



The Voter

LWVSJC
Thanks

Tandy Gotschall
for allowing the League to use her store, Midori's Décor, for our Art, Crafts and Gifts Fundraiser

BLUEPRINT FOR VOTER SERVICES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
League Board of Directors	2
Fundraiser a Success!	2
Nominating Committee	3
ADVOCACY Program	3
Water Lawsuit Update	4
Stocktonian of the Year	4
Growth Workshops	5
Susan B. Anthony Dinner	5
Upcoming Events	6

"The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens."

This fundamental principle of the League is the basis of our signature public service, nonpartisan voter services. In this role, we present unbiased, nonpartisan information about elections, the voting process, and issues on the ballot. Specific services include Speakers Bureau Pros and Cons presentations, candidate forums, the Smart Voter web site, mock elections, voter registration, get out the vote activities and other activities focusing on informing the electorate and getting them to vote!

WHAT—PLANNING OUR PRIORITIES FOR VOTER SERVICES

WHEN—Saturday, January 20th, 10:30—12:30

WHERE—1652 Lucerne, Stockton (Susan Loyko's home)

POTLUCK BRUNCH—BRING A DISH TO SHARE. We'll dine while we discuss our Voter Services focus for the immediate future

In recent years, LWVSJC has focused on some of these activities and not on others. This past election, some of the services we offered were tremendously successful. Some were disappointing. To maximize our successes, we need to plan.

Our BLUEPRINT for Voter Services discussion will focus on several questions, including:

- What services does the community rely on us to provide? Are these the same ones we are offering?
- Are there activities we should add to our offerings—and who will provide them?
- How can we get more members involved in presenting core voter services?
- How can we get candidates more involved in Smart Voter and more voters aware of the information provided?
- How can we be more inclusive in candidate forums?

Please join us for this important discussion.

How to contact the League:
LWVSJC
P.O. Box 4548
Stockton, CA 95204
209-465-0293
Email: LWVSJC@aol.com
www.sjc.lwvnet.org

Congratulations to LWV Member Beve McCarthy!

Congratulations to League member Beverly McCarthy on her election to the Stockton Unified School District Board. This is Beve's second elected office. She



served on the Stockton City Council in the early 1990's. Congratulations, Beve, on this new avenue of public service!

President's Message — Colleen Foster



Democracy is not a spectator sport!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The first half our League year has been filled with many successes—visibility at Family Day in the Park, successful candidate forums held throughout the county, Pros and Cons presentations to voters who count on us for nonpartisan, unbiased information about ballot issues, up-to-date Smart Voter information, Measure K advocacy and forums ... a successful fundraiser and a very fun Holiday gathering (Thanks, Dee!). With the arrival of the new year, we look ahead with two important planning meetings: January 20th on Voter Services and February 3rd on Advocacy.

The axiom that heads this column is true: Democracy is not a spectator sport. The League is not a spectator organization. We are active! Whether offering much appreciated voter services or being advocates for better government and better communities. To stay focused on our important place in the community, we are holding planning discussion on voter services and advocacy. I hope you will come to one or both of this planning sessions. To remain vital, we need focus — and *we need member participation*. We need YOU.

LWVSJC IN ACTION

Art, Crafts and Gifts Sale Raises \$800!



Shoppers!



Ursula Meyer, intern
Betsy Hammer &
Peaches Ehrich



Fundraiser Coordinator
Peaches Ehrich

Many Thanks!

