



The Voter

Two League Members to be Recognized as Women of Achievement

The People's Vision for the Delta: a Symposium sponsored by will be Restore the Delta will be held on February 28th.

See the article on Page 2—and Plan to attend.

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Vickie Markarian and Daphne Shaw have been selected as recipients of this year's Susan B. Anthony Woman of Achievement award from the San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women. Congratulations!!



**Vickie Markarian
Community Service**

Both women are currently serving on the LWVSJC Board. Vickie is being recognized for her community service. Daphne's recognition is in the area of health care, notably as an advocate for good mental health care.

Vickie Markarian

League work figured prominently in the community service recognition by the Commission. Since she joined the League in 2000, Vickie has been a leader in voter services, spearheading Mock Elections with the schools, sharing Speakers Bureau duties with Dee Matteucci, making Pros and Cons presentations all over the county and organizing and/or mentoring others to present candidates forums throughout the south county. In 2008, Vickie took over Smart Voter duties with nary a blink at the extra work. She 'just did it.' Vickie has also



**Daphne Shaw
Health Care**

chaired the Helen Pearson Award Committee—and has been given that well deserved recognition (before she was chair!) by her League peers in 2005. Congratulations, Vickie!

Daphne Shaw

Daphne is a relatively new League member. On the Board since 2006, she organized the candidate forums televised on Comcast for both the primary and general elections in 2008. However, it is for her work as a mental health advocate that Daphne is being recognized by the Commission. Daphne is a licensed Public Health Microbiologist who has volunteered at Su Salud and with the St. Joseph's Care Van but her focus has been on mental health. She served on the SJ County Mental Health Advisory Board, including a time as Chair. She serves on other mental health boards, including the California Mental Health Planning Council and she led the effort to pass Prop 63 (Mental Health Services Act) in SJ Co.

Daphne has championed the rights of people with mental illness, advocating for the most appropriate and least restrictive care. Daphne has been able to influence policies that allow individuals to remain out of inpatient or institutional care. Congratulations, Daphne!

President's Message — Peaches Ehrich

We've set the date for the Annual Meeting: June 18th. Mark your calendars now! It will probably be at Bud's again—but stay tuned for final plans.

I hope many of you will attend the water symposium on February 28th sponsored by Restore the Delta. It is our opportunity not only to become knowledgeable about a variety of complex water and Delta issues but also to give input into Delta solutions, input from Delta-area residents that has been ignored or not sought in the ongoing debate about this precious water resource.

I am excited about our March 7th program when we will hear from women who ran for public office, including League members Van Ha To-Cowell and Ann Johnston. We will get the inside scoop on what it is really like to be a candidate—the good, the bad and the ugly parts of running for office. It should be both enlightening and entertaining.

And Congratulations! to Vickie and Daphne for being named what we all know they are—Women of Achievement!

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Program Planning

The State League, as it always does every two years, asked for input from California Leagues on what to emphasize in the next two years. Our League urged that **Health Care** continue as an Issue for Education and Advocacy. Cate White will continue in her role as local coordinator of health care information and action. Our other two issues for Education and Advocacy were **Water** (with Esther Vasquez taking the lead) and the **State Budget Process** (with Cate again taking a leadership role). LWVC will decide what issues rank in the top three at its Convention in May in Long Beach. If you are interested in any of the issues above, contact Cate or Esther.

The Board also decided to support a request from LWV Los Angeles for a **new study of the California State Prison System**. While the Board has concerns about the level of local participation in such a study, should it be adopted, there was general agreement that the prison system is broken and that it affects a lot more than those in prison, their victims and all their families. There will likely be a vigorous debate at Convention in Long Beach in May.

Bay Area League Day

Jane Wagner-Tyack and Cate White attended the Bay Area League Day and focused much of their time on Delta and water-related sessions. It was apparent that these issues are as important to Bay Area Leagues as they are to us.

Lois Wolk attended the Day and was very interested in governance issues relating to the Delta. She will be part of a panel discussing these issues at the Restore the Delta symposium on February 28th. Another speaker was an engineer from Berkeley who spoke about his experiences in Japan and in Louisiana related to levy breaks and the potential for catastrophe here. Jane will see if he might be able to present a program here.

Blueprint for the Valley Summit

Esther Vasquez and Jane Wagner-Tyack attended a recent Blueprint summit. This process is near completion, but it was clear to both of our reps that we in SJ County have more in common with the Bay Area than with the southern San Joaquin Valley with whom we were paired.

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2008-2009

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Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed. Bea Lingenfelter and Esther Vasquez have been selected to complete the Committee.

