



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

May 2014

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

VOL. 62 NO.4

President's Message

I am writing this during National Volunteer Week, which is a good time to thank the many League members whose time and efforts are so important to the success of our league. The League was born out of the massive volunteer effort to achieve suffrage for women. Throughout its history, the league has relied on volunteers as advocates, educators and managers. Now as our country faces increasing problems with money in politics and challenges to voting rights our efforts are more important than ever. Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS President, summed it up, "In the end, the only reliable response to a flood of money in our elections is a flood of voters at the polls with the kind of reliable, unbiased information that the League provides."

Attendance at our **Annual Meeting on May 21st** is very important to enable us to conduct the business of our local league. We need to elect new officers and directors, adopt a budget and approve the local program. In addition to the necessary business aspect of the evening, which will be brief, we will have the opportunity to learn more about critical water issues from Dee Dee D'Adamo, State Water Resources Control Board member. The meeting will begin at 6 PM at the home of Marsha Waggoner, 916 Kenilworth Ct., Modesto, with wine and appetizers followed by the speaker at 6:45 PM and the business meeting after the speaker. Please make every effort to attend.

Finally, as this is my last message as President of LWV Stanislaus County, I want to thank all of you for your help and support over the past two years. I am proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to what we will accomplish in the coming year under Seena Rhine's able leadership.

Mary Giventer, Elected President

Smart Voter and MapLight Launch Pilot Partnership

As part of the work we have been doing to deliver the Next Generation of Smart Voter, we are pleased to announce that LWVCEF is partnering with MapLight to enhance the voter outreach we currently achieve through Smart Voter. [MapLight](#) is a nonpartisan research organization whose goal is to reveal money's influence in politics. Most of you are familiar with [MapLight's Voter's Edge Web site](#) which many League speakers access to obtain ballot measure campaign funding information. The League's new collaboration with MapLight is an exciting opportunity to serve more Californians and enhance the quality of nonpartisan information and resources available to voters. Although still a work in progress, our team is working hard to have an initial pilot in place for the upcoming June election. A webinar briefing on the project was offered to Smart Voter County and Local Coordinators in early April and recorded for those not able to attend. In the coming weeks, additional information about the June pilot will be shared through our volunteer leaders and via LWVCEF communications channels. Stay tuned!



**LWV of STANISLAUS
COUNTY OFFICERS**

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DIRECTORS

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Hanna Renning

Action - Local

Stella Beratlis

Finance Drive

Ellen Dunbar

Lunch and Learn

Ruby Hennessey

Membership

Laurie Carley

Nominating Committee

Amy Wolfe, chair

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Voter Editor

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Board Administrator

Lynn Kelso

OFF-BOARD

Membership

Colleen Norby

Voter Service

Marsha Waggoner

Web Master

Open

Lunch and Learn

Joan Goldsmith

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***A Case for a Single-Payer Health System
Lunch and Learn, March 2014***

Dr. C. V. Allen, retired Sutter Gould Medical Group physician and member of Physicians for National Health Program, discussed needs and shortcomings of the current U.S. health care system at the March Lunch and Learn.

Health care coverage brings tradeoffs: access, cost and quality – we don't get all three, Dr. Allen opines. With some 50 million people uninsured, half of our personal bankruptcies stemming from medical debt, the medical outcome is not so great compared with other, mostly western European countries, is the current U.S. system the best in the world? Factoring in access, overhead costs, life expectancy, and infant mortality, the answer is no. Call it average at best.

Most single-payer countries cover their insured at 30-50 percent less cost and with better health outcomes. Key aspects is that these programs tend to have lower administrative costs than in the U.S., provide universal coverage with one system for all, have no employment/ insurance connection, and the public strongly supports these programs. The issues raise the broader question of the function of government: Is it in the common interest to provide health care? According to Dr. Allen, the Affordable Care Act is not going to work as currently structured. It is the end of a process; what went to Congress and what came out are not the same. The public sector was not involved in the process. Medicare, which is a single payer system, is the model that should be adopted and Affordable Care Act abandoned.

Dr. Allen suggests we are not yet to the how do we get an efficient, effective health care system, but rather to recognize we need it. If elected officials hear from constituents that they want a single payer system, it could create a different mindset – Medicare for all! As we all know, with our democratic process, change happens slowly.

Marie Bairey, Secretary

Propositions on the June Ballot

There are two propositions on the June 2014 ballot. Proposition 41, the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act, would authorize \$600 million in new general obligation bonds to fund affordable multifamily housing for low-income veterans.

