



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

March 2014

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

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## *President's Message*

We are not far into 2014 and it has already been a busy year for our League. We have expressed our view on the land use portion of the amendment to Modesto's General Plan, advocating for the preservation of the prime farmland west of Highway 99. Although the Modesto City Council adopted a compromise plan that does not fully address our concerns, the proposed plan will now undergo an Environmental Impact Review (EIR). We will continue to monitor this issue in the coming months.

Thank you to Michael Fuller, Marie Bairey, Ellen Dunbar, Carmen Morad and Ruby Hennessey for assisting with the Associated Student election at CSU Stanislaus. On February 19<sup>th</sup> we set up a voter registration table at the Student Activity Awareness Day, also at CSU Stanislaus. Plans are underway for the Legislative Interview with State Sen. Anthony Cannella, which we will be undertaking with the Merced League. Thank you to Ellen Dunbar and Hanna Renning for working on this.

Thank you to Seena Rhine for hosting and leading our program planning meeting, and thank you to everyone who attended and provided their thoughtful input. It always impresses me how well thought out and how well worded our positions are.

Congratulations to Carmen Morad, who has been named one of the 2014 Outstanding Women by the Stanislaus County Commission of Women. The dinner honoring these women is March 15. If you would like to attend and sit at the League of Women Voters table please contact Mary Giventer.

Finally, I am very grateful that thanks to a grant from LWV California we are able to offer at no cost the "Non-profits Talking Taxes" Workshop with Kim Klein on March 18. Kim is internationally recognized for her work as a fund raiser and consultant for non-profit groups, especially low budget groups that work for social justice. She is the author of five books, including her most recent, *Reliable Fundraising in Unreliable Times*. I have heard Kim speak at the LWV California convention, and she is humorous and enthusiastic with great insights and knowledge. Many of us volunteer for more than one organization. This is a great opportunity to gain information that will benefit all the organizations we support.

*Mary Giventer, Elected President*

## **Adopt-a-Poll**

When County Clerk/Recorder Lee Lundrigan spoke to League members at the January Lunch and Learn, she told us about the Adopt-a-Poll program. Here's how it works. Rather than individuals working at an election polling place, a group can "adopt" that poll and provide workers for the day. Volunteer poll workers would have to complete the training, and a bilingual Spanish-speaker is required for each poll. Poll workers could work in shifts, instead of the usual 14 hour day, so long as the requisite number of poll workers is there. In exchange, the stipend paid to individual poll workers (usually about \$500 per poll) is then paid to the adopting group.

What an opportunity for League, for visibility and to be an integral part of the democratic process! If League were to adopt a poll, 8 – 12 volunteers would be needed on Election Day, depending on the length of the shifts. Is there interest among League members to put together a team to adopt a poll?????

Call Marie Bairey (523-0663 or [gbandmb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gbandmb@sbcglobal.net))

*Thank you to all of the members and friends of the League of Women Voters who have contributed to our finance drive. Without these contributions, we would be unable to continue the active program we have this year.*

*If you have not yet returned the envelope this is a reminder to do so. If you have lost the envelope call 209-525-9343 and we will send you another.*

*Ellen Dunbar, Finance Drive Committee*

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***State Action: PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE***

**State**—The League of Women Voters of California has joined in a lawsuit filed on February 4, 2014, by the ACLU of California and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area in Alameda County Superior Court on behalf of three persons being deprived of their right to vote by an action of the California Secretary of State.

After passage of the Criminal Justice Realignment Act, the Secretary of State in December 2011 sent a directive to local elections officials saying that all persons on post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision should be barred from voting. Even those convicted of low-level, non-violent, non-serious crimes would be included. This directive applies to approximately 60,000 persons otherwise eligible to vote. People of color are disproportionately affected.

The lawsuit, also supported by the prisoner rights organization All of Us or None, contends that under provisions of Proposition 10, passed by California voters in 1974, only those in state prison or on parole are ineligible to vote.

“Voting should be part of a successful reintegration into one’s community, but the Secretary of State’s memo takes us in the wrong direction,” said Jennifer Waggoner, President of the League of Women Voters of California. “People of color are being disenfranchised and thousands of voters and county officials are being confused about their voting rights. The strength of our democracy comes from allowing everyone to fulfill their civic responsibility to vote.”