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Sylvia Kothe and Cate White

A Bold Direction: The People's Vision for the Delta

LWVSJC's Water Committee has been keenly aware of the need to bring the multiple and complex issues regarding water (quality, availability, the role of the Delta, Peripheral Canal proposals, among others) to the attention of people in San Joaquin County. The Business Council did host a Water Summit in November 2008 featuring representatives from a wide variety of local, regional and state water agencies. Now RESTORE THE DELTA is sponsoring a symposium that will focus on "The People's Vision" of Delta water issues. The League is urging members to attend this all day event.



RESTORE THE DELTA is a coalition of over 2100 Delta residents, business leaders, civic organizations, community groups, faith-based communities, union locals, farmers, fishermen and environmentalists who seek to strengthen the health of the estuary and the well-being of Delta communities. A letter announcing the symposium states that participants will "look at how changing conditions in the Delta can be managed by the people who know the Delta best *because they live there.*" The symposium will consider "the potential for regional self-sufficiency to make other parts of the state less dependent on Delta water." Topics to be covered will include current litigation and governance of Delta resources as well as the controversial issue of a Delta Conservancy.

Cost of the symposium is \$40 which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Symposium will be held on the grounds of Wine and Roses Hotel in Lodi.

WHAT: Day long Symposium on the Delta sponsored by RESTORE THE DELTA

WHEN: Saturday, February 28th, 8:00 a.m.—4:45 p.m.

WHERE: Wine and Roses Hotel, 2505 Turner Road, Lodi

COST: \$40

How to register: Go to the www.restorethedelta.org and click on the symposium article or email Barbara Barrigan-Parilla for information at Barbara@restorethedelta.org

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers will have their registration fees comped. For information or to volunteer, contact Jane Wagner-Tyack (janetyack@mac.com) or Susan Loyko (smloyko@gmail.com)



Congressman George Miller (D-CA, District 7) will be the Keynote Speaker. Congressman George Miller is chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. He is a leading advocate in Congress on education, labor, the economy, and the environment. He has represented the 7th District of California in the East Bay of San Francisco since 1975. Miller is an expert on California water issues. In 1992, he passed and enacted into law the historic California water reform law, known as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. In addition to giving the keynote address, Congressman Miller will receive an award from RESTORE THE DELTA.

Other well known water experts—Dante Nomellini, Tom Zuckerman,

Mike Machado, Alex Hildebrand and Bill Jennings, to name a few, will also be panelists at the symposium. Hildebrand, Jennings and Machado will also be recognized with awards during the Symposium lunch. Other participants include Greg Aghazarian, Senator Lois Wolk, League member Bill Loyko and LWVSJC Water Committee Co-Chair Jane Wagner-Tyack.

General Sessions will focus on Regional Self-Sufficiency, Managing Changing Conditions in the Delta, Current Litigation and Delta Conservancy issues. One concurrent session will be divided between a session on eminent domain issues for Delta landowners only and issues of governance reform for other participants.

This symposium was brought about partially in response to the frustration Delta residents have experienced about being left out of the discussions concerning the fate of the Delta. A recent letter from Janice Hirohama, LWVC President, to Mike Chrisman of the California Resources Agency, enlarged on concerns raised by our local League Water Committee members, that the state "moved very quickly and with minimal transparency and minimal involvement of Delta water interests" in consideration of a Peripheral Canal. The same could be said of Delta water issues in general.

This symposium is designed to inform area residents about the complex water issues facing the Delta but also to get input from people who live in the Delta region. It's time for local input into addressing these large problems. This is your chance.

Green in the News

League Congratulates Senator Boxer on Climate Change Principles

Loopholes Must Be Avoided

The League of Women Voters congratulated Senator Barbara Boxer (D CA) on her "Principles for Global Warming Legislation" released on February 4th. Senator Boxer serves as chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, with primary jurisdiction in the Senate over climate change policy.



"Senator Boxer has crafted a realistic and prudent plan to deal with global climate change and the emerging public health and environmental disaster it represents," said Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "Senator Boxer clearly recognizes the critical nature of this issue. We congratulate her on her proposal and look to her leadership in moving vital legislation quickly through Congress," said Wilson said.

"It is especially important that the Boxer principles do not contain the loopholes that plagued earlier proposals in the House and Senate and from outside interests," Wilson noted.

"Loopholes – such as unenforceable offsets, so-called 'cost containment' provisions, and free emissions allowances for polluters -- will likely be the critical issue during the climate change debate," Wilson said.

"The strategy of the polluters and special interests is clear – to say they are concerned about global warming and then support loopholes that will let them off the hook," Wilson charged. "It will be up to citizens around the country and their elected representatives in Congress to

fight these loopholes," she said.

