



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

April 2016

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 64 NO.4

President's Message

After some much needed rain, it appears that spring may have come. Things are happening rapidly with the LWVSC. First was the 12th District Election forum, jointly sponsored by the League of California Cities and held on March 30 at the County Library. The Board has sent on a budget for the 2016-17 year, which will be found in this issue of the Voter to be voted on at the Annual Meeting. The study on Water has been completed and been approved by the Board, which will also be found in this Voter. The higher Education Study is still in progress.

There are still vacancies for officers and directors to be elected for next year. Please consider volunteering to run for these positions. It is very difficult to be an active and vital force in the community without support from the membership.

Please put May 11, 2016 on your calendars for the Annual Meeting to be held at Marsha Waggoner's home beginning at 6:00PM. Watch for more information in the Voter and special notices sent by Marie.

Seena Rhine, President LWVSC

LWV Stanislaus County Local Positions: Water Position and Bylaw Change

These two (2) proposed changes will be voted on by quorum during the Annual Meeting May 11, 2016:

Water Study Committee proposed the following Water Position for Local Program:

We support water policies and practices that:

- a. Protect and ensure coordinated, sustainable use of groundwater and surface water supplies for urban, agricultural and environmental purposes
- b. Encourage conservation
- c. Promote creation of new water sources such as desalination, waste water reclamation, recycling and storage.
- d. Assure that water supplies meet state and federal quality standards
- e. Make information regarding water supplies and quality clearly, concisely and readily available to the public.

Bylaw change proposal:

- o Article V, Terms of Office, Sec. 3. To be added to the following sentence: They may not serve more than three consecutive terms in the same position. *If the Nominating Committee is unable to produce a candidate for an office or director for the board, then the Committee may nominate a person who has served three consecutive years in that position.*

In Memorium...

We are saddened to announce the passing of longtime League member Dorothy Schmidt. She was the Stanislaus County League president 1981-1983.

**LWV of STANISLAUS
COUNTY OFFICERS**

President

Seena Rhine

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Vice President

Mary Giventer

Vp2@lwvstanislaus.org

Secretary

Marie Bairey

secretary@lwvstanislaus.org

Treasurer

Margie Neder

treasurer@lwvstanislaus.org

DIRECTORS

Finance Drive

Michael Fuller

Membership

Open

Action – State and National

Tiffany Gordon

Action - Local

Open

Board Administrator

Lynn Kelso

Public Relations

Wendy Scott

Voter Service

Marsha Blomquist

voterservice@lwvstanislaus.org

Voter Editor

Karrie Bullock

newsletter@lwvstanislaus.org

Nominating Committee

Ann Krabach

Stella Beratlis Co-Chair

OFF-BOARD

Voter Service

Marsha Waggoner

Web Master

Richard Jacobs

Lunch and Learn

Ruby Hennessey

Hanna Renning

Mailing Address:

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***Lunch& Learn: Judy Sly Herrero, “So Many Words,
So little Wisdom”***

Former *Modesto Bee* editor Judy Sly Herrero spoke at the March Lunch & Learn about how to “distinguish fact from fiction and pure opinion as a well informed citizen”. She began her talk with a quick survey of how we access the news – print newspapers (most of us), digital versions, Internet and social media (not so many). The demise of print and rise of technology have changed how we stay informed. She equated the Internet to the food pyramid – lots of carbs and sugar and some garbage, along with protein and kale. The Internet evens the playing field for those dispensing information (think businesses, non-profits, government agencies) and those seeking information (think easy access).

There is a vast amount of content on the Internet. Some sites aggregate news, selecting and organizing stories from several sources, while others offer original information such as government reports. Just as good reporters dig for facts to support their stories, informed citizens can take advantage of the Internet to do the same. With the *Modesto Bee* staff being a quarter of what it once was, there is less reporting and more aggregating. We can no longer rely on traditional sources to “ask the questions”; we need to do it ourselves. Some local agencies do a better job of presenting content online than others. She cited CSUS, UC Merced and Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors among the best.

Judy offered a couple of hints for citizen researchers. You can learn about pending legislation by entering the bill number and reading the committee report, which is more readable than the bill’s text. Curious about what a politician really said in a speech? Go to the original for the full text. When using Fact Check sites, look at more than one. Her handout listed a dozen favorite websites. We can fight the Internet or get on board by making websites regular sources for original information.

Marie Bairey, Secretary

Voter Service

Help create good quality educational events for our voting neighbors. As a League member, is that your goal? We achieved that goal at the 12th Assembly District candidate forum. Your participation is vital to our success, and an important part of what League does.

