



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County

THE VOTER

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING



From left to right: Sacramento Bee political reporter and Stockton resident David Siders; CA District 13 Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman; Spring LWVSC President Katrina A. Jaggars; winners of the 2013 Helen Pearson Award, Susan and Bill Loyko.

The annual meeting for the League of Women Voters of SJC took place on a Thursday night on June 6, 2013 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel. The theme of the meeting was, 'Representing San Joaquin County: What the State Should Know About Us,' with featured speakers Sacramento Bee political reporter and Stockton resident David Siders and CA District 13 Assemblymember and Stockton resident Susan Talamantes Eggman.

Our featured speakers focused their speech on answering what the state should know about San Joaquin County. Each told enlightening stories as they reflected upon their direct experience in California politics and government and what they understood as how the state saw San Joaquin County.

A business meeting followed with the presentation of the 2013 Helen Pearson Award to League members Susan and Bill Loyko. The Helen Pearson Award is given to a League member or members who have enhanced the League's mission of education and advocacy in 2013. Bill and Susan Loyko received the award due to their active leadership in Voter Service this year.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**LWVSJC Board of Directors
For 2013-2014**

Rotating Presidents

Diane Park, July-Dec. 2013
Dee Matteucci, Jan.-June 2014

Officers

1st Vice President, Bea Lingenfelter
2nd Vice President, Kathy Casenave
Secretary, Colleen Foster
Treasurer, Jane Wagner-Tyack

Directors

Katrina A. Jaggears
Bill Loyko
Diane Park
Ronda Sanders
Patricia Voss
Stina Va

Voter Editor

Stina Va

It is a pleasure to act as LWVSJC president through 2013. As many of you know, we have adopted a rotating presidency and find that the shared responsibility works best.

There is a new feature in the Voter: we are – and will be – introducing League members to one another and sharing aspects of interesting lives. We begin this month with a longtime member, retired Judge James Darrah, along with one of our newest members, recent UC Berkeley graduate Stina Va.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our September 14 ‘Kickoff’ meeting/fundraising at the Delicato Winery, in Manteca. We are honored to have our state League President Jennifer Waggoner attending. An announcement is included in The Voter with directions and details. Please remember to mail in your reservation payments by September 6 because Delicato Winery does not allow money or checks to be collected at the door.

- Diane Park

Calendar of Upcoming Events

◆ **September 14, Saturday 1-3pm** – Kick-Off Fund-Raiser. Wine tasting and a program on “GMOs and Our Grocery Basket” with speaker Pamm Larry. Location at the Delicato Winery in Manteca, Ca.

Other upcoming events (Calendar will be available at the Kick-Off meeting)

◆ In October – An upcoming program/event on the issue of fracking is currently in the planning process

◆ A study on agriculture for the LWVUS position update will begin in the fall. Please contact lwvsjc@gmail.com to join the study committee.



OVERVIEW OF THE LWWUS AGRICULTURE UPDATE STUDY

At this year's Annual Meeting, members voted to participate in the LWWUS Agriculture Update Study. Here are the topics the study will cover:

- 1) Current technology issues in agriculture, including
 - Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
 - Herbicides
 - Pesticides
 - Agriculture water pollution
 - Aquifer depletion
 - Antibiotics in livestock
 - Accurate food labeling

- 2) Current agriculture finance issues, including
 - Consolidation in agriculture industries
 - Crop subsidies
 - The federal regulatory process

No formal study materials are available yet, but the national study committee has identified three documents and three websites that could be used as background "summer readings." You can access links to the documents [here](#). Or 1) go to the LWWUS website, 2) click on Members in the red bar at the upper right, 3) scroll down to "Advocacy, Projects & Studies, 4) click on that and select "Agriculture Update."

The documents are

- *Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture* (Chapter 8 of the *Economic Report of the President- 2013*)
- A Union of Concerned Scientists policy brief entitled *The Healthy Farm: A Vision for U.S. Agriculture*
- A short article from Scientific America entitled *Will Organic Fail to Feed the World?*

The websites are

- [Know Your Farmer](#)
- [The National Sustainable Agriculture Council](#)
- ["Food Dialogues"](#) by the U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance

Members can also login using their email address and password and join the Agriculture Update forum.

RIGHT TO VOTE

Most people think that the Constitution guarantees U.S. citizens the right to vote. That's not true. The right is implied throughout the Constitution, and amendments prohibit discrimination based on race, gender, and age. But there is no affirmative right to vote.

That's why states can continue to pass restrictive voting laws. The U.S. Supreme Court recently struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the section that designated which parts of the country must have changes to their voting laws cleared by the federal government or in federal court.

The high court said in a 5-4 ruling that "things have changed dramatically" in the South, that the formula Section 4 used was outdated, and that Congress "May draft another formula based on on current conditions."

Two congressmen, Mark Pocan (D-Wisconsin) and Keith Ellison (D-Minnesota), have a different solution to ensuring voter rights. They have introduced a "Right to Vote" amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Instead of a voter having to demonstrate that his or her right to vote had been impeded by the state, states would have to demonstrate a compelling interest in restricting a voter's rights. Any state claiming that there is a crisis in voter fraud would have to demonstrate that such a crisis exists.

