



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

March 2007

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 57 NO. 20

Calendar of Events

March 14th

Wednesday, 6:30pm
Board Meeting
League Office

March 16th

Friday, 11:00am
Local Action Meeting
League Office

March 21st

Wednesday, 5:30 pm
Spring Membership Event
Mistlin Gallery

March 27th

Tuesday, 12:00 noon
Lunch and Learn
Appetiz Restaurant

April 11th

Wednesday, 6:30pm
Board Meeting
League office

May 5th

Saturday, 10:00Am
Annual Meeting

May 9th

Wednesday, 6:30pm
Board Meeting
League Office

May 18th -20th

State Convention
Bakersfield, CA



Spring Membership Event

Speaker:

Thomas Kronemeyer

Community Design + Architecture

When: Wednesday March 21, 2007

Time: 5:30 Social 6:15 Speaker

Where: Mistlin Art Gallery

1015 J Street, Modesto

(Downtown Modesto) validated parking

in the Modesto City Parking Garage

RSVP League Office

524-1698

*This is a membership recruitment event
- come, and bring a friend!*

(See page 3 for more on Membership Event)

**LWV of STANISLAUS
COUNTY OFFICERS**

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720 13th Street, Modesto

209-524-1698

www.lwvstanislaus.org

President's Message:

Happy Birthday, LWVUS! We celebrate 87 years of educating and informing voters so that our democracy can be strengthened from within. In California, our legislature is voting on a February Presidential primary, which on the one hand, will put California among the forerunners in Presidential primaries, but on the other hand, may change term limits and redistricting. Just imagine having four major elections in less than one year...which, of course, reminds us of the importance of League members becoming active in their membership!

We have one very important upcoming date and encourage all League members to become involved. Let us make it a goal that every one of us attends the Membership event and brings ONE potential member to the event! It will be at the Mistlin Gallery again this year – last year's was beautiful and the food, as usual, was something to brag about – all prepared by League members! Thomas Kronemeyer will explain how transportation decisions affect land use and development patterns – how elegantly the timing our membership directors have planned this event.

A very special thank you to all who contributed to our finance drive! We have exceeded our goal, which allows us to continue expanding the education and advocacy that is the benchmark of our quest in League. Thank you, everyone, for your continued support!

I am reminded this month of the passing of a very influential woman whose voice in politics was always a reminder to all of us of the fragility yet strength of our democracy. We need the alternative voices to remind us of the many unheard voices in democracy – Molly Ivins (1944-2007) was a no-take-prisoner critic who never hesitated to remind us of our importance in a democracy:

- The thing about democracy, beloveds, is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet. It requires a certain relish for confusion.
- When satire is aimed at the powerless, it is not only cruel -- it's vulgar.
- I believe that ignorance is the root of all evil. And that no one knows the truth.
- You can't ignore politics, no matter how much you'd like to.

See you at the Mistlin Gallery March 21st!

-Patty Lundy, President, League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

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.

MEMBERSHIP

Spring Membership Event

**Drive-Through Farming: exploring the links
between transportation and land use**

**Featuring Thomas Kronemeyer of Community
Design + Architecture**

Wednesday, March 21 at the Mistlin Gallery,
1015 J Street, in downtown Modesto

5:30 Social, 6:15 Speaker

**This is a membership recruitment event--come, and
bring a friend who is interested in local
development!**

Thomas Kronemeyer, a senior associate with Community Design + Architecture, will explain how transportation decisions affect land use and development patterns. The San Joaquin Valley can learn from the mistakes of Southern California and the Bay Area—or make the same mistakes and have the same results. Get a better understanding of how decisions made today can radically affect the future of San Joaquin Valley and the agricultural foundation of the region's economy, as well as the tradeoffs necessary to achieve a better future.

Can we build our way out of congestion? For answers, we should consider Los Angeles and the Bay Area. The West Coast was developed during the post-World War II era, when automobiles began to dominate transportation. The result has been sprawl, extermination of agriculture, some of the poorest air quality in the country, a dangerous pedestrian environment, and disenfranchisement of the young, the elderly and anyone else unable to obtain a driver's license and a car.

