



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO

March 2006

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL.57 NO.12

Calendar of Events

Mar. 7th

Tuesday, 5:30 pm
Membership Event
Mistlin Art Gallery

Mar. 8th

Wednesday, 6:30 pm
Board Meeting
League Office

Mar. 17th

Friday, 11:00 am
Local Action Meeting

Mar. 28th

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

April 10th, 19th, 24th
Candidate's Forums

May 3rd

Pros and Cons - CSUS

League of Women Voters of Modesto

Mailing Address:

P.O.Box E

Modesto, CA 95352

Office Address

720 13th Street, Modesto

Telephone

209-524-1698

www.lwvmodesto.org



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!



LWV of MODESTO

OFFICERS

President

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pattylundy@sbcglobal.net

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Finance Drive
Debbie Kleinfelder
Local Action
Marie Bairey
State and National Action
Maria Arevalo
Lunch and Learn
Mildred Kinser
Voter Editor
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ellen-e@sbcglobal.net

OFF-BOARD

Membership
Gloria Skol
Public Relations
Linda Walden
Web Master
Stella Beratlis
Office Manager
Myrtle Osner

President Message:

It has been a busy month for our League; we updated our national and local positions at a meeting at home of Laurie Carley, who served a delicious bean soup with cornbread and berry pie - thank you, Laurie, for a fabulous meeting and meal.

The gang study committee has been busy interviewing community members and will be finalizing a recommendation to the board; thank you, Myrtle, for your gracious hospitality! Thank you, Maria Arevalo, for a stupendous job directing this study.

The nominating committee is finalizing its roster for New Year's board; it is a time when regional leadership will be critical. Please contact our nominating committee chairperson, Gloria Skol, if you are willing to be a part of the upcoming board that may be leading us into a new role in regional leadership.

On the topic of leadership - issues critical to Modesto are also critical to the county. And, to reflect this need and awareness, at the February board meeting the board unanimously approved a recommendation regarding the proposal of changing our name to the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. The membership will be asked to approve this name change at the upcoming Membership Meeting in May. So you may be informed and aware of the consequences of this proposed name change, pros and cons of this name change and details of the process will be detailed in an upcoming Voter.

I hope to see you at the membership event March 7th. Remember to bring a potential member!

-Patty Lundy, President

February Planning Meeting:

After review, it was decided that we support the current local and national positions as is with no additions or changes. Thanks to Susan Novak, Lynn Kelso, Doug Chadwick Patty Lundy, and Ellen Meyer for your input and time.

-Laurie Carley, 2nd Vice President

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.

June 2006 Election

The League is now 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. Here are just a few of the positions we will have to consider June 6th:

Primary elections for:

- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Congress
- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- State Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- State Controller
- State Treasurer
- State Insurance Commissioner
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- State Senate
- State Assembly

Elections for Stanislaus County:

- Assessor
- Auditor-Controller
- Clerk-Recorder
- District
- Sheriff-Coroner
- Superintendent of Schools
- Treasurer-Tax Controller
- Supervisors

Obviously, with this many decisions to consider it will be important to keep voters well informed. That is why the League is beginning planning now for a variety of voter education and service activities, including forums and Pros and Cons presentations. If you are interested in helping with the numerous opportunities that will be available, please contact Amy Christensen at 529-9497 or via email at amy_v_christensen@hotmail.com. Any and all assistance will be greatly appreciated, as well as have an impact on what is shaping up to be a full election plate. Let the election season begin!

-Amy Christensen, Voter Service Director

Voter Service Activities:

- April 10: Candidate's Forum
- April 19: Candidate's Forum
- April 24: State Assembly Forum (tentative)
- 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.

FINANCE DRIVE – A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who has contributed funds and valuable time to help fulfill the League's objectives. Due to the generosity of the following League Members and Friends of League, we were successful in raising \$8,360 to surpass our goal of \$8,000.

The League extends a special thank you to our financial advisors for their invaluable input and time they spend writing personal notes on each Finance Drive letter.

