



The Voter

POLL WORKING FOR \$\$\$: A CALL TO LEAGUE MEMBERS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
League Board of Directors	2
UOP Student Volunteers	2
Single Payer Update	3
Blueprint for the Valley	4
SJ County General Plan	5
LWVUS/LWVC Highlights	6
In Memoriam: Fran Abbott	7
Calendar	8

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A recent review of our League finances revealed a need to boost our fundraising. As you probably remember, after we send in our PMP (per member payment) to LWVUS and LWVC, we have about \$2.50/member for local programs and services. Not enough!

So — The LWVSJC Board is looking for new ways to raise funds for League activities, including our many voter services. One suggestion could bring in money to the League while serving our community in a vital function close to the League's heart: working at the polls on election day.

I know from personal experience, being a poll worker can be interesting



and rewarding.

Poll workers make \$130 for working on Election Day - plus \$35 for a mandatory 2 or 3 hour training session beforehand. We are challenging League members to serve as Election Day workers and then donate \$85 (just over half of their salary) to the League.

The San Joaquin County Registrar of Voters is always looking for capable and conscientious poll

workers. We will be providing a needed service while helping to fill the League's coffers.

Election Day is June 3rd. Several Board members have already volunteered to work at the polls for the League. How about you?

If you have questions or are willing to be a poll worker for the League, contact me at 823-3381 or blckbrd98@aol.com. I will coordinate our volunteer effort with the Registrar.

Please let me know by Friday, April 4th if you will volunteer with fellow League members on this project.

- Cate White



88 Years!



Happy Birthday, LWV!

President's Message — Ann Pentecost

Spring will be here in no time. It will be another busy time of the year for the League. The second election of the year is on the horizon and we are getting ready for Candidate Forums. We will be partnering again with Comcast, the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce and The Record to present forums featuring the Stockton Mayor's race and the San Joaquin Board of Supervisors in Districts 1, 3 and 5. The forums are set for Wednesday, April 30th. If any League member has questions to suggest for any of these races—or issues that you would like the League to raise in the forums—email me (Pann371@aol.com) or Daphne Shaw (dshaw1@sbcglobal.net), our forum coordinator.

The June election will also have another round of ballot propositions to consider. We know we will be asked to present Pros and Cons to groups wanting information on these measures. This has been one of the League's most popular ser-

vices, so if you'd like to join the Speakers Bureau as a presenter, contact Dee Matteucci (fmatooch@sbcglobal.net).

The budget committee recently took stock of our financial position. It's not strong. We hope you will volunteer for one of our fundraising staples, the Asparagus Festival—April 25, 26 and 27.

Cate White suggested another way for members to help the League make it's budget this year—working the polls for the primary election. (See the article on Page 1.) Working the polls is something I have thought of doing and Cate's suggestion gave me the push to call the Registrar of Voters to get on their list. They do have a need for election workers. I hope some of you will be able to join Cate and me at the polls in June.

Pacific Students Assisting with League Projects

Students from the University of the Pacific have volunteered their community service time to work with the League on several projects this semester. The students are members of Professor Marcia Hernandez' "Sex and Gender" class and will be helping with projects ranging from candidates' forums to Earth Day to interviews with League members about their 'personal civic involvement.' This last project is of special interest to both the students and the League.

League member interviews will give students a glimpse into local civic participation over the years and will give our



League history, which students are also helping to assemble, some personal insights into the activities that League members have supported over the last several dec-

ades.

Students have varied backgrounds and interests:

- *Katherine Lipeles*: a senior at Pacific. Her major is Psychology and she participates in intramural sports on campus.

(Continued on page 4)

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2006-2007

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463-4919 bt451@pacbell.net

Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Sylvia Kothe, Cate White

Single Payer: It's Time to Have Hope

By Sara Rogers, Health Consultant

"Politically feasible" is just another way of saying that folks are scared to stand up to insurance companies. I don't accept that. It's time to take a stand for what we really want. It's time to have hope.

- Senator Sheila Kuehl

SB 840 is alive and well in the Assembly Appropriations committee, much further along in the legislative process than it was in 2006, just before its historical passage out of both houses of the legislature and onto the Governor's desk. Legislative deadlines for passage out of fiscal committees aren't until August 15th and, between now and then, grassroots organizing and education efforts are really taking off. Every day, Senator Kuehl and her staff receive requests for presentations regarding SB 840, the truly universal healthcare bill.