If we can't build enough roads to reduce congestion, what are our choices? We can look to places such as Boise, ID; Fresno; Sonoma County; Charlottesville/Albemarle County, VA; and

Portland, OR to see how to create more compact cities, preserve farmland, improves pedestrian activity and quality of life. The choices can create a city that everyone can enjoy, regardless of age or car ownership. These cities are not unusual, but the decisions made there have allowed them to develop in ways that enhance the lives of their citizens.

Mr. Kronemeyer has worked on multi-disciplinary planning and design teams, both in Germany and the United States. The design of pedestrian-oriented, livable places and the sensitive integration of new development into the fabric of existing built and natural environments are at the heart of his professional work and research. Mr. Kronemeyer's current work focuses on studies related to multi-modal transportation corridors.

Visit Community Design + Architecture on the internet at www.community-design.com to see the projects the firm is working on in California and around the country. Community Design + Architecture is a planning, urban design and architecture firm focusing on integrated transportation/land use planning, mixed-use and pedestrian-friendly design.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

This last month we had a new member join!

Angela Bruce-Raeburn

Welcome, we look forward to seeing you !

*- Cindy Van Empel and
Jennie Sweeney, Membership*



Be the change you want to see in this
world.

-Mahatma Gandhi

League Lauds New Presidential Public Financing Legislation

League President Sees Reforms as Necessary Repairs for Ailing System

Washington, DC- The League of Women Voters today applauded the introduction of presidential public financing legislation in the House and Senate and called upon lawmakers to fix our presidential system once and for all.

“The 2008 Presidential election is already dominating headlines—and candidates are asking supporters to open their checkbooks earlier than ever before,” Mary G. Wilson, national League president observed. “League members and voters agree: we need public financing for presidential elections.”

“Today’s legislation aims at cutting the reins that big money and special interests have over presidential elections in this country,” said Wilson. We need to have fair competition for votes, not a mad rush for big dollars. I encourage all members of Congress to support the Shays-Meehan-Price bill and make a real commitment to changing the way presidential elections are run.”

The legislation, introduced by Reps. Meehan (D MA), Shays (R CT), and Price (D NC), as well as Sen. Feingold (D WI), increases the amount of matching funds for the presidential primaries, increases the spending limit for candidates choosing to participate in the public financing system, and moves the starting date for the payment of matching funds to primary candidates from January 1 of the election year to six months before the first primary. If passed, the legislation would go into effect January 1, 2009.

The League of Women Voters has long supported public financing for elections. In July 2006, the League joined other coalition partners in sending a letter to members of Congress, asking them to support a voluntary system of public financing and spending limits for all federal elections.

-Patty Lundy, President



Annual Meeting of League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County

Saturday, May 5th, 2007
Breakfast Meeting

\$15.00 per person

Maxi Room
(Formerly Maxi’s Fine Dining)
Across from Lobby Bar

Doubletree Hotel/ Modesto Centre Plaza
Complimentary Parking with Validation
9th & K Parking Garage

This is our Local Convention. Come to review our accomplishments, give recognition to our outgoing Board of Directors, installation of new officers and socialize with the general membership. All in two short hours on Saturday morning! More information will be in upcoming Voters.

-Marge Lipsky, Nominating Chair



League Urges House Leadership to Seize Opportunity;

Secure DC Voting Rights

Washington, DC-National League president Mary G. Wilson today issued this statement strongly urging the House leadership and other members of Congress to take immediate action on D.C. voting rights.

“With new leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, legislation to provide voting rights in the House for citizens of the District of Columbia, H.R. 328, has a real chance of passage on the House floor,” said Wilson. “It is not only in the best interest of D.C. citizens, but in the interest of all Americans, that Congress strike while the iron is hot on this vital equal rights issue.”

“We call on the Speaker and the Majority Leader to schedule the bill soon, before the spring recess and before the House is consumed in other business,” she said.