Financial Advisors

Alita Roberts
Pat Paul
James C. Enochs

Larry Martin
Kenni Friedman

Judy Mathes
Paul Baxter
Myrtle Osner

Members

Jackie Gianelli
Karen and Edward Tabacco
Phyllis Babcock
Stella Beratlis
Laurie Carley
Carole Davis
Helen Gordon
Mildred Kinser
Margaret Sturtevant
Bev and Ralph Sturtevant
Margaret Wilbur
Hazel Gotshall
Jane Manley
Wendy Byrd
Eddy Cash-Dudley
Pat Paul
Douglas Chadwick

Dorothy and Roy Schmidt
Kenni and Lou Friedman
Polly and Carl Hornberger
Nancy Smith and David Rockwell
Vanessa and Paul Czopek
Sharon Froba
Debbie Kleinfelder
Robin Schlitz
Susan Novak
Marie Bairey
Ellen Meyer
Birgit Fladger and Stephen Critzer
Patty Lundy
Ellen Dunbar
Martin and Sharon Peterson
Amy Christensen
Mickey Peabody

Lynn and Ken Kelso
Harriette Kirschen
Polly and Hank Klopfer
Patrick and Sharon Mc Kee
Joan Patterson
Helen Ralph
Julie Saugstad
Doris Scanlon
Tom Van Groningen
Anita Allen
Margie Lipsky
Myrtle Osner
Adele Heyman
Robin and Larry Martin
Neva Forney
Lala Rowland
Kate Nyegaard

Friends of League

Delbert Rydquist
James Barakatt
Dennis Hobby
Gallo Foundation
Lynn Dickerson
Paul Baxter
Michael Cummins
Odessa Johnson
Grace Lieberman
Paul Caruso
Howard Goldor
Curtis Grant

Sue and Randy Siefkin
Tim Fisher
Chuck O'Brien
Norman S. Reid
Garrad Marsh
Tom Berglund
Nancy Hornberger
Paul Neumann
Hugh Rose III
Carol Christensen
Dave Cogdill
Charles Fenley

Sharon Downs
Doug Harms
Ray Starn, Inc.
Dennis Murphy
Peter Smith
James Enochs
Peter & Bridgette Janopaul, Jr.
Gary Lopez
William Ulm
Mike Gianelli
Larry Haugh
Leo Scheuber

- Debbie Kleinfelder, Finance Drive Director

League of Women Voters Turns 86

Respected Grassroots Organization Is Making Democracy Work

Washington, D.C. – The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) celebrates its 86th birthday today, February 14. As the League honors its founding, it is looking to the future. In 2006, as it has for the past 86 years, the League will continue its important work in the fields of citizen engagement and political reform.

“As we celebrate our history, we remain focused on the present, educating and advocating for a stronger democracy,” said Kay J. Maxwell, LWVUS President. “This year, the League remains committed to our Democracy Agenda – an advocacy and public education effort to strengthen and renew the basic tenets of American democracy.”

“This effort seeks to protect our electoral processes through election reform and reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, advances our representative government through nonpartisan redistricting, preserve our constitutional rights by safeguarding civil liberties, and protect against government corruption through campaign finance and lobby reform. These protections and reforms are vitally important to our nation’s democratic health,” stated Maxwell.

“For 86 years, League members have been working to safeguard democracy and create civic

improvement across America,” said Maxwell. “Our nation needs people to participate in their communities in order for this country to be a strong, safe and vibrant place to live. Our members work toward that goal every day in hundreds of local communities by reaching out to new citizens and first-time voters, monitoring the independence of the judiciary, protecting our natural resources, improving our election systems and holding public forums on civil liberties and other important issues.”

“The League strives to make democracy work for all citizens. We have spent 86 years encouraging citizens to take part in their government and their communities,” said Maxwell. “We are a unique organization because we have energetic and engaged volunteers in every community across the nation. The League is where leaders volunteer to make democracy work.”

-LWV February 14th Press Release

February Board Meeting Highlights:

- Approved Name Change Proposal.
- Budget and Proposal for Annual Membership Event was presented.
- Recommended League order 3,000 Pros and Cons in English and Easy Voters in Spanish.
- President named members for the Budget.
- Committee: Ellen Meyer, Julie Saugstad and Debbie Kleinfelder (chairperson).
- Discussed Voter Service Planning Dates and Activities.

-Joan Patterson, Secretary

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
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, March 28, 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: Jenny Bates

LCSW, Mental Health Systems, Inc.