Our Fall fundraiser, the Arts, Crafts and Gift Sale, was a success thanks to many people: Thanks to **Peaches**, for organizing this venture; to **Tandy**, for allowing us to use her new store (Midori's Décor—imported Chinese furniture); to all those who donated art, crafts or gifts—Bev Blum, Catey Campora, Peaches Ehrich, Colleen Foster, Sylvia Kothe, Dee Matteucci, Lorelee McGaughey, Ursula Meyer, Sara Nation, Ann Pentecost, Pat Pickering, Lydia Tinder, and Genie Van Schoten and Don Rowell; to those who helped set up, take down and staff the event—Donna Brown, Colleen, Peaches, Ursula, Betsy Hammer, Jacob Loyko, Michael Gotschall; to Susan Loyko, publicity; to Donna Brown, sale banners; and to all the League members who stopped by and shopped: Maureen Abaray, Mary Andrews, Nan Ballot, Ann Bauermeister, Mary Bava, Bev Blum, Jerry & Joan Briscoe, Peaches, Colleen, Sylvia, Ava Langston-Kenney, Bill & Susan Loyko, Dee, Beve & John McCarthy, Lorelee, Ursula, Pat Pickering, Carolyn Pometta, and Genie Van Schoten.

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2006-2007

Officers

Colleen Foster, President/Voter editor
951-2311, malialani@comcast.net

Peaches Ehrich, 1st VP/Fundraising
969-3944 peachy1151@yahoo.com

Lydia Tinder, 2nd VP/Smart Voter
952-0374 (h) Lydiatin@aol.com

Susan Loyko, Secretary
943-1575 (h) smloyko@comcast.net

Sylvia Kothe, Treasurer
464-1004 Sylwv@aol.com

Directors

Vickie Markarian, Speakers Bureau
823-1486 (h) hyeorty@comcast.net

Ursula Meyer, At Large
951-1750 (h) ursulameyer@inreach.com

Daphne Shaw, At Large
952-2186 dshaw1@sbcglobal.net

Esther Vasquez, At Large
474-9796 Vasqueze@inreach.com

Cate White, Advocacy
823-3381 blckbrd98@aol.com

Off Board

Diane Park—CCCoS Liaison
DianLWV@cs.com 477-7193

Ann Pentecost—Webmaster
599-7541 Pann371@aol.com

Carolyn Pometta—SJC Commission on
the Status of Women Liaison
C.pometta@sbcglobal.net

Pat Thomas—Membership Secretary
Pmthomas@pacbell.net

Barbara Walker—Membership Data-
base
463-4919 bt451@pacbell.net

Nominating Committee

Ann Pentecost, Chair; Donna Brown, Barbara Walker, two Board members: Sylvia Kothe and Lydia Tinder

Nominating Committee Begins Work

The 2007 Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to search for officers to serve the League of Women Voters during the next two years. They would appreciate your help in finding people willing to serve. If you know someone whom you think would make a good officer, or if you are willing to serve the League, the nominating committee would like to hear from you.



Election) and Advocacy, two of the League's most important services. There is also an At Large position open. The past two years at least, the League has served with the minimum number of Directors. Ideally, we would elect five (5) Directors at our Annual Meeting this June.

Since Colleen Foster has been serving as President, program chair, and Voter editor, it is important that League members step up to fill these roles. The Nominating Committee is aware that it is going to be difficult to find one person to do all of these jobs, so we will be looking for at least two officers or directors to fulfill the roles of editor

and program chair. Also, LWVUS has adopted immigration as the national study for next year. The topic is certainly one of interest locally and the local League should participate. To do so, we will need someone to direct the study.

You may volunteer or suggest other League members for any of these positions by contacting a member of the Nominating Committee. The members of the committee are Ann Pentecost, chair (599-7541); Donna Brown (951-2311); Barbara Walker (463-4919); Sylvia Kothe (464-1004); and Lydia Tinder (952-0374).

Our members are the key to a successful League. Please let us hear from you!

- Donna Brown, Nominating Committee

Positions open for 2007-09 are President, First Vice-President, and two (3) Directors. Two of the portfolios carried by Directors whose terms are up are Voter Services (Speakers Bureau and Mock

ADVOCACY IS FOCUS OF FEBRUARY PROGRAM

"The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan grassroots network involving citizens in the democratic process. We are the most widely respected "good government" organization working for political change in California and in your community."