Citizens of the District of Columbia pay U.S. taxes, fight and die for the U.S. during wartime, and are governed by the laws that Congress passes. And yet they have no voting representation in Congress. They have only a non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives. The League’s Lobby Corps members have been meeting with members of Congress on this issue since the new session began last month. Tomorrow, February 15, is Congress Day 2007, an event in which elected officials and other citizen advocates walk the halls of Congress to educate members of Congress and their staff on the D.C. Voting Rights Act.

“Citizens will be carrying a very strong message to Capitol Hill tomorrow: it is time for Congress to right this wrong,” added Wilson. “Only Congress can ensure that the democracy Americans have espoused and fought for across the globe becomes a reality in the nation’s capital.”

The “D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act,” sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R VA), provides voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats – one for D.C. and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House.

-From Leaders-Update
Mary G. Wilson, President, LWV

Tell Us How the League Impacted Your Life!

Every League member has a story to tell! LWVUS has received many inspiring stories of League members making a difference in their communities, fighting for important issues, and leading the charge to create lasting change. [Submit your story to the LWV Storybank, at www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) or read more stories like Roselyn Gadd's (LWV Trumbull County, Ohio):

It seems like just yesterday that I was sitting in a local bookstore/coffee shop for hours on end. I would give the local news a quick read and then go to the fashion and personality magazines to devour the latest celebrity gossip. If a state representative walked by my table, I wouldn't have known them. Worse yet, on a visit to Washington D.C., a page had to tell me the names of my senators. I was virtually invisible and no one knew my name. Things changed for me when a local LWV president asked me to come to a meeting and take some digital photos with my new camera. I submitted them to a local paper and in the following months the papers were printing my photos on the front page with by-lines. Digital photos and publicity for the League became so important that the LWV in a neighboring county soon asked me to do their publicity. This opened many new doors. . . .

-From Leaders-Update
Mary G. Wilson, President, LWV

FINANCE DRIVE

The 2005- 2006 Finance Drive goal was \$8,000.00. The Finance Drive received \$8775.00 exceeding our goal by \$775.00 dollars. \$3,005.00 of donations received was designated to our Education Fund. Many thanks go to the following members of The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County and to those in our community who support our work in Stanislaus County.

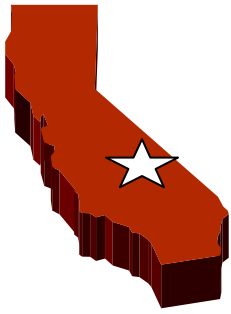
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-Joan Goldsmith, Finance Director



California State Convention

Rally in the Valley!

*The state convention is coming to
Bakersfield!*

Save the date - May 18-20, 2007.

Doubletree Hotel
3100 Camino Del Rio Ct
661 323-7111

More information in upcoming Voters

If you are interested email, Patty Lundy at:

pattylundy@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY'S REPORT

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- State of California approves our name change
- Budget for 2007-08 ready for membership approval at Annual Meeting
- February 13th is Gang Study consensus meeting and Program Planning Meeting
- Board heard proposal for a study on local district elections
- Annual Meeting plans presented to Board
- Spring Membership Event plans shared with Board
- Nominating Committee almost complete with 2007-08 Board Nominations
- LWVC Convention is May 18-20, 2007 in Bakersfield, CA.

-Joan Patterson, Secretary

I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO YOURS BY JOINING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY!

Student Membership \$15

Individual Membership \$50

Household Membership \$75

Please contact me with more information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (for directory) _____ Email _____

MAIL TO: LWVSC P.O. Box E, Modesto, CA 95352

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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.

League of Women Voters of
Stanislaus County
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LUNCH AND LEARN

March 27, 2007

Speaker: Grace Lieberman

Executive Director of the Stanislaus Arts Council

Topic: S.A.C.

Both At 12:00pm Appetez Restaurant in Roseburg Square

\$11.00 for chef's entrée

For vegetarian entree, you must call Appetez one day ahead

SEE US ON LINE! VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

www.lwvstanislaus.org