

# THE VOTER

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

September 2013

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

**VOL. 61 NO.9** 

# President's Message

September and October are going to be busy months for our League. I hope all of you will have the opportunity to participate in at least some of the activities. Ellen and Marsha are working hard setting up the candidate forums. We will need members' assistance to moderate, take written questions from the audience, sort the questions and serve as timekeepers. These forums are interesting and great opportunities to hear from the candidates. We will also be doing voter registration tables several times and will need help there. Please call Ellen or Marsha and let them know what you would like to do.

I am very excited about our community informational program, Ask Emily, on Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 PM, Room 132, Sierra Hall on the West Campus of Modesto Junior College. We are sponsoring this event with the Modesto Bee, the Civic Engagement Project at Modesto Junior College, and the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), which is part of the Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California. Emily Bazar, a senior writer for health reporting at CHCF, will be our speaker. Emily writes a popular column, "Ask Emily", which appears in 17 California newspapers, including the Modesto Bee, and on radio station websites. Emily is based in Sacramento, and her mission is to stay up to date on health care policy issues in California and communicate them to the public. She will give accurate, factual information on the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare) in California and guide the audience through the new health law and what it means to each of us. There will be ample time for questions from the audience. I believe that Ask Emily is an important program to offer our community. Every time I hear the topic of "Obamacare" raised, I am surprised by the misinformation, confusion and fear that follows. Just while I was getting copies of the flyer for the program run off, four different people approached me with "what they had heard" was going to happen and none of what they had heard was true. Room 132 at Sierra Hall will hold 200 people and I would love to see us fill it. Please talk this event up, plan on attending and bring a friend.

Other Leagues in our area are also planning interesting programs for this fall and we are invited to attend. The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County is holding a fund-raiser and program on Saturday, September 14 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Delicato Winery, 12001 South Highway 99, Frontage Rd., Manteca. The topic of the program will be "GMOs and Our Grocery Basket". Pamm Larry, the woman who developed the Prop 37 Initiative on the November 2012 ballot, will be the speaker. Prop 37, which was defeated, would have required that genetically modified foods be labeled as such. The cost is \$35 and there will be a light lunch and wine tasting. Reservations must be made by September 6.

The Fresno League is planning a Mini-Regional Meeting of Leagues in the Central Valley for Saturday October 19 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be speakers and discussions on regional issues including water, the environment and mental health. Jenny Waggoner, president of LWV California will be in attendance. Information on location is not yet available.

From this array of activities I am sure you can find plenty to fill your calendar and stimulate your mind – see you soon.

Mary Giventer, Elected President

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# Stanislaus Council of Governments, June Lunch and Learn: Stanislaus Family Justice Center

About three years ago, League members heard Assistant District Attorney Carol Shipley describe a vision for a one-stop service center to support victims of domestic violence and child abuse. At the July Lunch and Learn, Tom Ciccarelli, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Family Justice Center, took us on a virtual tour of the vision-come reality.

The non-profit's mission is to break the cycle of violence. In 2012 the Center served 297 adults (16 men) and 881 children. The \$700,000 budget comes from grants, individual donors, Prop. 10 tobacco tax and community service agencies. The Center provides lifesaving solutions through partnerships with other social service organizations and law enforcement in a safe place by helping victims connect with support and/or legal services.

The facility includes a forensic exam room (Memorial Hospital staff does exams), a Kids Zone with staff from Children's Crisis Center (the interview room has one-way glass for observers to minimize the intimidation factor), a café to relax and a family room. Haven Women's Center provides advocacy, shelter or help to create a "safety" plan. Trained MPD and Sheriff Detectives are part of the response team. The D.A.'s office works on prosecutions. Legal services are available for restraining orders or custody issues.

A grant from Verizon funded a video conference system with connections to the courts; a victim can be interviewed at the Center while a judge approves a restraining order at his/her desk. The future-vision is that a child can be interviewed at the Center and not have to appear in court.

Recent issues in the community are forcing a look at additional needs and services: human trafficking and young people who age-out of foster care. The two are not unrelated; former foster care clients are often recruited for the sex trade, and raids on massage parlors often reveal incidents of abuse.

Reality check: Clients are given a wallet-sized resource handout and a flashdrive to save documents and paperwork, and both can be easily concealed.

Marie Bairey, Secretary

### **Voter Service: Fall Schedule**

League is going to be very busy serving our communities this fall. Our Voter Service schedule is filling up with voter registration and forums. Please review the list of events that have been booked and in the works and see where you can assist. Please contact Ellen Meyer or Marsha Waggoner. Thank you.

**September 13 Voter Registration**-Modesto Rotary Senior Stride Event 7:00 am-10:00 noon, East La Loma Park. Two volunteers needed at each shift. Shifts 7:00-8:30 and 8:30-10:00

**September 26 Voter Registration-** CSUS Campus, Turlock, Time TBD and shifts to be determined

**September 30 Modesto City Council Forum** 6:00-8:00 pm, Council Chambers, 1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street. We need a moderator, 2 timers, 2 question takers, 2 question sorters, and 2 at the telephones.

We also hope to hold a forum for the Modesto City School Board and MID in the first part of October and to register voters at the Modesto and Turlock libraries Saturday October 19, 2013. We are still working out the details.

