

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY
MINUTES
BOARD MEETING AUGUST 8, 2007

Members Present: Ellen Meyer, Ann Krabach, Lynn Kelso, Marie Bairey, Debbie Whitmore, Joan Goldsmith, Patty Lundy, Julie Saugstad

Members Absent: Jennie Sweeney, Susan Novak, Cynthia Morgan, Sue Chaffee, Cindy van Empel

Meeting called order by President Ellen Meyer at 6 pm.

Minutes of July 11, 2007 meeting approved for filing.

President's Report:

- Ellen will meet with MJC instructor Steve Miller to determine if an intern will be available and how s/he will be used.
- No response from County Clerk Recorder on Smartvoter.
- PSA messages are to be developed. League has some models.
- Randy Siefkin will check on available films and the role of the State Theater executive. February or March are possible dates to recognize League anniversary and women's history.
- Ellen reminded Board members to give her names of volunteers for acknowledgement
- Think about forming a committee to structure our League to engage members from other communities.

Treasurer: Report filed. Members who attend League workshop in October can be reimbursed for the fee.

Finance Drive: \$8700 Goal. Donor lists reviewed; 375 letters with new flyer will be sent including selected elected officials. Advisors who add personal notes to letters: 12 from Modesto and 7 from other cities. Meeting August 30 to prepare donor and member letters for mailing. *Voters* being sent to potential donors.

Membership: It was suggested that before the deadline, reminder phone calls be made to members who have not renewed.

Voter: Articles due ASAP to get Voter out by the end of the month.

Webmaster: It was suggested we investigate establishing a blog to stimulate communication and dialogue.

Vice President: Ann reported for Voter Service. Tenth Street Place has been reserved for candidate forums September 24 and October 8. Forums will be held for Modesto City Council and Mayor, Modesto City Schools and Stanislaus County School Board. Cynthia Morgan and Dianne Bartlett were trained as moderators.

Lunch and Learn: September speaker will be Carol MacFarlane from Society for the Handicapped. Jerry Kamilos of the West Park development in Crows Landing will speak in October. It was suggested we have a follow-up speaker from the project opposition.

Nominating: **Motion: M:** J Saugstad/S Lynn Kelso. Appoint Marie Bairey as Board representative to the Nominating Committee **Passed.**

Local Action: Patty discussed a recent article from the Modesto Bee/Boston Globe "The Downside of Diversity" emphasizing the need for League to develop means to promote involving members in the other cities.

Municipal Elections Study: Marie presented the committee report and plans for September 5 general meeting for consensus. **Motion: M:** M Bairey/S J Saugstad. Approve the scope and consensus questions for the study. **Passed.** The study will determine elements of an effective municipal election system.

Does the system promote broad representation? Accountability of Council members? Voter participation? Majority support for single-winner offices? Council member responsiveness? Lower costs to candidates? Members at the consensus meeting will consider recommendations for a position. If one is developed and approved by the Board, action can be taken immediately. It will be presented at Annual Meeting for inclusion in our Local Program.

New Business: Local Action Director Patty Lundy presented the background of the Salida Now Initiative and the Board of Supervisors decision not to place it on the ballot but approve it as an ordinance. A letter will be written to the Modesto Bee expressing League's dismay and disappointment at the Supervisors' action on this issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm. Next meeting September 12 at 6:30 pm..

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Bairey, Secretary