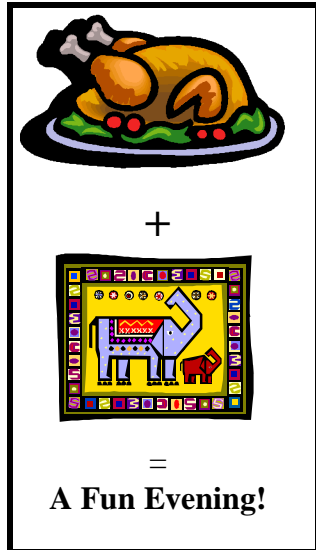




The Voter



Holiday Party Time!

It's time to celebrate the holidays together. One of the best parts of our holiday gathering is the White Elephant Gift Exchange.

"For those of you who are new to the Christmas Gift Exchange — it is truly a 'white elephant.' So don't buy anything; instead, bring something odd your great aunt gave you or some trip souvenir you've always wanted to part with.

Past items such as perfumed bath soaps, macramé plant hangers, oversized vases, and costume jewelry have been hits. I still have a large, glass fish that I filled with olive oil and use every day. So one person's reject is another's treasure!" - Diane Park

Holiday Party

When

Wednesday
December 17th
6:00 p.m.

Where

At the home of
Susan and Bill Loyko
1652 Lucerne
Stockton

Our hosts will provide
turkey and ham.

Bring a Dish to Share
and a
Wrapped
White Elephant Gift

Please RSVP
by December 12th
LWVSJC@gmail.com
or
943-1575

Hopefully this testimonial will entice you to attend our Holiday Party on December 17th.

Hosts Susan and Bill Loyko will provide both a turkey and a ham—as well as their home. The rest of us bring dishes of our choice to share. It's a true pot luck—no coordination to spoil our creativity!

It's a casual evening—though if you want to wear spiffy Christmas socks like Cate White did last year, indulge yourself!

We'd appreciate an rsvp so our hosts can plan seating and just how big a turkey to get! Hope to see you there.

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

HAPPY HANUKKAH!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

President's Message — Peaches Ehrich

First of all—**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!** I hope you will join us at the League's Holiday Party on December 17th. (See front page article) It's always a lot of fun and it is a chance to get to know other League members in a casual setting.

We had a very busy election season—again! I want to thank all the League members who worked so hard to get information to the voters and to make the League visible in throughout the county. *Special thanks* go to several members:

- **Vickie Markarian** coordinated voter service efforts throughout the south county building and organized our Smart Voter efforts and, she is one half of our Speakers' Bureau for Pros and Cons.
- **Dee Matteucci** is the other half of our Speakers' Bureau.
- **Ann Pentecost** took on candidate forums in Ripon.

- **Daphne Shaw** spearheaded cooperation with Comcast Cable and The Record to organize our most visible candidate forums. She also worked with forums given at Delta College.
- **Susan Mora Loyko** did a great job as panelist for the Comcast forums.
- **Jane Wagner-Tyack** not only filled in unexpectedly for a couple Comcast races but was a panelist for the Delta College Trustee forum and moderator for a Tracy mayor's race forum.
- **Candace Blue** moderated a forum for Lincoln Unified School District trustee and **Colleen Foster** provided 'how-to' information to the forum organizers.
- **Cate White**, forum timer
- **Diana Vo**, UOP intern, helped with forums and Smart Voter

Thanks, All!

Voters agree with LWVC 70% of the time

The League of Women Voters of California took stands on 10 of the 12 measures on the November 4, 2008 ballot—and the voters agreed with the League positions 70% of the time!

The biggest victory was the **passage of Proposition 11**, the redistricting measure which the League co-sponsored. The League has urged redistricting reform for many years, so this is the culmination of many years of hard work. Past measures have been defeated and this one barely passed—but pass it did! And the League can take pride in this victory.