On Sunday, January 27th and Monday, January 28th, the American Medical Students' Association held their hugely successful third annual rally and lobby day in Sacramento, which included a day long training that drew nearly 400 med students from all over the state. The fact that so many overworked medical students spent an entire weekend, even taking a rare day off from school, to advocate for single payer health care shows an unparalleled level of dedication and passion. AMSA students give every single payer supporter hope and inspiration as they push for passage of the bill.

Single payer advocates are also busy preparing for a historical strategy summit taking place in Los Angeles later this month that will bring together representatives from the broad coalition of organizations dedicated to bringing single payer to California. The summit demonstrates the unprecedented development of the organized and operational single payer movement necessary to bring universal health care to California. It's the kind of grassroots move-

ment that has been largely absent in the history of health reform, and it's just one example of the changing landscape of health care politics.

On that note, my "leisure" reading lately is a book called, *One Nation Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance*. It chronicles the 20th century's long line of failed attempts at achieving national health insurance. There's an unmistakable pattern to each major attempt, in that there seems have been an attempt once every decade and, each time national health insurance is within our grasp, it is defeated with a capitulatory "compromise".

I couldn't help but notice that, historically, the compromises are forged by the exact same powerful interests every time, working like scavengers randomly picking through the ideas of national health insurance, with little consideration given to whether any "reform" was actually going to improve the health care system for the average American.

In fact, a century of such "health care reform" has brought our health care system to the point where it is deeply fragmented, unimaginably costly and the least effective system in the entire developed world at delivering either health or care. I can't help but wonder where we might have been in terms of universal health care had proponents not forfeited their goal quite so fast.

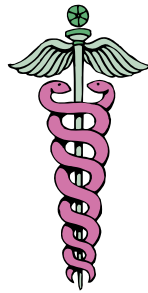
Most striking: The grassroots role that physicians repeatedly played in defeating national health insurance. The American Medical Association functioned as an exceptionally effective grassroots movement that was embedded in every community across the nation. They organized education and lobbying campaigns against universal health care, labeling their efforts as "protecting the

public health". They hired PR consultants who admitted that they were attempting to label national health insurance as "socialized medicine" for the simple reason that Americans were opposed to socialism.

The litmus test for "politically feasible" has historically been largely defined by where doctors, insurers, business and labor stood on the issue. Throughout the last century, there was no grassroots group as singularly focused on the passage of single payer health care as the physicians and insurers were opposed to it. That's changed considerably, especially in California, as the 500 or so organizations that support SB 840 continue their evolution into an effective coalition that works tirelessly (and largely under the radar of many in Sacramento) to educate and organize Californians on universal health care.

More importantly, groups that traditionally oppose single payer, like physicians, are no longer unified against it. The American College of Physicians made history last year in their endorsement of single payer and the California Medical Association includes a large and growing minority of members that strongly support single payer. The American Medical Students Association has quickly risen to become one of the most passionate and inspired groups advocating for passage of SB 840. Another powerful provider group, the California Nurses Association has gone "all in" for single payer and is working in much the same way for single payer as the American Medical Association once worked to oppose it. Their dedication unites with that of organizations like Health Care for All - California, school employees, the League of Women Voters

(Continued on page 4)



Blueprint for the Valley

By Jane Wagner-Tyack, LWVSJC Board and Environment Committee

San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) has announced completion of phase one of the San Joaquin County Blueprint Process, the first step in the local contribution to San Joaquin Valley-wide planning for land use, transportation, housing, air quality, and resource use to the year 2050.



the Blueprint Workshop outcomes.

(League members Esther Vasquez and Jane Wagner-Tyack, who have been following the Blueprint process, have concerns about the size and inclusiveness of the process. They note that the workshops were not well-advertised and that considerably fewer than half of one percent of county residents had an opportunity to provide input.)

The Phase One Report documents input received last spring from 500 residents of communities around the county. Participants in community workshops discussed their vision for what the region should look like in the future.