Another measure of our success: **18 voter registration forms** and one **League application pamphlet** were taken last night.

A great big thank you to our Forum workers: **Mary Giventer, Marie Bairey, Karen Tobacco, Ed Tobacco, Marsha Blomquist, Ann Krabach, and**

LWVSC Proposed Budget 2016-2017

INCOME	BUDGET 2015-16	YTD	BUDGET2016-17
Mbrshp	\$5000.00	\$4095.00	\$4000.00
ED FUND	\$2500.00	\$1735.00	\$3000.00
GEN FUND	\$4300.00	\$1290.00	\$3000.00
TOTAL INCOME	11,800.00	\$7120.00	\$10,000.00
EXPENSES			
P M DUES			
STATE	\$2300.00	\$1462.00 (\$1963)	\$2000.00
NAT'L	\$2800.00	\$2464.00	\$2500.00
BOARD TOOLS	\$100.00	0	\$100.00
Convention	\$1500.00		\$1500.00
FINANCE DRIVE	\$400.00		\$100.00
Lunch/Learn	\$150.00	\$36.43	\$150.00
MEETINGS	\$500.00	0	\$250.00
(includes annual report)			
ORG.MEMB	\$20.00	0	\$20.00
DIRECTORY	\$150.00	\$45.74	\$150.00
SUPPLIES	\$150.00	\$70.84	\$150.00
WPRKSHOPS	\$250.00	0	\$200.00
PUBLICITY	\$100.00	0	\$100.00
TOTAL MEMBER EXPENSES	\$3470.00	\$4079.01	\$7220.00
OFFICE EXPENSE			
Equipment	\$150.00		\$150.00
Insurance	\$275.00	\$251.00	\$275.00
Storage	\$270.00	\$270.00	\$300.00
P.O.Box	\$200.00	\$164.00	\$170.00
Postage	\$140.00	\$53.85	\$100.00
Supplies	\$100.00	\$53.67	\$100.00
Telephone	\$150.00		\$120.00
Newsletter	\$200.00		\$100.00
Website	\$200.00	\$160.00	\$160.00
TOTAL OFFICE	\$1775.00	\$952.52	\$1450.00
VOTER SERVICE EXPENSES			
Forums	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
Other Voter	\$500.00		\$200.00
Smart Voter	\$200.00		\$200.00
Total Voter Service	\$1200.00		\$900.00
Misc Expenses	\$250.00		\$405.00
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	11,800.00	\$5281.53	\$10,000.00

**The budget will be presented to the members to vote on at Annual Meeting 5/11/16*



LWV Stanislaus County 2016/17 Nominations

Position

OFFICERS

President	Seena Rhine
Vice President	Mary Giventer
Secretary	Marie Bairey
Treasurer	Julie Saugstad

2016-2017

DIRECTORS

Finance Drive	Michael Fuller
Voter Service	Marsha Blomquist
Membership	open
State and Nat'l	open
Local Action	open
Voter Editor	Karrie Bullock
Public Relations	Wendy Scott
Board Admin	Lynn Kelso
Lunch and Learn-On Board	Hanna Renning

OFF BOARD MEMBERS

Voter Service-Off Board	Marsha Waggoner
Nominating Co-Chair	Ann Krabach
Nominating Co-Chair	Joan Goldsmith
Membership-Off Board	Colleen Norby
Webmaster	Dick Jacobs
Lunch and Learn-Off Board	Mildred Kinser

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Wednesday, April 13th 6:30pm-8:00pm	Board meeting. Hosted at Marie Bairey's. Please call (209) 524-1698 for directions or for a ride.
Wednesday, May 11th 6:00pm-8:00pm	ANNUAL MEETING Speaker will be Ruben Imperial, Community Development and Empowerment Manager, Stanislaus County. Hosted at Marsha Waggoner's: 916 Kenilworth Court, Modesto, 95356
Saturday, April 23rd, ALL DAY	Earth Day, Graceda Park LWVSC will be hosting a booth for the Earth Day event, with activities and information for the public. Please contact Ann Krabach to volunteer.
Thursday, April 28th, 12:00pm-1:30	Lunch & Learn: Joel Andrews, Patterson City Planner. "Patterson Planning: How a Small City is Coping with Big Change" Ridgways Restaurant. Chef's Choice, \$13.00.
Thursday, May 26th	NO LUNCH & LEARN IN MAY
Thursday, June 30th 12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch & Learn: Kristina Hacker, Turlock Journal Editor. "Continued Relevance of the Community Newspaper"

**League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
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.