The voters also agreed with the League on other propositions:

Proposition 1A: High-Speed Rail Bonds—Passed

Proposition 3: Children's Hospital Bond—passed

Proposition 4: Waiting period and parental notification before termination of minor's pregnancy—Failed

Proposition 6: Police & Law Enforcement Funding—Failed

Proposition 7: Renewable Energy Generation—Failed

Proposition 10: Alternative Fuel Vehicles & Renewable Energy Bonds—Failed.

Voters disagreed with the League on other measures:

Prop. 5 (Sentencing for nonviolent drug offenders) failed, **Prop. 8** (eliminating rights of same sex couples to marry) passed and **Prop. 9** (victim's rights) passed.



LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2008-2009

Officers

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969-3944, peachy1151@yahoo.com

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365-1986 janetyack@mac.com

Cate White, 2nd VP/Advocacy
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Katrina Alison Jaggears, At Large
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952-2186 dshaw1@sbcglobal.net

Pat Thomas—At Large
464-3233, pmoorethomas@att.net

Esther Vasquez, At Large
474-9796 esther.ari@sbcglobal.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 and Cate White

Busy Election Season for LWVSJC

Candidate Forums

Stockton

Televised Forums

The Candidates Forum sponsored by the League, The Record, and Comcast, was held on September 24th at the Comcast studios. It was broadcast live, rebroadcast regularly until election day and available on demand.



A total of 20 candidates were invited to participate including those running in our Congressional District, State Senate District 5, three Assembly Districts, Stockton Mayor and three Stockton City Council races. Diana Vo, our UOP intern, assisted our forum efforts by obtaining candidate contact information from the Registrar of Voters Office, sending forum invitations and following up on candidate responses.

Unfortunately for the voters, some of the candidates chose not to participate in the Forum. The Forum included only 5 races: State Senate, 5th District; State Assembly, 10th District; Stockton Mayor and Stockton City Council, Districts 4 and 6.

Don Blount, Managing Editor of The Record, Matt Wetstein, Delta College Administrator and former head of its Political Science Dept., and Susan Mora Loyko representing the League served as panelists. Unfortunately, at the last minute when a perceived conflict of interest was expressed by one of the candidates, Jane Wagner-Tyack graciously stepped in for two of the races.

The Forum allowed voters in throughout the County the opportunity to hear candidate priorities, to judge their preparedness for the debates—and, by extension, the office they were running for—and to learn their stances on local issues.

- Daphne Shaw

Lincoln Unified School District



League member Candace Blue moderated the forum for Lincoln Unified Trustee at an event organized by the joint PTSAs of the district. Candidates at the well attended forum were asked to elaborate on answers from a questionnaire they submitted, then to respond to three questions from the audience. Though not televised, the forum was informative for the voters from the district who attended the event.

Forums Co-Sponsored with San Joaquin Delta College

LWVSJC participated in two forums held at Delta College, also. We helped vet audience questions for the forum they held for the Stockton mayoral race and Jane Wagner-Tyack participated as a panelist for the forum for Delta College Trustee. Both were well attended.

South County Candidate Forums A Big Hit With Voters

Our League participated in several forums in the south county this year. On October 8, Ann Pentecost moderated the forum for Ripon's City Council race, which went very smoothly. The following evening, October 9, Vickie Markarian filled in by taking on the race for Ripon Unified School District Trustees, as well as the Ripon Fire District Governing Board. This event was co-sponsored by the Friends of the Ripon Library.

What was interesting about this forum was that it was hastily put together, and two of the candidates for School Board Trustee already had plans that took them out of town. Consequently, it was decided in order to be fair, the candidates for Trustee would only be al-

lowed to make a three-minute statement. Those candidates who could not be present sent a representative to speak for them. Only the Fire Board candidates were asked questions. Since this didn't really satisfy any of the candidates for Trustee, another forum was put together for the Ripon School Board race only. That took place on Thursday, October 23. Again, the Ripon Friends of the Library and LWV member Vickie Markarian vetted questions to ask the candidates. Both forums went very well and candidates and audience alike were pleased with the events.

