



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO

January 2006

Serving The Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL.57 NO.10

Calendar of Events

Jan 11th

Wednesday, 6:30PM
Board Meeting

Jan. 13th

Friday, 11:00AM
Local Action Meeting

Jan. 18th

Gang Study Meeting
Wednesday, 6:00PM
1104 Wellesley Ave

Jan. 31st

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

Feb. 9th

Thursday, 6:30 PM
Local Program Planning
Meeting
1313 Boughton Place

New Year's Resolution:

I will go to at least one
League event and
volunteer my time or
talent at least once in
2006 for The League of
Women Voters of
Modesto!

(Easier than a diet,
definitely)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

We had a wonderful holiday fling with some scrumptious hors d'oeuvres and desserts, all arranged by Margie Lipsky, assisted by Helen Gordon and Lynn Kelso. I extend a very warm thank you to Margie, Helen and Lynn, to the Fendersons for hosting the event and to everyone who attended and welcomed Jack Souza of the Prospect Theatre. Many of us attended the local production of "The Lion in Winter" as a result of Jack's motivating talk about his aspirations for the theatre and some of us even bought our season tickets to this season's performances.

The special election has mercifully passed and I want again to thank everyone who was involved in this highly controversial exercise in democracy! It seems the saga of the voter machines is still an issue. And, we have two more elections slated for the year – the June primary and November General Election. It looks like another contentious election season is emerging.

Now that the holidays have passed and winter is finally here, please join us in the many activities that will be planned this spring – **we have local program planning, upcoming elections, the gang study and some controversial topics lined up for our monthly Lunch and Learn.** Please call the office or email me if you are ready to get more involved in League activities – there is always a place for you! And, no experience is needed to become involved. Please remember we are a grass-roots organization so your opinion is always valued and encouraged.

Patty Lundy, President

ALERT: BOARD NOMINATIONS UNDERWAY

Your nominating committee is hard at work filling the Board with qualified, dedicated officers for the 2006-2007 year.

If you are interested in this very important part of League membership, **OR**, if you know someone who might be, please call Gloria Skol at 526-2421.

We look forward to another year of serving you and educating our community!

Gloria Skol, Membership

LWV of MODESTO

OFFICERS

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Patty Lundy 551-1558

First Vice President

Susan Novak 526-9534

Second Vice President

Laurie Carley 578-3145

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Joan Patterson 575-1644

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Finance Drive

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Local Action

Marie Bairey

State and National Action

Maria Arevalo

Lunch and Learn

Mildred Kinser

Voter Editor

Ellen Meyer

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Gloria Skol

Public Relations

Linda Walden

Web Master

Stella Beratlis

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Myrtle Osner

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Gang Study Meeting:

There will be a meeting to continue the gang study on January 18, 2006 at 1104 Wellesley Ave, Modesto at 6:00 pm. (Myrtle Osner's home) We need interviewers to speak to persons who have an interest in the issue and a perspective on how to approach the problem. We will also need persons to compile the findings and write the conclusions. 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. One can get to Myrtle's home from Roseburg Ave. There will be snacks provided.

Maria Arevalo, State and National Action

Local and National Program Planning Meeting:

Thursday, February 9, 2006, 6:30PM

Laurie Carley's Home

1313 Boughton 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.

All League members are encouraged to attend and give your input in this very important process.

Laurie Carley, Second Vice President

LWV Local Action Meeting:

The Local Action Committee will meet next Friday, January 13 (not the usual 3rd Friday) at 11 am at the League office. Denny Jackman will attend to present information about a county growth initiative he is working on. All members are welcome.

Marie Bairey, Local Action Director

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.

State Budget Outlook

LWVC State and Local Finances program director Anne Henderson reports that the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) says that the budget outlook for 2006-07 has improved, but that the state is "still not out of the woods." The LAO expects the Governor to offer a state budget in January that is balanced, even though estimated expenditures (based on projecting current requirements through the next year) would exceed projected revenues by about \$4 billion. The gap would be filled by a carryover from the 2005-2006 year-end reserves, since revenues have risen and spending has fallen short of budgeted funds. Increased revenues have come mainly from the personal income tax, but also from gains in the corporation tax and a slight increase in the sales and use tax.

