part of the
solution.

--Marie Bairey

Local Action Director

Interested

*in these issues? The Local Action
Committee meets monthly. See
Calendar on p. 1*

--Ed.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

November 10, 2004

> Education Committee will meet
November 18 to plan for the November
30 Consensus Meeting.

> Membership is 154--up from last year
by 13 members.

> Susan Novak will handle Public
Relations business while Phyllis Babcock
is gone.

> We are \$115 from our Finance Drive
goal, but \$600 from the Education Fund
goal. *(As of 1/05 we have met our
goals. --Ed.)*

> The Civic Engagement Project
Committee (with MJC) is planning a new
Spring series that will appeal to students.

--Mildred Kinser

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 _____

Address _____

Phone (for the directory) _____

E-mail _____

Mail to: P.O. Box E

Modesto, CA 95352

LWV Modesto meets for Program Planning

You are invited to set the agenda for the LWVC upcoming biennium!

LWV California Program Planning 2005-2007

Join us Wednesday, February 2, 6:00 p.m.

Lynn Kelso's home, 1004 Stanton Place, Modesto

We'll serve a light dinner and dessert

Each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the League will focus its time, talent and money. At this meeting we will decide if we want to retain or drop each existing position (see list below). We may even decide that a particular position needs restudy or update. The most interesting discussion may be the selection of our top three issues for Education and Advocacy. These are our recommendation to the incoming state board as to where the League should focus its agenda for the coming 2 years. This could be an agenda geared to action on positions or to educating the community with specific information. Do you think *Redistricting* should be the top priority during June 2005 through May 2007? With our newly updated *Education* position should that be our top priority? And how about *Air Quality*, *Libraries*, *State and Local Finances* or *Housing*? Selecting just three from the 24 positions we have at the state level will require us to be prognosticators and active participants in our discussion. We'll try an "alternative election system" using weighted voting to give you a way to make your vote really count. Join us for what promises to be a thought provoking discussion.

If, by chance, you are unable to attend on February 2, you may send your input to Julie Saugstad at saugstad@ainet.com or 325 E. Fairmont, Modesto, 95354. Indicate which of the following LWVC positions should be retained or dropped. If you would like to read the positions, check the link on www.lwvmodesto.org. Indicate your top 3 priorities for Advocacy and Education and tell us whether the focus should be on concerted action in the legislature, citizen education or something else. Responses must be received by February 7 to be included in our report to LWVC.

League of Women Voters of California Positions

Government

Campaign Financing
Constitution
Election Systems
Initiative and Ref. Process
Intergovernmental Relationships
Public Libraries
Redistricting
State and Local Finances
Voting Rights

Natural Resources

Agriculture
Air Quality
Energy
Hazardous Materials
Land Use
Solid Waste
Transportation
Water

Social Policy

Child Care
Community College System
Education
Housing
Juvenile Justice/Dependency
Legal Aid
Mental Health Care

for content of this page, go to

www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/budget/SLF_year_later.pdf

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 policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Modesto

Tear off and send to:

LWW Modesto

P.O. Box E

Modesto, CA 95352

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League of Women Voters of Modesto

January Lunch and Learn

guest speaker:

Scott Salazar Myers

President and CEO, Del Valle Homes

"Building Affordable Homes"

Tuesday, January 25

Appetiz Restaurant in Roseburg Square

12:00 noon \$11.00