In the meantime, the forum for the Manteca City Council race took place on October 16 at the Manteca City Council Chambers, co-sponsored by the Lathrop-Manteca Sun Post. It was also moderated by Vickie Markarian, with Cate White acting as timer, and was televised for viewing on the local public access channel.

For possibly the first time, one of our Board members, Jane Wagner Tyack, kindly agreed to go to Tracy on October 20 to moderate a very special forum for their mayoral race. It was part of Teen Legislative Day in Tracy and was sponsored by the Youth Advisory Commission. Jane set the format for the event and vetted questions from the teens who "grilled" the candidates.

Thank you to our Board members who worked on these important events. We have received nothing but very positive comments from members of the communities in which the forums took place. It's not only a great way to help the voting public but also to spread the word about the League's roll in a democratic society.

(Continued on page 4)



Voter Services Kept Busy This Election Season

(Continued from page 3)

Pros and Cons

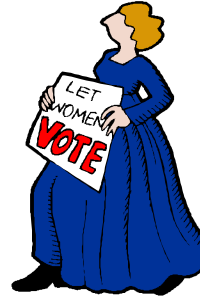
In addition to doing candidates' forums throughout the county, our members have also been busy with additional voter services activities for the November 2008 General Election. Our Speakers Bureau, which at this time consists of Dee Matteucci and Vickie Markarian, covered a total of eleven different venues to present the Pros & Cons on the Ballot Measures. Vickie did presentations for Joan Ray's "Continuing Education" group at Delta College, a group at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Manteca, the Manteca Senior Center, the Buffalo Contingent of Manteca (a Manteca High distaff group), Delta Toastmasters club in Stockton, and O'Connor Woods Senior Living center in Stockton.

Dee covered several other venues in Stockton, including presentations for

"Pipeline", a non-partisan student organization at Delta College, St Joseph's Healthcare Clinic staff, a forum for the neighborhood and friends, Clarksburg Community Group, and finally radio spot announcements recorded for KSTN radio. Both distributed copies of our LWVC "Pros & Cons" newsletter on the ballot measures, as well as Smart Voter bookmarks.

Smart Voter

Regarding Smart Voter, Vickie had her hands full with a slate of **158** candidates (!) to contact and keep track of. Thanks to intern Diana Vo, who helped out by taking on half of the contacts, and Board member Bea Lingenfelter, who helped Vickie with the mailing of invitations and instructions to all the candidates. Out of the 158 candidates contacted, 63 set up



sites on Smart Voter. That's close to 40%. This election cycle, we did not do much with Mock Election as there were at least two groups within the local school districts who organized their own mock conventions and elections for their student bodies. A few of our members acted mainly in an advisory capacity.

Finally, thanks go to other members who pitched in by distributing additional copies of the "Pros & Cons" to various groups, as well as the "Easy Voter Guide" to libraries and senior centers. This was a challenging election in size alone and our members stood up to it well.

- Vickie Markarian

Local Board Spurs LWVC Action

LWVSJC Water Committee Chair Esther Vasquez and Co-Chair and Jane Wagner-Tyack have been following the suggestions coming out of the Delta Visioning process and brought their concerns about lack of involvement of Central Valley interests in these discussions to the Board. The Board agreed with their suggestion to seek State League intervention—and LWVC took action! Below are excerpts from the letter that LWVC President Janice Hirohama sent to the Mike Chrisman, Secretary of the California Resources Agency, urging action. Emphasis added is mine to highlight the issues raised locally.

- Editor

"Over the past year, considerable planning has gone to address the various crises facing the Sacramento-San Joaquin

Delta. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) has gone through the scoping process for an EIR/EIS to evaluate two specific alternatives: through Delta conveyance improvements and new around-Delta conveyance facilities.

