



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

May/June 2013

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

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Message from our President, Mary Giventer:

Most people are familiar with the League of Women Voters for our Voter Service activities. However, the other, and equally important, arm of the League is our Voter Education and Advocacy activities. From May 17 to May 19, delegates to the state LWVC convention will be voting on the state League's proposed positions and both educational and legislative priorities for 2013-2015. We are fortunate that this year the convention is conveniently being held in San Jose, and I hope some of you can attend. While I have registered as a delegate, our membership size permits us two delegates and I would be very pleased if we could use both. Registration is available for one day or the entire weekend. We have money in our budget to defray delegate expenses. If you are interested in being a delegate or simply attending, please contact me (632-8996 or mgiventer@pacbell.net).

LWVC develops its proposed programs and priorities based on input from local Leagues. At our program meeting in early March, Stella Beratlis recorded our recommendations and forwarded them to the state. Based on this statewide input, LWVC has selected two priority areas for education and advocacy in 2013-2015: 1) Money in Politics with emphasis on campaign finance reform, state and local finances, the state budget and 2) Education with emphasis on financing the educational system and maintaining the educational content and quality of all early childhood programs. A second tier of focus depending on time, opportunity and the ability to make an impact will be Health Care Policy, including education on the Affordable Health Care Act, and Water Policy.

LWVC is not proposing any new studies or position updates at this time. Local Leagues submitted the consensus results of the Initiative and Referendum Study at the end of March and the LWVC committee is meeting this month to formulate its position statement. They are hoping to have a draft statement ready by the state convention. It will not be voted on at the convention but there will be a caucus scheduled to discuss the proposed position.

It is always impressive to see the careful study and deliberation that goes into the positions the League takes, and to be part of the thoughtful, respectful discussion by League members seeking consensus on important, difficult issues. I hope you are as proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters as I am.

Mary Giventer, President

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State and National Action

State: On April 3 Jean Tenney, Ann Krabach, Hanna Renning and Ellen Dunbar went to Stockton for a legislative interview with State Senator Cathleen Galgiani, who represents District 5. The questions to her addressed these issues:

- Budget
- Election Reform/money in Politics
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Some of the Senator's personal legislative priorities are:

- The state water project, including supply and availability, groundwater cleanup, and assessment of hydropower needs.
- The realignment system to divert the state prison population to local facilities, provide reentry facilities, and reduce recidivism
- Agriculture
- The establishment of the medical center at UC Merced
- * High speed rail

She also has concerns about fracking and would encourage LWV to do a study on this issue.

National: LWVUS joined partners in signing a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives opposing H.R.3, legislation that would allow Trans Canada to begin construction of the Keystone XL pipeline without receiving a permit. This legislation bypasses a decision that must be made by the U.S. Department of State after a review of the environmental impacts is completed. Keystone XL poses risks to climate, water, health, land; exports oil from Canada through our country to be shipped overseas; does nothing to reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil, and creates only 35 permanent jobs.

LWVUS joined with other organizations concerned about women's reproductive health in submitting comments on regulations proposed by the Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) regarding preventive services under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The comments urge HHS to keep the religious exemption narrow in order to protect access to preventative care such as contraceptive coverage. The comments note that under the ACA, the regulations must provide seamless contraceptive coverage with no cost sharing for women.

Ann Krabach and Jean Tenney, State and National Action

Welcome New Member:

Marianne Mayerly

NAMI speaker at Lunch and Learn

Lynn Padlo, Education Coordinator for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) became of volunteer for the non-profit organization because of her daughter's battles with mental illness starting at age 14. To put a face on mental illness, Lynn brought a NAMI client who told her story of mental illness and substance abuse and her road to recovery. Saruon was diagnosed at age 5, turned to alcohol at 9, was pregnant at 15. She went through a cycles in and out of treatment or jail, sobriety and recidivism and homelessness. Her family – with its own issues – abandoned her. In 2008, she was rediagnosed and referred to NAMI where she started a coordinated treatment program and is now able to look forward. She is married and going to MJC. She can recognize her symptoms and knows she must take her medications. She continues to participate in various support programs.

Saruon is one of the 30,000 mentally ill in Stanislaus County, of which only 10,000 receive treatment. NAMI, funded by the California Mental Health Services Act 1% tax on millionaires, offers many programs to promote awareness and understanding of mental illness for community groups, teens, families facing mental health issues and educators as well as direct services such as Friends in Recovery and other support and the Coffee House for client socialization. Lynn distributed a packet describing the many service NAMI offers. Learn more about NAMI in the April, 2013 issue of [Stanislaus Magazine](#).
Marie Bairey

Prop. 63, Mental Health Services Act of 2004

Larry Poaster, Ph.D., is the former director of the Stanislaus County Department of Behavioral Health Services and current member of California's Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission (OAC), which is comprised of 16 statewide stakeholders. Dr. Poaster spoke at Lunch and Learn in June.