The LAO says that despite the improved outlook for next year, the imbalance of expenditures over revenue means that there will still be a structural budget deficit. The LAO also notes that funding for Proposition 49, the before and after school program initiative Schwarzenegger sponsored before he became Governor, is likely to be triggered by the increase in state spending. This would require the state to spend about \$428 million on those programs in the next budget year. The LAO recommends that the Legislature consider proposing repeal or delayed implementation of that measure on the June ballot on the grounds that the money could be better spent on protecting basic education programs, and that some existing federal and state after school funds are now going unused.

-LWVC

SPEAK OUT FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM!

**Wednesday, March 29, 2006
Sacramento Convention Center
9:00-4:30**

EDUCATE your Legislatures
CAUCUS with Women's Health Advocates
from all over California
PROTECT Women's Health Rights
LEARN about emerging issues

**Sponsored by The California Coalition
for Reproductive Freedom**

For more information contact:
Jo Ann Madigan (415) 346-0563
jomadigan@earthlink.com

Registration for this event is inserted in
Voter

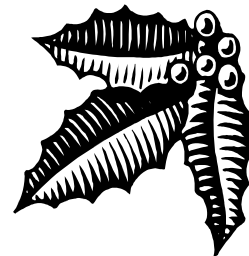
SAVE THE DATE!

November Board Meeting

Highlights:

- Finance Drive progress reported: good.
- Treasury Report: in good standing.
- Many phone calls received at League office regarding polling locations for fall election.
- LWVM sent letters to the City Council members regarding de Silva request to bypass city requirements to speed up their project.
- Scope of Gang Study read to Board for Local Action for approval. Was approved.
- Directory will be ready for Holiday Fling.
- Holiday Fling plans in process.
- 20 people attended October Lunch and Learn.
- No Voter in December. Resume in January 2006.

Joan Patterson, Secretary



Holiday Fling:

This year's Holiday Fling was once again graciously hosted by Lynn Fenderson. Jack Sousa, the Artistic Director of Prospect Theater, gave a stimulating talk on his vision of Community Theater and how he is pursuing that vision here in his home town. Margie Lipsky once again did a superb job organizing the refreshments with help from Lynn Kelso and Helen Gordon. Many thanks go to all of the above for giving League members and their guests an evening to be remembered.

Susan Novak, 1st Vice President

“Do not be desirous of having things done quickly. Do not look at small advantages. Desire to have things done quickly prevents their being done thoroughly. Looking at small advantages prevents great affairs from being accomplished.”

Confucius

Please Welcome New Members

This month we had one new member join the League at our Holiday Fling:

Birgit Fladager

Welcome, we look forward to seeing you again!

Myrtle Osner, Office Manager

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
Tear off and send to:
LWV Modesto
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

LUNCH AND LEARN



Tuesday,
January 31, 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: Ron Good
Executive Director of Restore Hetch Hetchy
Topic: Restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley

CALIFORNIA COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM DAY Registration form March 29, 2006

I will attend.

I will attend and would also like to make a donation of \$ _____ in support this event.

I am unable to attend but enclosed is my \$ _____ donation in support of this event.

NAME _____

ORGANIZATION _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

C/S/Z _____ COUNTY _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

EMAIL _____

Fees: \$45.00 regular fee
\$25.00 student rate

Make all checks payable to CCRF and send to:
Speak Out for Reproductive Freedom!
1375 Sutter #406
San Francisco, CA 94109
Fax: 415.346.7569

*Subsidies for conference registration fees are available – contact Jo Ann Madigan for
subsidy information: Phone: 415.346.0563 or email: jomadigan@earthlink.net.*

I request:

Vegetarian Lunch
 Regular lunch

I will need translation services for the day
My language is _____

Please Provide The Following Information to help us make your legislative appointments:

My Home Address Zip Code is: _____

My Work Address Zip Code is: _____

My CA State Assemblymember is: _____

My CA State Senator is: _____