



The Voter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

July/August 2019 Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California VOL. 66, NO. 2, 3

President's Message

As I watched the documentary series on PBS on the challenges of putting a man on the moon this past week of July 8, I marveled at the ability of these brave men to never give up and of the men and women who were in the background doing so much to aid the project in an unheralded way and yet we never really heard about them.

So it is with many organizations — and LWVSC is no exception. Those in the background are always the backbone of an organization, and without their work that organization could not accomplish all that it does. Thank you to all of you for your work behind the scenes. These next 12 months will take all of us doing our small part to make democracy work in our community. Thank you to each of you also for your support and your willingness to volunteer for a job no matter how big or small.

Together we can make a difference for the community in which we live.

Marsha

**Where in the World? Geography Education in Modesto and California
Lunch and Learn • June 27, 2019
Janeen Zambo, Ed.D., Educational Leadership
Coordinator 7-12 Social Sciences, Modesto City Schools**

Dr. Zambo's presentation highlighted the critical link between state mandated educational standards and how we build voters in our communities. She believes that first-rate Social Science instruction is vital to the survival of the democratic society in which we live. With the development and implementation of the 2016 California History/Social Science Framework we are in the midst of the opportunity to redesign instruction to strengthen our already robust curricular guidelines within Modesto City Schools and to meet the needs of all students in attaining critical thinking routines and historical knowledge to support civic responsibility. She strongly believes that the only way to improve student literacy development is through the inclusion of social sciences at every grade level and strengthening of literacy skills in every social science

course. The best way to reinforce the integration social science disciplines and skills is through coordinated, practical professional development for new and veteran instructors.

She reminded us that just because material is taught at one grade level doesn't mean that students have retained it at the next grade level. She shared educational attainment levels for our neighborhoods and instructional strategies that would help students become more aware and involved.

In order to build future voters, we should be emphasizing local issues, practicing active citizenship and addressing current events at every grade level.

Laurie Carley

Turlock Mayor Speaks at July 23 Lunch and Learn

Amy Bublak was elected in November 2018 to a four-year term as the 23rd Mayor of Turlock. City residents made history by electing Turlock's first retired police officer and female as their mayor.

Mayor Bublak spoke candidly about the challenges Turlock is facing, starting with the City Council members' having only two years' experience and in need of training. She stressed they are NOT going to deficit spend and that they must be transparent about their decisions. The primary goal has been to develop a plan to increase revenue which has led to the majority voting for cannabis, which she opposes, and to decrease spending. Measures being taken for savings include not filling vacancies (21 positions), and every department taking a "hit." Living paycheck to paycheck with a \$2.4 million reserve describes Turlock's current financial situation. The majority of the expenditures relate to employee salaries and benefits.

She also addressed some of the other challenges such as the road construction issues. She explained why some streets are redone every seven years, which is directly related to paying more property taxes: older streets do not have this assessment. Water also remains an issue, and she believes one direct pipe from Modesto to Turlock would be the cheapest solution. Ceres and Turlock are currently on their own. As mayor, she is developing relationships with the other nine mayors and CSUS administration, and is attending conferences at her own expense to learn other ways to increase revenue

She firmly believes economic development is the solution to the money woes rather than a new tax, and she has given this message to the Planning Commission. Marketing Mondays is her new strategy to highlight businesses in Turlock; it is viewed on social media with a message from the mayor

Turlock is the second largest city in the county and has the second largest homeless population. The mayor is visiting the 52 churches in Turlock, listening to and encouraging her constituents to help solve the issue. During the week, Helping Hands picks up trash and re-

ceives lunch. Turlock is also a member of the Stanislaus Housing Alliance. She has asked her colleagues to hold ad hoc meetings to help find solutions to this issue.

It was evident Mayor Bublak cares deeply about Turlock.

Pat Portwood

Visit our website: <http://www.lwvstanislaus.org/join.html>.