Ellen Meyer and Marsha Waggoner

#### STATE AND NATIONAL ACTION

#### NATIONAL: March for the Dream

On Saturday, August 24, League members attended this celebratory event at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. We continue to work toward equal rights for all.

#### NATIONAL: League Files Lawsuits Against Attacks on Voter Rights in Texas and N.C.

On August 12 North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory signed an omnibus voter suppression bill

into law. This new law restricts voting, not just by requiring the most restrictive voter photo ID, but also significantly cutting back on early voting and restricting voter registration. The LWV of North Carolina is the lead plaintiff in one of the lawsuits that have already been filed to challenge the voting restrictions as racially discriminatory and to return the state to the Justice Department preclearance of changes previously required under the Voting Rights Act prior to the Supreme Court Decision in Shelby County v. Holder. The LWVUS issued a statement expressing its support for the U.S. Department of Justice in its lawsuit against the new Texas photo ID law implemented shortly after the same decision.

#### **STATE: Keep CEQA Strong!**

The LWVC was one of the important organizations which worked toward passage of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in 1970. At present, several state legislators are pushing legislation which would weaken the efficacy of the act by providing exceptions to its application. Governor Brown is in sympathy with some of these efforts. Our state leadership wants us to oppose these attempts to weaken CEQA by contacting our assembly members and urging them to safeguard CEQA by voting against any such bills. To see what is happening in the



Stanislaus County Education needs your help!

Purchase a new backpack (please, no red or blue) and fill with school supplies from one of the lists above, then place the list inside the backpack. Bring filled backpack to one of our drop-off locations located at select Tri Counties Bank branches and select Starbucks stores, or the Stanislaus County of Education office, between 6am-6pm.

Go to:www.Stancoe.org/go/backpack for more information, or contact league member Ruby Hennessy, or Victor Serrato, SCOE, at 209.238.1506.

legislature and LWVC's position on pending bills, Google: CEQA, LWV, Bill Status Report.

**STATE**: To look up those bills on many topics on which LWVC has taken a position, go to: <u>ca.lwv.org/act-now/bill-status-report</u>. Bills are grouped by topic.

Hanna Renning, State and National Action

# **Board Highlights:**

The highlights from the August 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting:

- Audit of LWVSC Treasurer's Report for 2012-2013 approved.
- Lunch & Learn will move to Jacob's on Mc Henry starting in September.
- League is co-sponsoring Columnist Emily Bazar for a public presentation on the Affordable Care Act September 12 at 6:30 P.M. at MJC.
- Donor request letters will be mailed mid-September.

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)			

I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO YOURS

### Marie Bairey, Secretary

# **Welcome New Members:**

Harpreet Singh

Roland Nyegaard

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Check Website for Updates)

Thursday, August 29 Lunch and Learn: LWVSC President Mary Giventer will report on LWVC Convention. Thursday, September Implementation of the Affordable Care Act in California, with speaker Emily Bazar, Senior Writer for the California Health Care Foundation. 12th Modesto Junior College, West Campus, Sierra Hall, Room 132 at 6:30 PM. Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> LWV San Joaquin County, Kick-Off Fund-Raiser Lunch & Wine Tasting 1:00-3:00pm, Delicato Winery, Stockton Speaker Pamm Larry, "GMOs and Our Grocery Basket" Wednesday, September **Board Meeting** 6:00pm Dale Commons, 3900 Dale Road, Modesto Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> **National Voter Registration Day!** Lunch & Learn: Victor Serrato, SCOE Student Support Services Director Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm at Jacobs Restaurant, Modesto (NEW LOCATION) Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> Valley Timely Topics: a Mini-Regional Meeting 11:00am-2:00pm, Fresno

# LWVSC Final Budget Report 2012-2013 Budget 2012-13 Actual 2012-13

<b>Beginning Assets</b>	21497	21497
Income:		
Dues	5840	6222.96 (1200 for 13/14)
Finance Drive	3700	4355 (unrestricted)
Finance – Ed Fund	3100	2280 (tax deductible)
Interest	20	
Miscellaneous	0	
Voter Service	0	·
Total Income 12660		13423.30
Office Expenses		
Office Expenses	0	117.11
Equipment	500	0
General Postage	250	163
Insurance	325	232
Rent	300	373
Supplies	100	88.03
Telephone	475	483.13
Voter Newsletter	400	582.18
Website	200	160
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	2550	2198.50
Dues Expenses		
State PMP	2243	2254
National PMP	2925	3038
Total Dues Expenses	5168	5292
Membership Expenses	2100	02/2
Action	50	20.25
Publications	150	176.52
Board Tools	100	8.68
Child Care	100	0
Convention	1200	871.23
Finance Drive	400	255.49
Supplies	150	0
Postage	150	0
Organizational Memberships	20	20
Meetings:	_ = =	
Annual meeting	250	0
Lunch and Learn	150	154
Co-sponsor Event	150	0
Other meetings	350	$\overset{\circ}{0}$
Workshops	125	$\overset{\circ}{0}$
Total Member Expenses	3345	1506.17
Voter Service Expenses		
Candidate Forums	1000	245
Other VS Expenses	250	0
Smart Voter	200	0
Total Voter Service Expenses	1450	245
Total All Expenses		12513 9241.67
Total Assats End of Voor 2012	2012	25 670 40

**Total Assets End of Year 2012-2013** 25,679.40

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.