



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS®

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The Voter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the San Joaquin Valley



Host Susan Lokyo begins the first part of the discussion for the first half the 14 candidates.

Report on the Applicant Forum for District 5

On January 7th, the League of Women Voters of SJC, along with the North Victory Park Neighborhood Watch Group and UOP's Jacoby Center, held an Applicant Forum for 14 individuals who applied for a seat to represent District 5 of Stockton's City Council, formerly Susan Eggman's vacated seat. The forum was held at the William Albright Lecture Auditorium of UOP.

League member Susan Mora Lokyo acted as host and Professor Bob Benedetti, Chair of UOP's Political Science Department, facilitated the dialogue between the 14 applicants using prepared questions.



Applause as the second half the Forum ends with the last 7 applicants. Thanks to fellow League member Susan Lokyo for initiating and spearheading the forum.

(Report on the Applicant Forum for District 5 continued)

Over 100 residents and supporters showed up to the free and public event. Among the audience were City Council members Paul Canepa, Elbert Holman, Kathy Miller, Moses Zapien and Michael Tubbs.

The six questions asked by Professor Bob Benedetti produced a discussion between the applicants that focused primarily on three overlapping subject areas: (1) economic development, (2) crime, and (3) the Stockton downtown area. Several candidates gave a brief description of their approach to reduce crime, which varied from a community to an economic approach. Applicants also spoke abundantly about ideas to revitalize downtown Stockton; they mentioned plans that involved the creation of bike lanes, a world-class library, and housing, but at the same time emphasized “working with what we have.”

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Save The Date: Initiative and Referendum Study To Take Place February 9th



Our Initiative and Referendum Study will take place at First Unitarian Universalist Church on Pacific Ave. on the Saturday of February 9th. LWVSJC along with many other leagues across the state are participating in this LWVC initiated study. The State League has a position but believes our current position is not comprehensive enough to address issues that have arisen over the years in this ballot process.

Cate White and her committee on the Initiative and Referendum Study have been hard at work gathering much information about how this process works in California, what our current State League position is, and possible reforms. We will provide our input through consensus to State League for future action. Coffee and light refreshments will be at 8:45 am, our meeting will start at 9:00 am and be completed with consensus by 12:30 or so. We hope many members will attend and you are welcome to bring guests. However only members may have input into the consensus process.

**LWVSJC
Board of Directors
for 2012-2013**

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Diane Park, July-September
Kathy Casenave, October-December
Bea Lingenfelter, January-March

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Stina Va

President's Message

Report on the Program Planning Meeting

We had a wonderful Program Planning Meeting on January 26 at the home of Mary Lois and Syd Thompson. As always, Mary Lois and Syd are wonderful hosts and they make every effort to have our meetings there exceptional. Thanks to all the Board members for providing the light brunch before we got busy on our planning.

We had a great cross-section of new, experienced and prospective members at the meeting. With much lively discussion and input, we identified three main issues for LWVSJC on which to educate the public and ourselves.

The top three issues identified were:

- (1) Water issues - exploring all the options being proposed for the Delta and for water resources as a major element in California's future
- (2) Fracking and what that mean for the Central Valley, for California, the environment, and energy needs
- (3) Regional issues related to crime, gangs, policing, prison realignment, and making Stockton and other regional communities safer.

As you can see, these are timely, relevant and important issues to explore for all of us. Two other issues also were identified as important for focusing our attention (a) keeping a watch on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and (b) the Farm Bill, including support of sustainable agriculture and support of California Farmers.

These identified issues will keep our League very busy during 2013/14 and we hope that all members will get involved and participate in many ways to ensure these topics are addressed appropriately and thoughtfully.

Watch for more information in the near future.

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State League comments on Delta water planning process

A major planning process affecting San Joaquin County is the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan, mandated by the 2009 Delta Reform legislation. In January, the League of Women Voters of California submitted comments critical of the Delta Plan and associated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report.

Although this is not the plan that would build the Peripheral Tunnels we have all been hearing about, the Delta Plan is intended to incorporate that conveyance plan and the habitat conservation plan necessary to operate it without further environmental damage to the Delta ecosystem.

The state League letter, prepared for the LWVC Water Committee with input from Jane Wagner-Tyack of LWVSJC, is posted on the LWVC website. To see it, go to the website, click on “Issues” at the upper right, click on “Public Statements” on the menu on the right, and click on “LWVC Comments on EIR for Draft Delta Plan.” Or use this link: <http://ca.lwv.org/statement/2013/jan/lwvc-comments-eir-draft-delta-plan>

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Authors Among Us

The San Joaquin County League of Women Voters counts two recently-published authors among its members. Their books deal with two of the most important movements of the past half-century: the battle for civil rights and the battle for gay and lesbian rights.

This past summer, LWVSJC member Patricia Sitkin published *Remembering Delphi County*, set in Mississippi in the Freedom Summer of 1964. It tells the story of young civil rights workers, including a British drama student and the son of a wealthy black Chicago family, who become victims of violence that leaves one with amnesia, fleeing the Ku Klux Klan.

Freedom Summer was over before Sitkin learned of its horrors and heroism. A young friend, Penelope Patch, arrived for a visit then. She had worked beside three young men who were murdered there and, along with her fellow members of SNCC, had risked her own life. Sitkin determined that some day she would write about it, but was occupied then with teaching and later freelance reporting. Retirement brought time to write, and another guest, a young man suffering from trauma-induced amnesia, brought inspiration for the plot. Watching him regain his memory in bits and pieces gave her a framework for *Remembering Delphi County*.

