



Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County

# THE VOTER

## Annual Meeting Speakers Focus on the County Library System

by Colleen Foster

At the May 26, 2015 annual meeting of LWVSC, at the Stockton Hilton, attendees heard from two speakers on the state of San Joaquin County libraries and on libraries in general.

Suzy Daveluy, City Librarian for the Stockton-San Joaquin County Library system, was the first speaker to focus League members' attention on libraries and literacy at the Annual Meeting. Citing the Library's mission of connecting people and ideas, she noted the Library's areas of emphasis in its Strategic Plan:



Suzy Daveluy, City Librarian

- **Expand access to Information and Resources** by increasing band width for better use of technology.
- **Provide educational opportunities** through activities such as literacy tutoring and GED support, ESL and citizenship programs, digital literacy, STEM support, homework help and early literacy programs.
- **Support Workforce and Career Development** through job fairs, community partnerships and business support.
- **Encourage and Empower Diverse communities** through cultural programming.



Dr. Mas'ood Cajee, Chair of STRONG LIBRARIES = STRONG COMMUNITIES

The second speaker, Dr. Mas'ood Cajee, Chair of STRONG LIBRARIES = STRONG COMMUNITIES, began by tackling the question of whether Google and the Internet have made libraries obsolete. "Quoting" Abraham Lincoln, he noted that "the problem with quotes on the Internet is that they are often not true." He also cited the impermanence of digital data and the uncertain quality of information as other reasons the Internet is not replacing libraries.

Dr. Cajee noted a recent article in The Rotarian magazine which called libraries "society's most successful civic institution" and

the New York Public Library's 24/7/365 reference service staffed by "live librarians" as further proof of the Library's robustness.

He told the audience that Stockton hasn't always been the "most illiterate" big city in the country, citing statistics showing that in 1869 more books were read in Stockton in proportion to its population than any other city in America. He did say, however, that today Stockton is suffering from "Library Deficit Disorder", having only 4 libraries when we should have 10-12.

Referring to the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the knowledge economy, he proposed areas where libraries could lead:

- **Meeting spaces:** libraries have the only non-commercial public spaces open to everybody.
- **Maker Movement:** libraries can offer Maker Spaces for collaboration and creation
- **Technology:** 30% of the population doesn't have access to technology except through the public library.
- **Libraries can produce readers who can be leaders.**

Today people acknowledge the existence of food deserts. We in Stockton need to realize we are in a Library Desert. He concluded with a call to action to reverse this trend.

## LWVSJC Web Site Updated

Be sure to take a look at our San Joaquin County League's updated [web site](#). Webmaster Walt White has done some reorganizing and cleanup to make the site more visually appealing and user friendly. Among other problems, he identified some cases of "[link rot](#)" (see Dr. Cajee's comments above on the impermanence of digital data). Link rot results in those annoying Error 404/Page Not Found messages we sometimes get when hyperlinks don't work anymore.

If you haven't paid your dues yet or would like to make a donation, you can do that online using either PayPal or your credit card. The [Memberships & Donations](#) category on the menu at the left on the home page will give you all the forms and information you need to update your membership information, pay your dues, and make donations to either the LWVSJC general fund or to the Education Fund. **(Note: Memberships not renewed are now overdue.)**

Feedback is welcome. Thanks to Walt for his willingness to apply his many years of programming expertise to bringing our web site up to date and keeping it current.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### **Highlights of LWVC 2015 Convention**

It RAINED in San Diego during the State League of Women Voters biennial convention this past drought-year May—a reminder of how diverse California is in every way, in terms of geography and climate as well as in terms of culture. LWVSJC Treasurer Jane Wagner-Tyack and I represented you at Convention as delegates. Here are some of the highlights.