June/July Board Highlights

Our June and July Board meetings focused on the transition of Board members and planning for the coming year. Here are a few highlights:

- Treasurer Julie Saugstad highlighted several budget line items including income. We are over budget in income due to both a great finance drive and the addition of new members. We are well under budget expenses because we did not send a delegate to convention. Voter Service expenses exceeded what we had budgeted due to a very active season, but the total is well within reason. All indications are that we are within all our budget expectations and that we are financially sound.
- Rose Bowl Parade 2020 Float (www.pasadenacelebrates2020.org): The National Women's History Alliance is sponsoring a float in the 2020 Rose Bowl Parade to honor the passage of the 19th Amendment and women gaining the right to vote. LWV Stanislaus County voted to support this organization with a \$100.00 donation. Members can find further information and donate at the above address.
- The Board continues to solicit ideas on how we can locally celebrate the anniversary and encourages members to contact Marsha Waggoner if they have interest in the committee and/or ideas.
- Marie Bairey will be the Board member serving on the 2020 nominating committee.
- The 2020 Voter Service season is rapidly approaching. Laurie Carley and Judy Kropp will be looking for volunteers in all areas. Please contact either one to get involved. This is a great way for new members to get involved. Marie Bairey and George Britton will be providing moderator training in January.

Report from LWV California 2019 Convention

Delegates to the 2019 LWVC Convention in June voted to retain current positions. Additions that were adopted include the two measures that we reviewed at our Program Planning meeting in February. These are Adult Criminal Justice and replacement of the Electoral Process position. The latter removed the preferred election method from Instant Runoff to a set of

principles that promote inclusivity and accountability, giving jurisdictions flexibility in defining their election procedures.

In addition to the recommended positions, the delegates approved an update to the K–12 Education position proposed by Fresno League, after an excellent study, to include charter schools' accountability.

The delegates also adopted the following Issues for Education and Advocacy for 2019–2020:

- Making Democracy work in California
- Schools and Communities First Campaign
- Climate Change
- Housing and Homelessness
- Criminal Justice Reform

For details of the LWVC positions go to LWVC.org, click on “Our Work” and scroll to Positions.

Marie Bairey



Officers

Marsha Waggoner
President

Marie Bairey
Vice President

Laurie Carley
Secretary

Julie Saugstad
Ellen Meyer
Treasurer

Directors

Laurie Carley
Judy Knopp
Voter Service

Colleen Norby
Mary Ann Reynolds
Membership

Michael Fuller
Editor, The Voter

Hanna Renning
Pat Portwood
Lunch & Learn

Alene Griffin
Public Relations

Seena Rhine
Action

Wendy Scott
Finance Drive

Others

Stella Beratlis
Webmaster

George Britton, chair
Stella Beratlis
Marie Bairey
Nominating Committee

On the Calendar

August 14, 2019, 6:30 PM
LVWSC Board Meeting
Waggoner Residence
(Call for directions.)

Lunch and Learn for August

Thursday, August 29, 2019, 12 noon, at Ridgway's Restaurant and Lounge, Century Center, 2401 E. Orangeburg, Modesto

Jim Rokaitis, retired Modesto police officer/detective and currently prevention consultant at Stanislaus Behavioral Health, will speak about the "Effects of marijuana on the adolescent brain." Mr. Rokaitis will answer questions from the audience. The public is invited to this free event. Lunch (chef's choice or vegetarian) is available at \$16.00. Reservations are not required. For more information, call the League at 209-324-3375.

Meet Member Alene Griffin

Alene grew up in Southern California. Her education and career were in the area of foods and nutrition with a specialty in gerontology. One of her jobs was overseeing senior nutrition programs in Orange County. Her husband, Scott, has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry and is retired from industry.

In 2016, Alene and Scott moved to Modesto where their daughters and families had settled. One daughter did her medical residency with the UC Davis family practice program in Modesto and stayed. Her younger daughter is a licensed clinical social worker with the VA. The Griffins have four grandchildren.

For fun, Alene likes to read, garden, travel and spend time with her family.

Alene has always been interested in voting issues. She often checked LWV positions before voting on ballot measures. When she came to Modesto, she connected with League through Lunch and Learn. Before long she was a member and was recruited to join our Board. She currently serves as the Public Relations Director.

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 95352-3669