(Authors Among Us continued)

This book is available online.

Also available online is Dr. Sally Miller’s most recent book, a memoir titled *Two Women, Five Decades: From Closeted Isolation to Twenty-First Century Community*. This is the very personal story of a 50-year relationship that began in college and ended with the death of Miller’s partner Peg in 2007 after a struggle with cancer.

Dr. Miller is a retired professor of history who taught for thirty-four years at University of the Pacific. She has won numerous awards, including two Fulbrights, and has published twelve history books and biographies.

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Mark Your Calendars: Status and Funding For Mental Health Services



On Saturday, February 23, Mr. Vic Singh, Director of San Joaquin County Health Services, will speak on the status and funding for mental health services in our county and the state. He will also address mental illness and the current perspective on gun violence--is there a connection?

This event will be held in Room A at the County Mental Health Center, 1212 California Ave. Refreshments will be at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will last from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We hope to see you there.

LWVSJC is a busy and involved organization. In order to impact political issues important to all of our families, and us, we need all members to be involved. When you come to a meeting, please bring a guest who might be interested in also joining League and adding her/his voice to ours.' With everyone involved, we can make a difference.

Please Join Us On Facebook

The League is looking to increase our visibility and support in the San Joaquin community. To help us better connect to our community and our members, please “Like” us on Facebook, and help create our online community.

If you have a Facebook account, it's really simple. First, type the URL (<http://www.facebook.com/LWVSJC>) to go to our page. Once the page is loaded, click the "Like" button next to “League of Women Voters of SJC” on the right side of the page. If you're already a fan, please let your Facebook friends know about our new Facebook page by clicking ‘Share’ on the drop down menu or through the downward facing arrow next to the Message button on the right side of our page.

Our Facebook community will be a great place to find out about the latest news on the SJC League of Women Voters. It will also act as a forum to connect with our members and others like us. With new information posted daily or weekly, our Facebook fans (those who “Like” us) will be updated with the latest news relevant to our organization. The team at the SJC League of Women Voters will post the articles we're reading to our Facebook page weekly, in addition to upcoming events and announcements. Then we will look to our Facebook fans for thoughts on possible issues and information.

This is a great and easy way for your opinions to shape the League’s work.

"Like" us on Facebook today:

<http://www.facebook.com/LWVSJC>

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE.



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facebook.com/LWVSJC



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Local Government 101 Class

An Introduction to Local Politics & Policy

Want to change your community or just understand how it works?
Interested in running for local public office?
Know that it takes action to be part of the solution?

Local Government 101 is a short course that explores local government (cities, counties, special districts and school districts) with special attention to the San Joaquin Valley.

Each week, a panel of experts will explain how local government operates and the policy options it has regarding economic development, education, public safety, land use and water.

Thursdays, February 7—April 18 4pm—6pm
Instructor: Robert Benedetti
Location: Central Methodist Church
Cost: \$125

CLASS SCHEDULE:

2/7: Urban Society: Local Demography and Local Government Structures
2/14 The Dynamics of Elected and Appointed Boards
2/21: Campaigns, Media, and Elections
2/28: Local Government Finances: Revenue and Expenditures
March 7: Spring Break
3/14: Labor Relations: The Role of Unions in the Public Sector
3/21: Public Policy I: Land Use Planning and Transportation
3/28: Public Policy II: Economic Development
4/4: Public Policy III: Public Safety
4/11: Public Policy IV: Education
4/18: Public Policy V: Water

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.

**Welcome New Members, and Thank You
to Members who renewed their LWVSJC membership
since July**

Lauren and Denny Ah Tye
Gloria Allen
Pauline Almaas
Ann Bauermeister
Delores Carter
Patricia Collier
Leslie Cullinane
Helen Holt
Ann Johnston
Mary Kennedy-Bracken
Patricia Lindenberg
Bill and Susan Mora Loyko
Dee Matteucci
Beverly Fitch McCarthy
Sally Miller
Moirra Nichols
Ellen Powell
Coralita Rathhaus
Stina Va
Genie Van Schoten
Eleanor Shimeall
Patricia Sitkin
Linda Soliven
Dale and Gale Stocking
Christine Wallis
Barbara Walker
Marilyn Wylie

Circle of Support

The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County expresses its thanks to the following individuals for their generous donations to enable us to go forward with our work.

*Barbara Walker
Stephen Stocking
Tola Martin Eley
Lee Hemminger
Ann Cerney
Ella Evans
Ann Ramacher
Mary Lois Thompson
Nancy Ballot
Dee Matteucci
Margaret Miller
Mary Westin
Sally Miller
Van Ha To-Cowell
Janet Bonner
Raul Sanchez
Gladys Ikeda
Denny & Lauren Ah Tye
Fran and Harvey Gottlieb
James & Lorelee McGaughey
Leslie Oliver
Bev Blum
Bette Outlaw
Mary Bava
Diane Park
Eleanor Shimeall*



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 9 – Initiative and Referendum Study, First Unitarian Universalist Church on Pacific Ave.

Wednesday, February 13 – Board Meeting, Marie Callender’s (Moved so as to not interfere with Valentine’s Day)

Friday, February 15 – Susan B. Anthony Dinner, Stockton Golf and Country Club

Saturday, February 23 – Status and Funding For Mental Health Services, County Mental Health Center

Thursday, March 14 – Board Meeting, Marie Callender’s

Thursday, March 21 – Lunch and Learn. Storm water (regional and county issues).

Note: The Board meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Marie Callender’s, 2628 W March Ln, Stockton. Members are welcome to attend Board meetings.