***Hanna Renning, State and National Action***

**WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH EVENT--HONORING LOCAL WOMEN  
LEADERS**

**SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 6:30-8:00 P.M.**

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, STANISLAUS**

**MARY STUART ROGERS GATEWAY BUILDING 130C**

**Free parking in Parking Lot 11**

Solange Altman will be the keynote speaker at this event, co-sponsored by the Turlock/Modesto Branch of AAUW and the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County. A respected lawyer specializing in immigration law, she has served the community in many ways, among them by providing pro bono legal services to immigrants. She recently organized a coalition of community non-profits, church groups and more than 150 volunteers to form the Coalition for Dream Act Deferred (DAD) of Stanislaus County. To date DAD has helped more than 600 local youth apply for Deferred Action, which, when granted, will provide them protection from deportation and the ability to work legally.

Additional guests of honor, who have shown leadership locally in a variety of fields, will also be recognized at the event and will be listed in next month’s VOTER. The event is free and open to the public. College and high school students are especially invited to attend and be inspired by women role models in their communities.

For further information please call Pat Portwood (634-3592) or Hanna Renning (632-4692).

***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!***

**KATHLEEN HARMS LYNN**

**Free Workshop with Kim Klein**  
**Tuesday, March 18, 10 AM**  
**CSU Stanislaus Event Center**

We all know the difficulties facing non-profit groups across the board. Raising money is becoming more difficult, volunteers are being stretched to the limit, and at the same time both the cost of business and the need for services is increasing. At all levels, from school boards and city councils to state legislatures and Congress, governmental decisions on the allocation of funds impacts the ability of non-profits to achieve their goals. Is there a way we can have a real say in their decisions? Is there a way we can all do better?

Kim Klein believes there is! She has wide experience in all aspects of fundraising and is currently working with the Building Movement Project to develop collaborative efforts among non-profit groups. Whether you work for a homeless shelter or an arts group, with at risk children or the elderly, Kim believes that a concerted effort across a broad spectrum of non-profit groups is needed to provide a voice for the common good. In this workshop she will address the California budget process and tax structure and give us the information and tools we need to develop our collective strength. She believes we all do better when we all do better.

This is a two-part workshop. In the morning from 10 AM to 12 noon Kim will present information needed by those in the non-profit sector to understand and address basic public budget issues. Anyone interested is invited to attend. In the afternoon, from 1 PM to 3 PM she will work on a more personal, in depth level with those most active in their organizations. The afternoon session is limited to 25 people. You must attend the morning session to attend the afternoon session. Lunch will be provided for those staying for the afternoon. The entire workshop day is free. Please reserve a spot by e-mail: [mgiventer@pacbell.net](mailto:mgiventer@pacbell.net), or by phone, 632-8996, and indicate if you will be attending morning only or all day.

This workshop is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County in partnership with the Department of Politics and Public Administration at CSU Stanislaus and the Turlock/Modesto Branch of the American Association of University Women. We are able to offer this workshop free of charge thanks to a grant from League of Women Voters California.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
[\(Check Website for Updates\)](#)

<b>Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup></b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>Board meeting, Fuzio's Bistro, Modesto (located in conference room). 1020 10<sup>th</sup> Street (Modesto Center Plaza, across from Brenden Theatres; parking on surrounding streets or parking garage).</b>
<b>Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup></b> <b>6:00pm</b>	<b>2014 Outstanding Women of Stanislaus Stanislaus County Commission of Women. RSVP with M. Giventer</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 18</b> <b>10:00am</b>	<b>Kim Klein Workshop "Non-Profits Talking Taxes" Cal State University Stanislaus</b>
<b>Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lunch &amp; Learn: Dr. C.V. Allen "Single Payer Health Care System" Jacobs Fine Dining, 2501 McHenry Ave, Modesto. Cost is \$13</b>
<b>Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup></b> <b>6:30pm-8:00pm</b>	<b>AAUW Event Honoring Women's History Month, speaker Solange Altman CSUS Mary Stuart Rogers Building 130C. RSVP</b>
<b>Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup></b> <b>10:00am-4pm</b>	<b>Earth Day, booth in Graceda Park, Modesto</b>

**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.**