Both Delta Vision and the BDCP have as their co-equal goals sustainability of the Delta ecosystem and reliability of water supply. And both initiatives include some form of isolated conveyance to move water through or around the Delta. **Our concern with these initiatives is that the water needs of those who live and work within the Delta will be of secondary importance to the perceived need for water supply reliability in other parts of the state.**

The 2007 report of the Public Policy Insti-

tute of California, "Envisioning Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," listed nine possible alternatives for the Delta in three categories: maintaining the Delta as a freshwater body; allowing substantial water exports but with basic changes in water management; and substantially reducing or modifying the role of exports.

The League of Women Voters of California is concerned about the adequacy of the scope of review of alternative options for the Delta. The BDCP appears to have moved very quickly and with minimal transparency and minimal involvement of Delta

(Continued on page 5)

Peripheral Canal Disputed

In the middle of October, after 20 months of work, Governor Schwarzenegger's Delta Vision Task Force adopted a strategic plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The plan advocates putting the Delta ecosystem on equal footing with a reliable water supply. But other features of the Delta—culture, agriculture, recreation—are assigned lesser status than habitat and export water.

The task force says that even when California builds the dams and conveyance (canal) that they propose, the State will still not be able to deliver all of the Delta water that it has promised to cities and farmers.



The Governor and Southern Central Valley water interests will probably use the Delta Vision report as the basis of a water bond next year. But given how poorly bond measures fared in the November election, California voters may not be eager to approve construction of a peripheral canal that could cost as much as \$26 billion.

Meanwhile, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is moving ahead with the EIR/EIS for a canal or other conveyance. The 23-member steering committee of the BDCP includes no representative of local water agencies, although it includes nine members representing entities involved in water exports. State water offi-

cial acknowledge that the EIR/EIS process will not be completed before the end of the present administration in 2011.

Under pressure of circumstances—reduced exports, drought, a decades-long timeframe for building a canal—agricultural users around the state are considering alternatives to present lev-

els of export water use, including conservation, crop-shifting, and taking land out of production. A report by farmer Tom Zuckerman of the Central Delta Water Agency

includes a detailed analysis of the potential for regional water self-sufficiency.

Finally, this past July, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) published its second report on the crisis in the Delta and focused on a peripheral canal as its preferred solution. **In October, Dr. Jeffrey A. Michael, Director of the Business Forecasting Center at UOP, published an analysis of the PPIC report.**

The PPIC finds that ending Delta water exports would be significantly better for the environment than a peripheral canal but rejects the strategy as being too costly. **In his report, Dr. Michael shows how the PPIC has based its**

estimates on inflated population growth figures and inflated desalination cost assumptions.

Dr. Michael writes, “When adjustments are made to [the PPIC’s] population growth and desalination cost assumptions to reflect the best, documented sources, the cost of ending Delta exports are (sic) likely to be similar to a peripheral canal. With similar costs, ending Delta exports is the best strategy due to its superior environmental benefits.”

In summary, a peripheral canal won’t supply all the promised water. It can’t be built soon enough to solve the most pressing problems now facing the Delta. It would cost close to \$30 billion dollars. Ending exports altogether would cost no more and would be better for the environment.

But so far, the peripheral canal juggernaut is moving forward anyway.

LWVSJC is planning a program in January given by Restore the Delta Campaign Director Barbara Parilla. Plan to attend to get the most up-to-date information on what’s happening with the Peripheral Canal.

- Jane Wagner-Tyack

LWVC Letter Urges More Inclusive Participation/Alternatives

(Continued from page 4)

water interests to reach the EIR/EIS stage for **one** particular type of alternative. The League is not persuaded that all viable alternatives have been considered in these processes.