Proposition 42 would amend the state constitution to require local governments to comply with state public-access laws and to eliminate the requirement that the state reimburse local governments for the costs of such compliance. LWV California favors both of these propositions. You can get more information on the cavote.com web.

LWV Stanislaus County 2014/15 Nominations

Position	2014-2015
OFFICERS	
President	Seena Rhine
Vice President	Mary Giventer
Secretary	Marie Bairey
Treasurer	Mary Giventer
DIRECTORS	
Finance Drive	Michael Fuller
Voter Service	Amy Wolfe
Membership	Carmen Morad
State and Nat'l	Venessa Czopek
Local Action	Stella Beratlis
Voter Editor	Karrie Bullock
Public Relations	Wendy Scott
Board Admin	Lynn Kelso
Voter Service-Off Board	Marsha Waggoner
Membership-Off Board	Colleen Norby
Lunch and Learn-Off Board	Ruby Hennessy
Lunch and Learn-Off Board	Joan Goldsmith
Webmaster	Dick Jacobs
Nominating Chair	
Nominating	Laurie Carley
Nominating	

VOTER SERVICE

Once again Voter Service is busy with forums and voter registration.

Voter Service Forums

Monday, April 28, 2014: Stanislaus District Attorney.
7:00-8:00pm, Modesto City Chambers 10th
Street, Modesto.

Wednesday, April 30, 2014: Stanislaus County
Supervisors, District 3 and 4.
6:00pm-7:30pm, Modesto City Chambers 10th
Street, Modesto.

Voter Registration

Saturday, May 17th: Voter Registration, Stanislaus County
Library, Modesto and Turlock locations 10am-
2pm.

*Please contact Marsha Waggoner or Ellen Meyer if
you can help at any of these dates.

On September 23rd, volunteers from all over the country
will "hit the streets" for National Voter Registration Day.
Our League has signed up as a partner in this voter
registration campaign. So mark your calendar to register
voters and look for more information on this event in
upcoming Voters.

*Ellen Meyer and Marsha Waggoner,
Voter Service*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thursday, April 24th 12:00pm	Lunch & Learn: Ginger Johnson, Assistant Superintendent Modesto City Schools, "Status of Core Curriculum" Jacobs Fine Dining, 2501 McHenry Ave, Modesto. Cost is \$13
Monday, April 28th 7-8pm	Voter Service Forum: Stanislaus District Attorney Modesto City Chambers, 10th Street Modesto
Wednesday, April 30th 6-7pm	Voter Service Forum: Stanislaus County Supervisors, District 3 & 4 Modesto City Chambers, 10th Street Modesto
Saturday, May 17th 10am-2pm	Voter Registration: Turlock and Modesto Libraries *please contact Ellen Meyer or Marsha Waggoner for volunteer hours
Wednesday, May 21st 6pm-Social; 6:45 Speaker; 7:15 Meeting	Annual Meeting: At home of Marsha Waggoner, 916 Kenilworth Ct., Modesto.

LWVSC Proposed 2014-2015 Budget

Column1	Budget12-13	Actual 12-13	Budget 13-14	YTD 13-14	Budget 14-15	Notes:
Total Income	\$12,660	\$13,423	\$12,700	\$10,348	\$12,700	
Dues	\$5,840	\$6,223	\$5,900	\$3,925	\$5,900	\$1200 of 12-13 actual income
Finance Drive	\$3,700	\$4,355	\$4,000	\$4,150	\$4,300	Finance and Ed fund total th
Education Fund	\$3,100	\$2,280	\$2,800	\$1,920	\$2,500	reflects change in distributio
Interest	\$20	\$5	not in budget	\$4		
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$560	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Voter Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$0	
Administrative Expenses						
Equipment	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$250	renamed from office expense
Postage	\$250	\$163	\$250	\$96	\$300	consolidated postage into on
Insurance	\$325	\$232	\$325	\$258	\$325	
Document Storage	\$300	\$373	\$300	\$380	\$450	renamed from rent to be mor
Supplies	\$100	\$88	\$100	\$32	\$150	consolidated supplies into or
Telephone	\$475	\$483	\$475	\$0	\$150	
Voter Newsletter	\$400	\$582	\$450	\$105	\$500	most mailing expenses for ct
Website	\$200	\$160	\$200	\$0	\$200	
Dues Expenses						
State PMP	\$2,243	\$2,254	\$2,365	\$2,047	\$2,400	
National PMP	\$2,925	\$3,038	\$2,955	\$2,790	\$3,000	
Member Expenses						
Action	\$50	\$20	\$50	\$0	\$50	
Board tools	\$100	\$8	\$100	\$0	\$100	
Publications	\$150	\$177	\$150	\$0	\$200	includes directory and annua
Child Care	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100	
Convention	\$1,200	\$871	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500	anticipate spending this year
Finance Drive	\$400	\$255	\$400	\$176	\$650	increased due to need to repr
Supplies	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$0	consolidate into administrati
Postage	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$0	\$0	consolidate into administrati
Organizational membership	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	SCCW membership
Publicity					\$100	new category
Meeting Expenses						
Annual meeting	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	consolidated in administrativ
Lunch and Learn	\$150	\$154	\$150	\$34	\$150	
Co-sponsor meeting	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	consolidated into mtgs/event
Meetings/events	\$350	\$0	\$350	\$156	\$500	includes annual mtg, Holiday
Workshops	\$125	\$0	\$125	\$121	\$250	spent on Kim Klein worksho
Voter Service						
Candidate Forums	\$1,000	\$245	\$1,000	\$185	\$500	
Other voter service	\$250	\$0	\$250	\$184	\$250	Easy Voter reimbursed from
Smart Voter	\$200	\$0	\$200	\$0	\$200	
Miscellaneous						
					\$405	
Total Expenses	12,513	\$9,241	\$12,615		\$12,700	