Additional input was received through a Blueprint Public Opinion Poll of 500 county residents conducted in September 2007 by Godbe Research. SJCOG reports that the results of this poll were statistically relevant and consistent with

In December 2007 the SJCOG Board of Directors approved a Blueprint Guiding Document. According to the SJCOG website, "The document represents the combined efforts of the Blueprint Leadership Group, Blueprint Planners Roundtable, the Citizens Advisory Committee, and SJCOG staff. It will be used to develop alternative growth scenarios for the region. These scenarios will serve as the basis for the next round of town hall meetings and community outreach

scheduled for spring 2008."

LWVSJC Environmental Committee members attending a recent Citizens Advisory Committee meeting had an opportunity to see a presentation on some of the computer-generated alternative growth scenarios. It will be worth watching for the next round of community outreach meetings to see and evaluate these scenarios.

This effort is part of the larger San Joaquin County Regional Blueprint Program, a joint initiative of the Councils of Governments representing each of the region's eight counties, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and the Great Valley Center. SJCOG is the local lead agency.



Pacific Student Volunteers

(Continued from page 2)

- **Jamie McKenna-Hofioni:** a senior majoring in Psychology who will pursue a graduate degree in Special Ed.
- **Tawny Macedo:** a Sociology major with a minor in Business Administration currently in her second year at Pacific. She is a Pacific Amba-

sador and an officer in the International Club at Pacific.

- **Samantha Spangler:** a Junior pre-Pharmacy major pursuing a Gender Studies minor. She is involved in Alpha Phi and is the Director of Scholarship for Pacific's Iota Gamma chapter.



- **Rouchann "Rocci" Jackson:** a sophomore majoring in Psychology and Sociology. Rocci is involved with the Key Club, works part time and has an internship working with patients with schizophrenia and other mental con-

(Continued on page 7)

Hope for Health Care—continued

(Continued from page 3)

ers, retired teachers, and others who are deeply embedded in communities across the state.

The lesson that advocates of single payer should take from history is to observe how the AMA was able to defeat na-

tional health insurance through steady community education and organizing. This is why single payer has the best shot, politically, as well as on a policy basis, for winning passage. Only single-payer boasts the kind of unified and dedicated grassroots movement for something that



makes large reform possible.

In the midst of an unprecedented and inspiring presidential primary, the theme for 2008 is unmistakable - it's time to have hope.

San Joaquin County To Begin General Plan Update

San Joaquin County Supervisor Chair Ken Vogel and County Community Service Director Carrie Sullivan spoke at the February meeting of the Campaign for Common Ground, outlining the County’s process and priorities in their upcoming General Plan Update.

Introducing the presentation, Supervisor Vogel said his priorities were to “minimize” the loss of prime ag land and to “preserve agriculturalists” - that is, to help make farming economically feasible so that farmers will keep farming. This is part of his definition of “sustainable agriculture.”



Vogel quoted statistics from the San Joaquin Council of Governments that said that there are **110,000** commutes **a day** outside San Joaquin County. Among other things, this leads to loss of sales tax and an increase in gridlock and pollution. Vogel is also concerned that “parents need to be home for their children.”

The county needs a tax base, he continued, to meet our infrastructure needs: roads, streets and bridges. Commercial and industrial parks need to be part of the economic picture.

If you don’t want to be in a continual cycle of development, Vogel stresses the need to PLAN - “and stick with the Plan.”

The County is at the start of their update process. Vogel pledged to “listen to everyone and respect their views.” He acknowledged that there may not always be agreement, but there should always be respect.

Current Situation

The County’s General Plan was adopted in July 1992 and goes til 2010. The plan has what Carrie Sullivan described as

“visionary policies” for the preservation of a land and where and under what circumstances land can be developed.

The County is in the process of hiring a consultant as an “adjunct to staff”. They anticipate a 3-5 year process.

Year One

There will be a minimum of 39 community meetings. There will be meetings with ‘stakeholders’. The County will form distinct committees to discuss specific issues. There will be workshops for input held in every community. The County

will reach out to the public via their Web site and newsletter, as well as through public meetings. Their motto will be “Be Involved! Stay involved!”