### **State Per Member Payment Increase Approved**

Convention delegates learned that the LWVC Education Fund is running a deficit, partly because the League is at the end of a two-year grant cycle and most of its grant funding has been spent. LWVC expects to secure a major capital commitment from new grants this summer, most of its two-year funding for use through June 2017. The LWVC General Fund is running a “healthy” surplus. But LWVC reported declining per members payments (PMPs) due to declining membership.

Delegates were presented with a budget that assumed increases in PMP of \$2.50 in each of the next two fiscal years, for a total increase of \$5. (The last PMP increase was in FY2010-2011.) Advance notice of this increase framed it as a proposal for discussion at Convention, but although the budget committee took questions about the PMP increase, it was not put to a vote. Despite some opposition, including opposition from LWVSJC, delegates approved the budget.

The LWVSJC board has voted to pay this year's state PMPs at the former rate and to pay the full rate next fiscal year. This will allow us time to consider a possible dues increase. The board also sent a letter to LWVC President Helen Hutchison protesting the way the increase proposal was handled at Convention.

### **Position Change Proposed by LWVSJC Wins Statewide League Support**

As part of its program planning activities last spring, the San Joaquin County League had recommended an update in the LWVC Agriculture position to call for preserving land with a *sustainable* water supply (rather than just an *available* water supply). The rationale for this recommendation was that surface water rights in California have been over-promised by five times and that groundwater has been seriously depleted to supplement surface water supplies in agricultural areas, resulting in unsustainable development and use. The LWVC Water Committee made LWVSJC's suggestion a formal proposal; the LWVC board agreed to recommend the change to Convention delegates as part of the program approval process; and delegates approved the change.

### **Climate Change and Other Issues Receive Delegates' Attention**

In response to statewide League interest in the issue of climate change, a group will be meeting to pull material from existing LWVC positions to develop a Climate Change Action Policy.

Delegates adopted the following as Issues for Education and Advocacy for 2015-2017:

- Money in Politics
- Climate, Sustainable Water, and Protecting the Environment
- Election Reform and Voting Rights
- Minimum/Living Wage

The following studies are currently underway:

- Higher Education (an LWVC study with an April 2016 deadline)
- Money in Politics (an LWVUS study focusing on the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, with a February 1, 2016 deadline)
- Methods of amending the U.S. Constitution (an LWVUS study)

Kathy Schick

## **LWVSJC Hosts Program on Climate Change: Impacts on Health**

The effects of climate change are being felt worldwide. Rising sea levels, increased amounts of air pollution, severe heat and drought, widespread famine, and changing pathogens are all major threats to public health. Without mitigation, these threats will severely affect future generations.

To provide an overview of how climate change is impacting us all, the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County will host “Climate Change: Effects on Health” on Saturday, October 17 from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Health Plan of San Joaquin Community Room.

Congressman Jerry McNerney will present opening remarks about current legislative efforts dealing with climate change issues.

Speaking about the changing climate and its serious effects on public health both locally and internationally will be Dr. Linda Rudolph, Director of the Center for Climate Change and Health, Public Health Institute; Bonnie Holmes-Gen, Senior Policy Director, Air Quality and Climate Change, American Lung Association in California; and Katelyn Roedner Sutter, Environmental Justice Program Director, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton.

The forum is free and open to the public. Registration is from 9:30-10:00. A panel discussion will follow the speakers’ presentations.

For questions/RSVP contact Julie Schardt (209)986-3029; [juliaschardt@gmail.com](mailto:juliaschardt@gmail.com)

## Kothe Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Pamela Howard

By Lauren Ah Tye

The recipient of this year's \$500 Sylvia Kothe Memorial Scholarship is business/political science major Pamela Howard. Pamela is a single mother of three boys who is currently carrying a GPA of 3.02. She has completed 63.50 units at Delta College. Pamela was left by her husband with three small children, and she has taken it upon herself to volunteer her services at the YMCA as head basketball coach. She wants to maintain involvement with her sons while also attending school. It has not been easy for her, but she has prevailed.