Several studies have shown that there are actually few cases of voter fraud.

Reference: ["Keep states' hands off your right to vote" by Mark Pocan CNN](#)

LWV Action Alerts

NATIONAL

- [Tell Congress](#) to fix the Voting Rights Act; encourage your elected officials to work quickly repair and restore the Voting Rights Act.

- [Send a note](#) to your Senators to support the Obama's Administration plan to cut carbon pollution. The health of our country and world depends on it.

STATE

- Support AB 817, a bill by Rob Bonta (D-Oakland) that would allow for more poll workers to assist voters who don't speak English fluently. [Click here to sign the petition.](#)

- Take action on the Sunshine in Campaigns Act: Contact your assembly member and tell him or her you support SB 2, SB 3, and SB 27, because Californians deserve to know who is spending money in the political world.

The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County
Invites Members and the Public to the

2013-2014 Kick-Off Fund-Raiser

September 14, 2013 / 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Light Refreshments & Wine Tasting

At the Delicato Winery on 12001 S. Hwy 99 Frontage Road, Manteca

The Topic:

“GMOs and Our Grocery Basket”

Presented by: Pamm Larry



A farmer, midwife, businesswoman and a gutsy grandmother.
Developer of Prop 37 Initiative in 2012 that stated: “Californians demand to know what they are eating and feeding to their children”

Cost: \$35 for members and the public, \$15 for students

To Make Reservation(s):

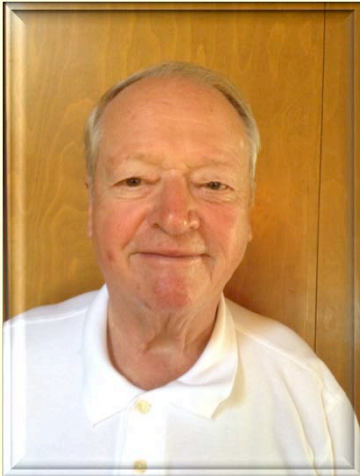
Please send a check made out to LWVSJC to LWVSJC, P. O. Box 4548, Stockton, CA 95204.

We must receive your check by September 6.

Questions? Call (209) 642-5105.

Member Spotlight

James Darrah



Retired Superior Court Judge James Darrah has been a supporter of the League for many years, as was his late wife, former Mayor Joan Darrah. Her fundraising leadership was an inspirational guide for our League's financial stability.

Jim graduated from Stanford with degrees in economics and law. He is married to Judy Chambers, a retired vice president for Student Life at University of the Pacific. He is active in his retirement, volunteering and traveling. Jim belongs to the League in recognition of our strong principles and as advocates for government accountability and social equity. We are proud to have his support.

Stina Va



Stina Va is one of our newest San Joaquin County League members. She is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley, with a major in Political Science. Stina brings a wealth of enthusiasm, along with talent in an area the League has long neglected – Social Media. Thanks to Stina, we now have a presence on Facebook and Twitter.

In addition to currently serving on our Board of Directors, Stina participates in a broad range of community activities. She is employed by Restore the Delta, working to protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This is a complex issue and a challenge that well suits her bright mind.

Thank you

Thank you to the following individuals and households for keeping their League membership current.

Mary Bava
Beverly Blum*
Donna Brown and Colleen Foster
Delores Carter
John and Kathy Casenave
Patricia Collier
Leslie Cullinane
James Darrah*
Margaret Guttieri
Gladys Ikeda*
Paula LeVeck*
Patricia Lindenberg*
Al and Bea Lingenfelter
Helen Mar*
Beverly Fitch McCarthy
Loralee McGaughney
Vickie Markarian
Al and Dee Matteucci
Diane Morgali*
Diane Park
Joan Ray
Rogene Reynolds
Ronda Sanders
Katherine Schick
Linda Soliven
JoAnne Talbot*
Syd and Mary Lois Thompson
Steve Tyack and Jane Wagner-Tyack
Christine Wallis
Walt and Cate White
Marilyn Wylie
Stina Va
Patricia Voss*

**Sustaining member*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

- _____ \$60 (individual)
- _____ \$75 (sustaining – individuals who want to continue supporting the activities of LWVSJC but cannot participate regularly)
- _____ \$100 (household – two or more members residing at the same address)
- _____ \$30 (individuals 18 or older who are enrolled either full-time or part-time in an accredited institution)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____ (cell) _____

Email _____

Date _____

Please **make checks payable to LWVSJC** and mail to **LWVSJC, P.O. Box 4548, Stockton, CA 95204**



League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County
P. O. Box 4548
Stockton, CA 95204
Email: lwvsjc@gmail.com
On the web at sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

To make a tax-deductible donation to the San Joaquin County League Fund (Education Fund), please make your check payable to LWVSJC Ed Fund and mail it to P.O. Box 4548, Stockton, CA 95204.

You can also donate to the Ed Fund using your credit card or PayPal account by visiting our website, sjc.ca.lwvnet.org.

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.