"Every polluter and special interest in the country will be seeking their own private loopholes," Wilson said. "If they win, the result will be business as usual," she said. "The League of Women Voters is committed to holding Congress accountable," Wilson pledged.

"We thank Senator Boxer for her leadership in developing these six important principles to guide the legislative effort," Wilson said. "Global climate change is getting worse every day, damaging our health and threatening our planet. It is time to act," Wilson concluded.

Principles for Global Warming Legislation

1. Reduce emissions to levels guided by science to avoid dangerous global warming.
2. Set short and long term emissions targets that are certain and enforceable, with periodic review of the climate science and adjustments to targets and policies as necessary to meet emissions reduction targets.
3. Ensure that state and local entities continue pioneering efforts to address global warming.
4. Establish a transparent and accountable market-based system that efficiently reduces carbon emissions.
5. Use revenues from the carbon market to:
 - Keep consumers whole as our nation transitions to clean energy;
 - Invest in clean energy technologies and energy efficiency measures;

- Assist states, localities and tribes in addressing and adapting to global warming impacts;
- Assist workers, businesses and communities, including manufacturing states, in the transition to a clean energy economy;
- Support efforts to conserve wildlife and natural systems threatened by global warming; and
- Work with the international community, including faith leaders, to provide support to developing nations in responding and adapting to global warming. In addition to other benefits, these actions will help avoid the threats to international stability and national security posed by global warming.

6. Ensure a level global playing field, by providing incentives for emission reductions and effective deterrents so that countries contribute their fair share to the international effort to combat global warming.

"America has awakened to the new agenda on climate change. It is not inaction that impedes us, rather it is selecting those actions from among so many that best fit with the human and financial resources we can individually and collectively muster . . . and must muster quickly. There's a clanging of bells warning us, calling us to act. Knowledge alone cannot stave the course of inaction." Rajendra Pachauri, who last year accepted the Nobel Prize on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

LWVUS Study: National Popular Vote

At its 2008 Convention, League delegates voted to adopt a new study, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact among the States as a Method for Electing the President."



The National Popular Vote Compact Proposal

The National Popular Vote Compact proposal offers a method of achieving the result of election of the President by popular vote without amending the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College. Instead, this method uses the mechanism of the Electoral College to ensure that the candidate who receives the most popular votes is elected President of the United States.

Under the proposed legislation to enact the National Popular Vote Compact, all of the state's electoral votes would be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill would take effect only when enacted, in identical form, by states possessing a majority of the electoral votes—that is, enough electoral votes to elect a President (270 of 538)

The NPV Compact proposal is predicated upon the portion of the United States Constitution which states: "Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors..." (*Article II, Section 1, Clause 2*) (emphasis added)

The constitutional wording, "as the Legislature thereof may direct," contains no restriction on the states' exercise of their power with respect to their electors. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly characterized the authority of the states over the manner of awarding their electoral votes as "plenary" and "exclusive." Therefore, the states have the right to decide how to select their electors and award their electoral votes. Thus, proponents of the NPV Compact claim that the

U.S. Constitution need not be changed in order to implement nationwide NPV. Rather, they maintain, this change can be accomplished in the same way that the current system evolved—namely, the states will use their exclusive and plenary power to decide the manner of awarding their electoral votes.

An additional constitutional underpinning of the NPV is the Compact Clause (*Article I, Section 10, Clause 3*), which permits states to enter into legally enforceable contractual obligations to undertake agreed joint action with other states. Interstate compacts are typically used to address problems that concern more than one state—the states which are affected enter into a compact (contract) which regulates their actions, ensuring uniform response by the states to address their mutual concerns. These contracts are typically enacted through the passage of identical legislation by the compacting states.

Under the state legislation proposed to establish the NPV, the popular vote counts from all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be added together to obtain a national grand total for each presidential candidate. Then, state elections officials in all states participating in the plan would award their electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest number of popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The NPV Compact plan would take effect only when it has been enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of the electoral votes. The 270-vote threshold also corresponds essentially to states representing a majority of the people of the United States. As a result, every vote in all 50 states and the District of Columbia would be equally important in presidential elections.

The compact contains a six-month blackout period during which no state

can withdraw from the compact. The blackout period starts on July 20 of each presidential election year and runs through the January 20 inauguration. Interstate compacts are contracts. It is settled compact law and settled constitutional law that withdrawal restrictions—very common in interstate compacts—are enforceable because the U.S. Constitution prohibits a state from impairing any obligation of contract

The legislation contains other procedural provisions that would ensure the smooth functioning of the agreement. For example, one clause addresses the possibility of a tie in the national popular vote. To address that situation and others identified by the drafters of the legislation as possible anomalies in the process they have developed, a mechanism is provided to obtain the desired result. The full text of the compact is available at www.lwv.org.