Pamela worked 10 years in the banking field before going back to school after her husband left her. Her plan is to complete her BS in business and then go to law school. Her final goal is to become self-employed and work consulting to help empower others to better help themselves. Those of us who knew Sylvia believe that she would be impressed with Pamela's strong motivation and her focus on an end goal. She refers to her educational experiences as "a journey." We wish her success on that journey.

speaks Spanish with a Cuban accent that many Mexicans consider to be hardly Spanish at all.

- Gender matters. Latino women are very strong, and more of them vote than Latino men. But they don't consider themselves political, even though they often engage in political activities as mothers being activists for their children.
- Bedolla described what she called "the reverse Sally Field" effect, referring to Field's 1984 Academy Award comment "You like me. You really like me." Bedolla said that

## Engaging Latinos in the Political Process

At the LWVC Convention in San Diego this past May, Professor Lisa García Bedolla of U.C. Berkeley gave a very thought-provoking talk on engaging Latinos in the political process.

Bedolla began by describing the U.S. as a non-participatory democracy, like Burundi or Congo. She noted that for 30 years, the midterm elections haven't attracted voters. She then moved into an analysis of various efforts to encourage Latinos, in particular, to vote. She outlined several problems with the way Latinos communities have been "framed"--perceived and categorized.

- Symbolic appeals such as mariachi bands at political events too often take the place of substantive appeals to Latino communities.
- Latino conservatism is not the same as American conservatism. Catholicism, which is central to Latino conservatism, has a long-standing support for the poor, so it has a much different impact on social policy than conservatism that is linked to capitalism. She noted that the American Democratic party is actually more conservative than some conservative parties in other countries.

- Not all Latinos are the same. For example, GOP Presidential hopeful Marco Rubio

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Longtime League member Retired Judge **Jim Darrah** passed away in July. He will be greatly missed, and we send sincere condolences to his family. For a thoughtful overview of his life and work, see Lori Gilbert’s June 4th article in the Stockton Record.

<http://www.recordnet.com/article/20150604/NEWS/150609803>

**LWVSJC Board of Directors  
2015-2016**

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Kathy Casenave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
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Ryan Camero

because of U.S. immigration policies, many Latinos feel that despite politicians’ efforts to win their votes, politicians and other Americans really don’t like them.

Bedolla said that if the U.S. were serious about engaging Latinos, we would have:

- an immigrant integration policy helping immigrants to become civically engaged
- bilingualism for all, a difficult idea to advance when English is so tied to American national identity
- fully-resourced education, cradle to college
- culturally appropriate health care access
- living wage and worker protections
- taxes on capital like taxes on wages; she noted that Latinos lost two-thirds of their wealth in the recession because their assets were tied up in their homes
- civic education that focused on empowerment--how to use government for change



*Mariachi bands do not have universal appeal for Latinos.*

She said that socialization goes from kids to parents because kids learn English and become enculturated first. Thus, the more young people vote, the more older Latinos will become politically engaged.

Bedolla noted that not all electoral reforms work the same for all voters. For example, Latinos are the least likely of all registered voters to vote by mail. This is particularly significant in the case of Proposition 218 protest votes, which can be done only by mail.

A reasonable implication of Bedolla’s observations is that since the League is in general not representative of Latinos, it makes sense for us to work collaboratively with groups that are.



We are excited to announce that the LWVC is now a member of the **Make It Fair** coalition, a California coalition dedicated to closing the commercial property tax loophole created by Proposition 13. This is an issue the League has been working on for years. More information about the coalition is on the Web site.