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Proposed Local Program 2014-15

Housing (Adopted 1975, updated 1982 and 2003)

We recognize that the need for shelter is fundamental, and that a diverse population will desire a wide selection of housing options. Therefore, we:

- A. Support equal opportunity in housing options in Stanislaus County.
- B. Support local measures to increase the supply of a diverse range of housing types to serve a diverse population.
- C. Support local measures to increase the supply of safe and affordable housing for everyone.

Land Use (Adopted 1976, updated 1988 and 2003)

We recognize that land use decisions have an impact on many areas, notably on the quality of life and on the economy; and we recognize that land itself is an irreplaceable resource that needs to be preserved and protected. We support land use planning that:

- A. Protects farmland outside clearly defined urban boundaries to avoid unnecessary conversion of farmlands.
- B. Protects the overall quality of environment (soil, air, and water).
- C. Provides urban development contiguous with existing development where urban services can be provided.
- D. Provides adequate funding for infrastructure needs (transportation, schools, parks, government services and public utilities.)

Land use planning should involve cooperation between and among the various local regional government bodies.

Adult Criminal Justice (Adopted 1980, 1982 and 1984)

We support:

- A. The funding in Stanislaus County of a wide range of alternatives to incarceration for all but the physically dangerous offender.
- B. Efforts to further the expansion of rehabilitative programs and facilities for persons convicted of drug and alcohol abuse.
- C. A greater allocation of funds within the criminal justice budget for crime prevention, crime detection and rehabilitation

Child Abuse and Neglect (Adopted 1985, updated 1987)

- A. We recognize child abuse as a societal problem; therefore, we support: Legislation, which addresses the jurisdictional, organizational and procedural problems in the prosecution of child abuse cases.
- B. Modification of the courtroom process to accommodate child victims.
- C. Consistent reporting and recording of child abuse and neglect cases and development of comprehensive statistics.
- D. Broad-based prevention programs that are accessible to all family members and take into consideration the ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of those being served.
- E. Efforts of public and private agencies to continually focus public attention on the problems of child abuse and neglect.

Local Library Finance (Adopted 1994, updated 1997 and 2003)

We support long-term, consistent funding of the Stanislaus County Free Library

- A. We strongly support a dedicated source of funds which could be used only for the Library
- B. Basic library services should remain free and become more accessible to all Stanislaus County residents in a nondiscriminatory manner.
- C. We support a long-range goal of maintaining a library system of excellence.

Gang Violence (Adopted 2007)

In order to address the problem of criminal gang activity within our community, we support the development of culturally diverse intervention and enrichment programs at the elementary school level and beyond.

- A. Such programs may include **family support**, recreational, athletic, academic, creative and/or social activities.
- B. We encourage allocation of resources to fund these programs through public, private and/or non-profit organizations.

*** At the program planning meeting the family support phrase was added to the position. We will be voting to accept this change.**

Municipal Government (Adopted 2008)

To assure that municipal government is open, accountable, and responsive to residents and to promote full participation by citizens, we support:

- A system that balances neighborhood needs with citywide perspective and
- Encourages and offers opportunity for increased voter and candidate participation

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
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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.