It is the League’s policy to promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources. [We] also hold that decisions for land areas of more than

local concern should be made at the lowest level of government feasible and that citizens must have meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation. Planning that moves too quickly to embrace some alternatives and reject others appears to violate the spirit of those policies. We urge that both the Delta Vision and BDCP include Delta water interests as part of the decision-making for any final proposal.

Additionally, we believe the state

should set limits on the amount of water to be exported through or around the Delta. Therefore, we urge that the scope of the EIR/EIS include an alternative that would establish statewide water conservation, recycling, watershed management, development of local supplies, and other non-structural strategies as the preferred solution to meeting the goals of sustainability of the Delta ecosystem and reliability of water supply. “

LWVUS Addresses Climate Change

LWVUS established a Climate Change Task Force in response to the LWVUS Board designating climate change as a priority for advocacy. As part of this effort, the TF has prepared articles on how we can pro-actively help our environment. As space allows, these articles will be shared with our members via the [Voter](#).



Staying Warm and Living Green By Eleanor Revelle

LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member

When colder weather strikes, heating bills start to climb. Not only is that hard on the checkbook; it also means increased greenhouse gas emissions. What is a thrifty, ecologically-minded person to do?

Dialing down the thermostat is the most direct step you can take. In colder climates like the upper Midwest, every degree that you lower the setting on your thermostat will result in roughly a three percent reduction in the amount of energy used.

Installing a programmable thermostat can also bring significant energy savings. By automatically adjusting the temperature setting for your home, this simple device makes it easy to lower the setting when less heat is needed—for example, when you're asleep or away for the day.

Taking steps to minimize heat loss from your home is next on the list. **Adding insulation** is one of the most cost-effective improvements you can make, and the attic is the best and easiest place to start. Proper insulation levels in the walls, foundation, and basement or crawl space will also help make your house tighter—and more comfortable.

Sealing air leaks—a major source of heat loss in older homes—is another very important energy-saver.

You can spot many of these problem areas on your own with a do-it-yourself **home energy audit**. Or you can arrange for a professional auditor to carry out a more thorough assessment of your home. Some utility companies conduct audits or can recommend an energy auditor.

The third area for attention is your home's **heating system**. You can improve its efficiency by insulating ducts (if you have a furnace) and hot water/steam pipes (for a boiler) that pass through unheated spaces, changing the air filter regularly (furnace), and arranging for regular professional maintenance.

Your heating service company can also advise you as to whether replacing your existing furnace or boiler with a new, high-efficiency unit would make sense.

If you are planning to remodel your current home or build a new house, you have an opportunity to "build green" from the start. By making it a priority to incorporate energy-efficient design features and take advantage of new technologies and materials, you can have a high-performance home that minimizes energy consumption and maximizes comfort and durability.

But you don't have to build a new house to save energy. Every small step that each of us takes to improve our homes' energy efficiency will achieve savings and help reduce global warming.



Voters have a role in partisanship

Eric McGhee, research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California wrote an opinion piece in the *Sacramento Bee* on 10/5/08 on the problems of redistricting and who is to blame for legislative partisanship. Part of his answer echoes Pogo: *We have met the enemy and they is us*. Below are excerpts from his article. Emphasis added by [Voter](#) editor.

"By drawing safe districts that protected incumbents, legislators reduced pressure on themselves to moderate their views and to compromise. A safe district means no significant challenge from the other party at general election time. The only remaining pressure comes at primary elections, which push Democrats to the left and Republicans to the right. The end result is partisanship.

In "Redistricting and Legislative Partisanship," a report recently published by the Public Policy Institute of California, I looked at four different measures of roll-call voting in the Legislature. On every measure, the gap between Democrats and Republicans was as large before the redistricting as it has been since.

If it wasn't the redistricting, then **what has made legislators so partisan?** The answer isn't all that clear, but **among the possibilities are the voters themselves**. Those who identify with either party are more polarized now, which makes each party's primary electorate more ideologically pure no matter how competitively the district might be. Legislators also face pressures from interest groups and party leaders that may push them away from their district's position on at least some issues."