Two exceptions to the General Plan Update were noted: 1) there will be a separate consultant for the transportation and circulation elements of the General Plan) and 2) SJ COG is working on an update of the Airport Land Use Plan.

Sullivan defined areas within the county and their ability to grow—or not:

- *Rural communities* (like Clements) do not have full public services (water, sewer, drainage, for example) so they can only grow via infill
- *Urban communities* (like Lockeford) that have full public services—development there is possible
- *Agricultural areas*: there is limited commercial opportunity there and those opportunities must be related to agriculture (e.g., feed stores, farm equipment, etc.)



- Services must be provided by an existing urban purveyor, i.e., cities.

Q&A

There were several questions about an ‘agriculture belt’ between Lodi and Stockton, Lodi’s ‘ranchette’ proposal, ‘antiquated subdivisions’ and their development potential, and the County’s “AL 5/AL10” designations (for minimum acreage lots).

- Agriculture Belt: original discussions (from at least 15 years ago) about a ‘green belt’ between Stockton and Lodi have ‘evolved’ into a discussion of an “agriculture belt” which has moved from 8 Mile Road or Harney Lane north to Armstrong Road—one half mile north and south of this ‘corridor.’ Lodi City Council

is proposing the Ag 40 zoning (minimum 40 acre parcels) be allowed to subdivide into 5-acre parcels that could accommodate a home (“ranchette”). Supervisor Vogel saw this as a way to designate an area “without plans to develop.” CCG’s Eric Parfrey thought the plan

“growth-inducing.” The debate continues.

- The County assured the group that ‘antiquated subdivisions’ were not a threat to uncontrolled growth since many were ‘land locked’ and unless they have frontage on a publicly maintained road, they must go through the CEQA process and other procedures that would discourage growth.

Focus on LWVUS and LWVC

LWVUS

The League of Women Voters Education Fund's (LWVEF) **Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project** has been created to help bolster the League's capacity for continuing and expanding its critical state-based advocacy in order to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly underserved populations.

The League is working to:

- *Oppose ID and documentary proof of citizenship*

What is wrong with having to show an ID? Doesn't everybody have one?

Not everybody has ID that meets the requirements of some states.

Indeed, ID requirements disproportionately affect the elderly, young people, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and the poor.

- *Improve administration of statewide voter database systems*

Each state has an official statewide computerized voter registration database list of registered voters: if you are not on the list, you cannot vote. Proper management of these databases is essential to ensuring that all eligible voters are allowed to cast their ballots.

- *Guard against undue restrictions on voter registration*

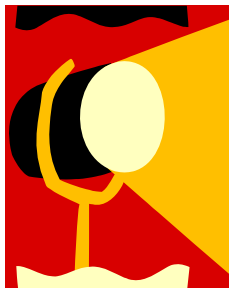
States impose a variety of restrictions on voter registration (e.g., limits on the number of voter registration forms available to organizations or short submission periods to return completed voter registration cards). Election officials should encourage people to register others to vote, not deter them.

- *Improve polling place management*

Polling place management is central to

the election process. Polling place organization should focus on such issues as:

- ◇ The flow of voters through the process
- ◇ The number and type of machines needed
- ◇ The number and assignments of poll workers and supervisors
- ◇ Back-up systems in case of problems (ballots, workers, etc.).



- *Improve poll worker training and strengthening poll workers*

Poll workers are an integral part of ensuring all voters' votes are being counted. It is imperative that states have an adequate number of workers at the polls that are

well trained and paid for their efforts. There should be easy access to information on becoming a poll worker. There should be adequate training for all Election Day workers—with flexible training times, comprehensive training that would educate poll workers on how to provide assistance to voters without compromising the secrecy of the ballot and troubleshooting common problems. Poll workers must be trained to:

- ◇ Ensure the physical security of the voting system
- ◇ Start and end the voting process correctly
- ◇ Assist voters who may have difficulty voting and to protect the voter's privacy
- ◇ Understand the security vulnerabilities in order to effectively guard against security breaches
- ◇ Understands the purpose of the optical scanner's error notification features so they can explain it to voters
- ◇ Know how to close down the poll properly and document the vote tallies

LWVC

LWVC POSITIONS ON JUNE 2008 BALLOT MEASURES

The June 3, 2008 ballot features two propositions on the subject of eminent domain. The first, **Proposition 98**, The California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act, is similar to Proposition 90, which the LWVC opposed on the November 2006 ballot. However, it goes much farther in limiting the ability of public agencies to acquire land to provide water resources, to regulate land use, to protect natural resources, and even to continue rent control laws. The League **OPPOSES** Proposition 98, and has signed the ballot argument against the measure.