Current Status of the National Popular Vote Compact

Since passage of the National Popular Vote Compact is accomplished on a state-by-state basis, its status is fluid. As of September 1, 2008, the legislation necessary to activate the compact has been signed into law in four states: Maryland, New Jersey, Hawaii and Illinois, for a total of 50 of the 270 electoral votes required to activate the NPV Compact. NPV Compact bills have been introduced in 15 other states, where some have passed committee and others have passed one house.

Pro and Con arguments to this proposal will be printed in the March Voter and Consensus questions in April. Local study results are due May 1, 2009.

Focus on LWVUS & LWVC

LWVC Files Amicus Brief Opposing Proposition 8

The League of Women Voters of California has filed an amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) brief with the California Supreme Court supporting the legal challenge to Proposition 8. Proposition 8, passed by the voters last November, amends the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California, thus eliminating the right of same-sex couples to marry.

The League has long opposed measures that threaten individual rights. The brief argues that Proposition 8 is invalid because it violates the overriding constitutional principles of protection of equality and human dignity. It also argues that Proposition 8 does not apply retroactively to invalidate same-sex marriages that took place before the November election. Read the brief and press release online. Read our positions.

The LWVC was represented pro bono by the law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

Proposition 11— Implementation Begins

We won! Now it’s time to roll up our sleeves and get to work. The League needs you! The State Auditor’s Office will be holding public meetings across the state to solicit input on how to make the recruitment and selection process for the citizens’ redistricting commission as open and broad as possible. League members in San Joaquin County could consider attending the meetings in Fresno, San Francisco or Sacramento:

Thursday, February 19th

Location: State Agencies Building
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 1036
Fresno, CA 93721

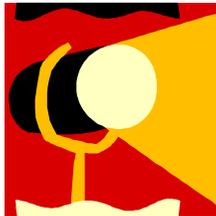
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. *

Friday February 27th

Location: Office of the Courts
Milton Marks Auditorium
455 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *

Tuesday, March 3rd



Location: California Secretary of State Office Building
Auditorium
1500 11th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. *

* All meetings will conclude earlier if the participants in attendance have completed their comments.

The important work of monitoring the process starts right now. Who better than our members to act as watchdogs?

The League is forming a **Redistricting Committee** comprised of League volunteers who will work with our Prop. 11 partners to facilitate the best possible implementation of redistricting reform for California. We are looking at a variety of opportunities over the next three years, and we need a wide array of talent and enthusiasm. See our Web site (ca.lwv.org) for details. Here’s your chance to make history happen by working with League members in communities across California as we work on implementing this groundbreaking reform. Contact us at advocacy@lwvc.org for more information.

“Catch the Wave to the Future”— **LWVC Convention 2009**

The 2009 LWVC Convention will take place from May 15 through May 17 at the Marriott Hotel in Long Beach. California League members meet in convention to adopt program, elect officers and directors, learn and advocate at workshops and caucuses, network with other Leaguers, and purchase League publications and gifts.

LWVUS Suspends National Voter

The LWVUS Board announced its “hard decision” to suspend publication of *The National Voter* magazine (paper and digital) until the League’s finances are healthier. “Publication costs for *The Voter* are prohibitive in a time of budget cutbacks.” The Board is committed to “making lemonade out of this lemon by finding new ways to deliver information to members and supporters.” League were asked to share LWVUS online Weekly Updates with our members as a way to keep them informed. We ask all LWVUSJ members with email addresses to share them with us, if you haven’t already done so.

Legislative Priorities LWVUS 2009



The LWVUS Board announced **Global Climate Change and Health Care** to be the top legislative priorities for

the upcoming year. Top priority issues are ones on which major congressional action is expected and on which the LWVUS will seek to be an active player.

Tier two priorities are *Election Reform and DC Voting Rights*. Tier two issues will be acted upon if significant success is possible, though top priorities will take precedence.

Tier three issues could be subject for LWVUS action only if good opportunities present themselves, and there is no pressing action on top priority and tier two issues. Tier three issues we are watching are: *Campaign Finance Reform; CEDAW (the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women); Civil Liberties; Ethics; and Redistricting.*



LEAGUE NEWS

Apologies to long time League member Mary Bava for the late 'news' article. Congratulations, Mary!