Food for thought.



LEAGUE & OTHER NEWS

LWVC Energy Director Jane Turnbull Passes Away

Some of you may have met or corresponded with LWVC Energy Director Jane Turnbull. It is sad to say that she recently passed away, after a long battle with lung cancer.

She will be greatly missed; in fact, I would venture to say, irreplaceable. She had a unique background and spent endless hours helping the League develop our energy position and then attending California Energy Commission and CPUC Hearings to give the League perspective.

The Energy Commission acknowledged her contributions in the dedication to its *2008 Integrated Energy Policy Report Update* :

*This report is dedicated to the
memory of*

JANE HUGHES TURNBULL
June 13, 1932-October 18, 2008

*With gratitude for her tireless
devotion and
invaluable contributions to the
development of California's energy
policies on behalf
of the League of Women Voters
and all the residents of California*

This is an honor for the League and particularly for the incomparable contributions Jane personally made.

- Diane Park

Holiday Mail for Heroes

Boardmember Jane Wagner-Tyack has asked that the following information be made available to our members who may wish to participate.

Being away from home during the holidays is hard. The Red Cross is trying to make the holidays a little brighter for service members and their families through a Christmas card program.

If you are interested in participating, cards must be postmarked **by December 10th**.

From the RED CROSS:

"From the front lines to the home front, the American Red Cross provides service members, their families and veterans with the care and assistance they need.

The Red Cross is partnering with Pitney Bowes this holiday season for the Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign. We're collecting holiday cards to distribute to American service members, veterans and their families in the United States and around the world. Pitney Bowes is generously donating technology, resources and postage to make this holiday card program possible.

Please sign all cards and use a generic salutation such as Dear Service Member.

Please do not include email or home addresses on the cards and do not include inserts **of any kind**, including photos.

Send your cards to

Holiday Mail for Heroes
PO Box 5456
Capitol Heights, MD 20791-5456

Congratulations!

Congratulations to League members Ann Johnston and Van Ha To-Cowell on their election!

Ann was elected Stockton's Mayor and Van Ha was elected as a Lincoln Unified School District Trustee.

Ann and Van Ha join three other League members currently in elected office: Loralee McGaughey (East Stockton Water District), Beverly McCarthy (Stockton Unified Trustee) and Katrina Jaggars (DCC).

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The League was approached about offering an informational program about the UOP-based Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Preferring to focus our programs on specifically League-oriented programs, the Board declined. However, we felt that the programs are certainly worthwhile and may be of interest to our members, so we agreed to alert our members to the Institute's programs.

The Institute grew out of the Pacific Experience program offered for seniors. It is a membership based program (\$10/annually) plus a \$50/semester fee which covers all regular activities and events. Each semester the Institute offers classes and activities designed "to encourage the development of new personal skills and interests and provide for opportunities for meeting others who enjoy learning."

You can get more information, including their brochure, online at <http://web.pacific.edu/x7758.xml>. Check it out!



League of Women Voters
of San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 4548
Stockton, CA 95204

www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 24, 2009, 9:30 a.m.—**On the “Water” Front**, featuring Restore the Delta Campaign Director Barbara Parilla; California State University/Stanislaus/Stockton Campus
9:30—refreshments, 10:00-noon: program

Tentative Date: Saturday, February 28, 2009, 9:30 a.m.—**Running for Office: True Tales from the Campaign Trail** We are inviting several candidates for local office to be on a panel to talk to us about their campaigns. See the January Voter for a listing of those who have agreed to be on the panel.

March 2009: Budget CRISES: the effect of budget woes of State and local governments on services—being planned

April 2009: Land Use Planning: the Health connection—being planned

LWVC Convention: May 15-17, 2009: *Catch the Wave to the Future.* Long Beach.

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. In December, the Board meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9th at Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Beginning in January, Board meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at Hospice.

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.