The League encourages us to be involved in our community on issues of concern that will improve the future. The League at the national, state and local levels study issues, takes positions on these issues, then takes action in support of the values and principles we have established through this process.

In recent years, our League has not heavily focused on advocacy, with the notable exception of our

WHAT— ADVOCACY—How to make an impact on the communities we live in

WHEN—Saturday, February 3rd, 10:00-2:00

WHERE— 4273 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton (Colleen Foster's home)

Agenda

10:00-noon: Focus on Local Advocacy

Noon—1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00: Input to LWVC Program Planning—what do we want the State League to focus on

Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$5.00 per person. Members who do not wish to have lunch are still strongly encouraged to attend the meeting.

recent transportation study and support of Measure K. We have been asked to take action on local concerns regarding global warming and other environmental issues as well as to take an active stance on growth and Stockton's General Plan update—and have not had the resources to follow through. These are issues we *should* be involved in.

As with voter services, we need to create a **Blueprint for Local Advocacy**. We also need to give input to LWVC on their issues for emphasis and action so that it meshes with our local interests.

If Action/Advocacy as a League member is of interest to you, join us on February 3rd! Please call 951-2311 if you will partake of lunch.

Water Lawsuit—Update

COURT AGAIN REJECTS STOCKTON'S WATER PRIVATIZATION PROJECT - Diane Park, LWV Liaison to CCCooS

In November 2006, San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Humphreys ruled that the City of Stockton's massive privatization Contract with OMI/Thames Water was illegal. The Court concluded that the OMI Contract violated state environmental law – and found that the City Council must rescind its resolution approving the project Contract “in its entirety.” Under the Court order, the City may not consider re-approving the Contract without first conducting the environmental review as required by law.

The Court further found that the City should resume municipal operations and management of the City's water utilities within 180 days. If the City chooses not to assume operations and management, and decides to Contract with a private company, then – according to our 2003 initiative – the decision must go to Stockton voters for approval.

“The decision by the Court is a huge victory for Stockton and indeed for all of America,” said Sylvia Kothe, Chair of the Concerned Citizens Coalition of

Stockton (CCCoS). “Adherence to environmental quality review is essential if water is to remain a public resource -- one that is conserved and protected from pollution.”

The City's water privatization Contract with OMI has been the source of intense controversy since its approval in February 2003. Under the \$600-million Contract, the City turned over to the private company virtually *every aspect* of the municipal drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities for a period of 20 years. The Contract also includes some \$58 million worth of capital improvements. Despite the evidence of significant environmental harm that could result from the project, the City did no environmental review prior to approving the Contract.

In 2003, the Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton, the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County, and the Sierra Club filed suit to overturn the Contract. In January 2004, Judge Bob McNatt of the San Joaquin County Superior Court ruled in favor of the Coalition, ordering the City to rescind the Contract. That ruling was later vacated, however, to enable the Court to examine additional legal arguments advanced by the City and OMI. Subsequently, the case was transferred

to Judge Humphreys.

In her November ruling, Judge Humphreys noted that the Court had reviewed the entire history of this litigation and “determined that the Petition is correct and the requirements of CEQA [the California Environmental Quality Act] have not been met.” In particular, the Court found “[t]here is substantial evidence in the administrative record to demonstrate that transfer of the City's water utility operations for 20 years will have significant environmental impacts.”

On December 15, 2005, the Court issued its final judgment and writ, which ratified an agreement worked out between the City and the Coalition and allowed OMI to finalize specified capital improvements where construction was complete or nearly completed at the time of the Court's November ruling. It has never been the intent of the Coalition to disrupt city services; therefore we worked closely with the City to assure work for essential construction projects could go forward and meet the April 2007 state deadline for completion.

A big “Thank You” to our League supporters and to our wonderful attorneys at Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger in San Francisco.