Mary Bava Recognized with ATHENA Award



The Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce selected Mary Bava as its 2008 ATHENA Award recipient. The award honors outstanding professional women who encourage an environment where providing assistance, inspiration

and mentoring to women is uniquely valued.

Mary was recognized for her professional accomplishments, community service and her role in helping other women in the community attain success.

The following is excerpted from the Chamber's press release:

"Mary Bava is currently a Senior Consultant for Assembly member Cathleen Galgiani, a position she has held for nearly two years. Previously, she was the District Director for Assembly member Barbara Matthews for six years. In both positions she has served the constituents of the State Legislature's 17th Assembly District, assisting with issues affecting local government, the business community, and individual citizens.

Previously, Mary was the Program Development Coordinator for the Family Resource and Referral Center (2000-2001), the Public Affairs Manager at MediaOne (now Comcast) (1997-2000), and the Executive Director of the Women's Center of San Joaquin County (1994-1997). Mary has extensive experi-

ence in County government as a Probation Officer, a Senior Legislative Assistant to the Board of Supervisors, and an Associate Planner with the Community Development Department.

Mary graduated from the University of Michigan and received a Master's Degree in Communications from the University of the Pacific. She completed the Management Certificate Program at UOP's Eberhardt School of Business and Public Administration, and earned a Certificate in Non-Profit Management at California State University Stanislaus. She is a graduate of Leadership Stockton.

Mary joined the Board of Directors of the Women's Center of San Joaquin County in 2004. She is currently the Vice President of the Board (President-Elect for 2009), and also serves on the Executive and Fund Development Committees. In 2003, she was the Chair of the Center's Fall Campaign, and co-chaired the Major Donor Campaign in 2002.

Mary served on the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 1998 - 2002 and was chair of the Chamber Community Based Organizations Network (CCBON). She was on the Board of Directors of the Leadership Stockton Alumni from 1987 to 1989, serving as Vice President in 1988. She assisted with the Leadership Stockton Advisory Committee in 2002 and 2004-5. She has enjoyed being an ambassador, and attending the Government Relations Council meetings. She is a founding member of the Community Partnership for Families, and was part of Stockton's team that earned the first All America City designation in Philadelphia in 1999.

Mary has been a member of the Public Relations Exchange since its inception in 1998, and served on the United

Way's "Power of One - Women Making a Difference" Event Committee in 2001, 2002, 2003. For several years she worked with the Speaker Selection Committee for the Business Leadership Summit and the Action on Behalf of Children (ABC) Awards Program. She has been honored with the Commission on the Status of Women's Susan B. Anthony Woman of Achievement Award in Government and Politics, the Family Resource and Referral Center's Action on Behalf of Children Award, the Business and Professional Women's Woman of the Year Award, and the Leadership Stockton Alumni Association's Community Involvement Award."

The ATHENA Award was presented to Mary at the annual ATHENA Luncheon on November 13, 11:30 a.m., at Stockton Golf and Country Club.

LWVSJC Starts Nomination Process for 2009-2010 Officers/Committees

Although this year is still in full swing, our League is beginning to plan for next year. The Nominating Committee will be seeking candidates for the office of President, 1st Vice President, and two Directors—and someone to edit our Voter next year.

"I learned so much being on the Board—especially as a relatively new member," said Susan Loyko, past Secretary who is currently spearheading our Membership efforts. "It's a great group of women to work with. It was an opportunity that I'm glad I took advantage of."

You, too, could have this opportunity! Contact Dee Matteucci, Sally Miller, Tandy Gotschall, Bea Lingenfelter or Esther Vasquez for more information.



League of Women Voters
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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Sunday, February 15, 2009, 5:00 p.m. —Susan B. Anthony Dinner

Brookside Country Club, 3603 St. Andrews Drive, Stockton

Saturday, February 28, 2009, 8:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.—A Bold Direction: The People's Vision for the Delta

Wine and Roses Hotel, 2505 Turner Road, Lodi

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m.—Running for Office: True Tales from the Campaign Trail

Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston, Lincoln Unified School Board Trustee Van Ha To-Cowell, Delta Trustee Mary Ann Cox-Martin and Legislative Aide and former candidate for County Board of Supervisors Anne Baird will share their campaign experiences.

Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9:30-noon—Impact of the State Budget on Local Services

Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. This program is in the planning phase. Panelists will speak on health care, education and other local services that are impacted by the crisis in the California State Budget.

Earth Day: Sunday, April 19, 2009—Volunteers welcome to work the League booth.

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

Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 18th, 6:00 p.m. Place TBA Mark your calendars now!

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Hospice, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Meetings start at 5:30 p.m.

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.