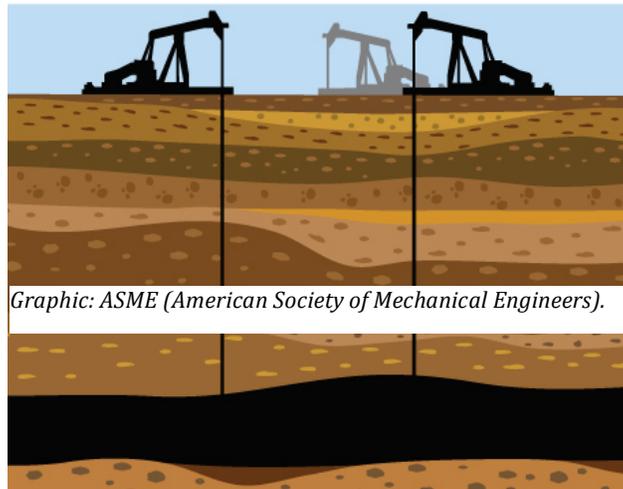
Click [here](#) to access a Make It Fair Webinar held on July 9, in which LWVC participated.

## **LWVUS Supports “Frack Pack” Legislation**

by Jessica Jones, LWVUS Grassroots Lobbyist

As a leader in the environmental community, the League of Women Voters looks for solutions to address climate change, protect our natural resources and promote a clean energy economy. As part of this work, the League recently endorsed, and is encouraging members of Congress to cosponsor and support five pieces of legislation known as the [“Frack Pack.”](#) These bills seek to keep our air and water safe while holding big polluters responsible for the process known as [hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking.'](#) The Frack Pack bills will close loopholes in the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Acts while establishing mandatory testing of water resources to contain contamination.

Hydraulic fracturing commonly is the process used to extract natural gas and oil from deep inside the earth. The process involves injecting a highly pressurized fluid consisting of chemicals, water, and sand into the earth to hold open or create cracks in deep rock formations in order to increase access to and allow for oil and gas to flow more freely. Drilling and fracking is continuing to expand across the country, and the League believes we must have updated laws to hold the oil and gas industry accountable and to ensure our planet and its resources are protected.



Graphic: ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers).

Many, including the League, are concerned about the impact that fracking may have on our natural resources and public health. Pro-fracking advocates argue that increasing access to these fossil fuels enables new energy sources that have a positive impact on our economy. But environmental advocates, including the League, argue it puts our air and water, two key environmental resources, in danger. Specifically, there are concerns that the water used for fracking, which is infused with sand and chemicals, contaminates ground water that may be used as drinking water. Fracking also uses anywhere from [70-140 billion gallons of water](#) a year across the United States. [With water resources in jeopardy in most of the western United States](#), this could have a major impact on the depletion of the fresh water supplies we need to survive.

Questions also remain about the effect that releasing methane gas, which contributes to climate change, into the atmosphere will cause. During the fracking process, methane is released into the air through the venting of wells to reduce pressure and through leaks in the system. [The League has called on the Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) to regulate methane from the oil and gas industry as a key part of the President's pledge to reduce greenhouse emissions in the [Climate Action Plan](#).

The League also wants to make sure that the oil and gas industry is held accountable for the chemicals used in the fracking process. The public deserves [full transparency and disclosure](#) of the chemicals being used, so that communities across the country can be aware of any dangerous health risks that may affect them. In addition to lobbying to gain support for the Frack Pack in Congress, the League has also worked to address the issue of fracking by providing comments (PDF) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) about the need for regulations on fracking on federal lands. [The League has also testified](#) to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) about the need for a comprehensive, transparent, science-based, peer-reviewed study on its potential impact on drinking water resources. Eighteen state Leagues cosigned the testimony. Numerous state Leagues across the country are also working in their own communities to educate the public on the effects fracking may have on public health and our natural resources.