Prior to passage of Proposition 63, Stanislaus County generally provided mental health services based on available state and federal funding. Prop. 63 was transformational; it recognized that a mentally healthy community benefits all, it increased access to mental health services by redefining eligibility for medical services and it emphasized prevention and intervention – health first, not fail first. It is funded from a 1% surcharge in taxable incomes more than \$1,000,000. Funds are allocated to each county based on a formula. Half of each allocation must include full service partnerships while 20% is used for prevention and early intervention; Stanislaus County has more than 30 such programs intended to reduce the need for longer-term services. Funding has been impacted by the recession. Only half of those needing services in Stanislaus County receive them. The challenge is to balance new programs and established ones. The positive impact of Proposition 63 has been a different view of mental illness by assuming support and recovery are possible and by providing education to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. The responsibility of the OAC is to evaluate the effectiveness of Proposition 63 programs by examining outcomes.

Several local resources for mental health services were mentioned. National Association for Mental Illness (NAMI), Sierra Vista, Center for Human Services, Stanislaus County website (click departments, Behavioral Health and Recovery, Programs and Services).

Marie Bairey, Local Action

Lunch and Learn:

There is no Lunch and Learn in May due to the annual meeting. We will resume in June with Carlos Yamzon, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments (Stan COG). The primary focus of Stan COG is developing and updating a variety of regional transportation plans and allocating federal and state funding to implement them.

Ruby Hennessey, Lunch and Learn

Without Permission: Human Sex Trafficking

Debbie Johnson from Without Permission, a local non-profit that combats human sex trafficking, made a chilling presentation to Lunch and Learn in April about the prevalence of the problem and the work of her organization. The problem of human trafficking and sexual exploitation is not something that happens far away, but is increasing in California, the Central Valley and Modesto. Victims can be boys or girls, though more often girls; sexual exploitation knows no cultural or socio-economic boundaries; not all prostitution is sexual trafficking. Federal law criminalizing human trafficking passed in 2000, and California passed a law in 2005. To be covered by the laws, the commercial sex act (when something of value is exchanged for the act) must be forced, fraud or coercion.

Ms. Johnson described characteristics of the traffickers who can be almost anyone. Victims, often young (think middle schoolers) and vulnerable, are lured or abducted by the trafficker or pimp who creates a relationship of power and control by dehumanizing the victims and by maintaining strict rules and consequences. This is a big money industry. The Internet has become a favored marketing tool. Traffickers are found doing business at major events such as NASCAR or the Super Bowl.

Prosecution, Protection and Prevention: Without Permission volunteers partner with law enforcement assisting with victim rescues, training officers and educating the public and providing support for rescued victims. Volunteers counsel girls in juvenile detention about how to protect themselves in the community. They are about to open a safe house for victims' in transition. They hold fundraisers and welcome donations to support their work. For more information, she suggested reading Renting Lucy by Linda Smith or go to www.withoutpermission.org.

Marie Bairey, Local Action

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

- Student Membership \$25
- Individual Membership \$60
- Household Membership \$90

Please contact me with more information.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone (for directory) _____

Email _____

Please deliver my *Voter* by E-mail US mail

MAIL TO

LWVSC

P.O. Box E

Modesto, CA 95352

Board Highlights – no action taken:

- The 2013-14 slate of officers was presented with the two unfilled positions of treasurer and membership
- The Annual Meeting will be May 8th at 6:00 p.m. in the home of Marsha Wagoner. Anthony Cannella will be the speaker
- Seena has secured a new cell phone plan, which will reduce our phone bill from \$500.00 a year to \$100.00 per year
- Due to the fact that we are now using a cell phone we will no longer be listed in the phone book
- Mary will be attending convention-it will be held in San Jose, May 17th thru the 19th

Nominees for Officers and Directors 2013-2014

Officers

President	Mary Giventer
Vice President	Seena Rhine
Secretary	Marie Bairey
Treasurer	Larry Giventer

Directors

Finance Drive	Ellen Dunbar
Membership	Laurie Carley
State and National Action	Hanna Renning
Local Action	Stella Beratlis
Board Administrator	Lynn Kelso
Public Relations	Wendy Scott
Voter Service	Ellen Meyer

Off Board Directors

Voter Service	Marsha Waggoner
Membership	Colleen Norby
Webmaster	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Lunch & Learn	Joan Goldsmith and Ruby Hennessey
Voter Editor	Karrie Bullock

Nominating Committee

Amy Wolfe, Chair
Position Vacant
Position Vacant

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
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[\(Check Website for Updates\)](#)

Wednesday, May 8, 2013	Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm, home of Marsha Waggoner. We have invited Senator Anthony Cannella to speak. Please RSVP to Amy Wolfe by May 1, 2013 to 209-499-4091 or amy@agsafe.org.
Thursday, May 23, 2013	<i>NO LUNCH AND LEARN – SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!</i>
Thursday, June 28, 2013	Lunch and Learn, 12:00 pm, Carlos Yamzon, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments (Stan COG), Appetez Restaurant, Roseberg Square Shopping Center, Modesto