The second, **Proposition 99**, The Homeowners Protection Act, simply addresses a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision by clarifying that single-family occupied properties may not be condemned for transfer to other private parties. It reinforces the right of local governments and others to regulate land use and to acquire property for valid government purposes. The League **SUPPORTS** Proposition 99, and signed the ballot argument in favor of the measure.

LWVC AND REDISTRICTING

LWVC is supporting the **California Voters FIRST redistricting initiative** and will participate in signature gathering and the campaign to pass it in November 2008. This reform will enable voters to choose their legislators and eliminate the conflict of interest that occurs when legislators draw the lines and choose their constituents. Watch for your initiative petition packet in the mail!

Of Interest to Members

(Continued from page 4)

ditions. She's active in intramural sports and is a competitive boxer.

• All these students will be involved with interviewing League members.

- **Analie Hintz:** a junior majoring in Psychology with a minor in International Studies. She is president of the Feminist Club and treasurer of OASIS (Open Assembly for the School of International Studies).
- **Anne Carter:** a junior in the School of International Studies/International Relations program. Anne transferred to Pacific last year from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Both students will be working on compiling the League's history as well as doing interviews with League members.

- **Steven Farias:** the captain of the Pacific Speech and Debate Team as well as the Scholarship Chair of the on-campus fraternity Delta Upsilon. Steven likes to play sports, watch movies and hang out with fraternity brothers.
- **Emily Sheldon** is also a member of the Pacific Debate Team.

Both students will be assisting with the Candidate Forums and Pros & Cons.

Students Mary Buckley, Taryn La Vallee and Brianna Thompson will also be helping with League interviews and/or Earth Day.

The League is fortunate to have the interest and assistance of these young people. We thank each of them—and give a special thanks to Professor Hernandez for suggesting the League to her students. Marcia is a member of the League who values the experience that involvement in one's community can have for students and community alike.



In Memoriam

Fran Abbott
(1940–2008)

The League mourns the passing of Fran Abbott, long time League member and Past League President.

Fran is remembered as a woman committed to discovery, advocacy and teaching. She lived her life enthusiastically and to its fullest prior to experiencing a short period of illness that preceded her death on March 4, 2008. She had been traveling abroad in January and was even brainstorming a book she wanted to write up until her final days. She died peacefully and surrounded by love.

Fran was a visionary and change-maker that motivated others with her playful and passionate spirit. She chose to see the infinite possibility for good in all people, her community and the world.

Her lifetime of volunteer and professional work reflected her commitment to strengthening her community through building the capacity of youth and the health of the environment.

Fran was President of LWVSJC from 1973–1975. Dee Matteucci recounted that she and Fran were part of a ski group that began in the early 70's. Many of the ski group were League members – and several became president. "Fran was a motivation for me," said Dee. "She was enthusiastic and encouraging and had a 'you can do it' attitude." Fran was an advocate and educator on water and environmental issues. She inspired League members to join the Dockwalkers program aimed at educating boaters to clean and safe boating that would protect the Delta.

Fran was a woman of boundless energy and enthusiasm. She will be missed.

A celebration of Fran's life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 29th, at Brookside Farm, 3122 Brookside Road, Stockton. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider a contribution to an organization that serves youth in your community.



League of Women Voters
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CALENDAR

Earth Day: April 20, 2008—Victory Park, 11:00-5:00

Asparagus Festival: April 25, 26, 27, 2008—Weber Point

Candidate Forums telecast by Comcast: April 30, 2008, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING: June 19, 2008—6:00 p.m. **SAVE THE DATE!** Details in future Voters.

LWVC Leadership Council is scheduled for May 16-18, 2008 in Sacramento.

LWVUS Convention: June 13-17, 2008, Portland, Oregon

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings will be held at Hospice of San Joaquin.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan 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.