**GENERAL FUND INCOME AND EXPENSES – FY 2014-2015**

7/1/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015

		Percentage of total expenses
<b>INCOME</b>		
	Dues	2,947
	Circle of Support Donations	780
	Other Donations	378
	Kick-off Meeting Fundraiser	880
	Susan B. Anthony Dinner	495
	Annual Meeting	1,680
	Ed Fund Grant	3,100
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,260</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Administrative</b>		
	Rent	600
	Website Fee	160
	Mailbox Fee	146
	Sect'y of State Info Filing Fee	20
	Insurance Premium to LWVC	207
	Awards	31
	Check Reorder	33
	Supplies	47
	<b>TOTAL Administrative</b>	<b>1,244</b> <b>11%</b>
	<b>Printing and Postage</b> (newsletters and fundraising expenses)	<b>1,228</b> <b>10%</b>
	<b>Meetings, Events, Conferences</b>	
	Kick-off Meeting	216
	SJCCSW for Susan B. Anthony Dinner	550
	Annual Meeting	1,874
	LWVC Conference	2,279
	<b>TOTAL Meetings, Events, Conferences</b>	<b>4,919</b> <b>42%</b>
	<b>Membership</b>	
	SJ County Commission on the Status of Women	50
	National PMP	2,263
	State PMP	1,679
	<b>TOTAL Membership</b>	<b>3,992</b> <b>34%</b>
	<b>Voter Service</b>	
	Publications (Easy Voter, Pros and Cons, bookmarks)	157
	Candidate forum printing and postage	72
	Videotaping	33
	Smart Voter	100
	<b>Total Voter Service</b>	<b>362</b> <b>3%</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>11,745</b>
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-1,485</b>
	6/30/15 General Fund balance:	\$6,164

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY LEAGUE FUND (ED FUND)**  
**INCOME AND EXPENSES - FY 2014-2015**  
 7/1/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015

<b>INCOME</b>		
	Asparagus Festival	232
	Circle of Support donations, unrestricted	1,645
	Circle of Support donations, restricted (Sylvia Kothe Memorial Scholarship Fund)	315
	Other donations	75
	Interest	6
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,273</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	Grant to General Fund	3,100
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,100</b>
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>-827</b>

**NET WORTH - 6/30/2015**

<b>ASSETS</b>		
	Bank of Stockton account, unrestricted	8,906
	Bank of Stockton account, restricted (Sylvia Kothe Memorial Scholarship Fund)	2,040
	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>10,946</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
		<b>0</b>
	<b>OVERALL NET WORTH</b>	<b>10,946</b>

Comments about the year-end financial statements: Net general fund income for FY 2014-2015 was lower than anticipated in every category, although smaller-than anticipated Circle of Support donations to the general fund were offset by greater Circle donations to the ed fund. This helped cover a larger-than-usual grant from the ed fund to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. Printing and Meeting/Event/Conference expenses were higher than anticipated, but we spent less than we expected to on Voter Service.

## 2015-2016 CALENDAR

September 19, 2015	Kick-Off Meeting 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. 14682 E. Live Oak Rd., Lodi
October 17, 2015	Climate Change: Impacts on Health 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Health Plan of San Joaquin, next to the County Hospital
November, date TBA	Forum on Stockton City Charter Changes *
December, date TBA	Holiday Party *
January 23, 2016	Program Planning Meeting * 9:30 a.m. - noon
February 20, 2016	Local Government Issues * 9:30 a.m. – noon
March 1, 2016	Voter Service Planning * 9:30 a.m. - noon
March 12, 2016	Program on Early Childhood Education *
April 2016	Candidate Forums *
April 30, 2016	Program on Fracking *
May 25, 2016	Annual Meeting *
June 7, 2016	Primary Election Day

\* Location to be announced



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On the web at sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

**2015 KICKOFF SOCIAL**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**11:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**

**THE FERREE HOME**  
**14682 E. LIVE OAK ROAD, LODI\***

LEARN ABOUT PROGRAMS PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR  
AND OTHER ISSUES OF GENERAL LWVSJC CONCERN

\$10 OPTIONAL DONATION

BRING A FRIEND!

\*FROM NORTHBOUND HIGHWAY 99, TAKE THE EAST 8 MILE ROAD EXIT  
AND GO EAST, TURN LEFT ON JACK TONE ROAD,  
THEN TURN RIGHT ON LIVE OAK ROAD.

*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.*