CONGRATULATIONS to DOUG WILHOIT STOCKTONIAN OF THE YEAR

League member and Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce CEO Doug Wilhoit has been named the 53rd Stocktonian of the Year for his over 40 years of service to the community in various capacities. Doug will receive the award at a dinner to be held on February 8, 2007 at Elkhorn Golf and Country Club with cocktails at 6:00PM and dinner and ceremonies to follow. For reservations, contact Central Valley Association of Realtors: 858-1700.

San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Effort Seeks Community Input at March Workshops

Help Decide the Future of San Joaquin County

The population of San Joaquin County is projected to double by 2030 and to grow by over a million new people by 2050. Such dramatic growth raises major questions:

- Where and how should we grow?
- Where will the roads go?
- How do we want this growth to affect our economy, agriculture, education, transportation, housing, air quality—in short, our future quality of life?

We will have a chance to help shape San Joaquin County's future at eight (8) upcoming community workshops:

Ripon

Thursday, March 12, 2007
6:30—8:30 p.m.
Ripon Community Center
334 W. 4th Street, Ripon

Escalon

Wednesday, March 7, 2007
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Escalon Community Center
1055 Escalon Avenue, Escalon

Lodi/Lockeford/Acampo/Clements/Thornton/Woodbridge

Thursday, March 15, 2007
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Crete Hall
Hutchins Street Square
125 S. Hutchins Street, Lodi

Manteca

Wednesday, March 21, 2007
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Manteca Branch Library
320 W. Center, Manteca

Tracy/Mountain House

Wednesday, March 21, 2007
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tracy Community Center
300 E. 10th Street, Tracy

North & Central Stockton/Morada

Wednesday, March 28, 2007
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Stockton Ballroom
9650 Thornton Road, Stockton

South & Central Stockton/Linden/French Camp/Weston Ranch

Thursday, March 29, 2007
6:30-8:30 p.m.
San Joaquin Council of Governments
555 E. Weber Avenue, Stockton

Lathrop/French Camp/Weston Ranch

Date To Be Determined
Lathrop City Council Chambers
390 Towne Center Drive,
Lathrop

Registration for the workshops starts at 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available.

These workshops are part of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint Planning Process which will help to develop a vision to guide the San Joaquin Valley's growth over the next 50 years, beginning with input from community members.

The workshops will be fun and *participatory*. Information will be provided on the issues and participants will be able to share their ideas in both large and small groups.

San Joaquin is one of eight San Joaquin Valley counties conducting this type of planning. The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) is organizing this public visioning process in SJ County to help residents develop a preferred scenario for future land use and transportation.

Susan B. Anthony Women of Achievement Banquet, February 15, 2007

This year's San Joaquin County Commission on the Status of Women's Susan B. Anthony Banquet to honor Women of Achievement will be held on Thursday, February 15th, at the University of the Pacific Grace Covell Hall. Tickets to the dinner are \$40@. **If you would like to sit at the League's table at this banquet, please contact Sylvia Kothe (464-1004; Sylwv@aol.com) by January 25th.** (Reservations are due 1/31/07.)

Note: The Commission is asking for one check per organization, so your check should be made out to LWV/SJC and we will arrange for a table..



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

www.sjc.lwvnet.org

CALENDAR

January 20, 2007

BLUEPRINT FOR VOTER SERVICES

10:30-12:30

1652 Lucerne, Stockton

POTLUCK: Bring a brunch dish to share

February 3, 2007

BLUEPRINT FOR LOCAL ADVOCACY

And—input into LWVC Issues for Emphasis and Advocacy

10:00-2:00

4273 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton

Lunch provided; \$5.00 contribution

RSVP FOR LUNCH by February 1st: 951-2311

February 15, 2007

Susan B. Anthony Women of Achievement Award Dinner

UOP, Covell Hall; \$40

Contact Sylvia Kothe if you would like to sit at the League table: 464-1004

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at President Colleen Foster's home (4273 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton) from 5:30—7:30 p.m. *Please let Colleen know* (951-2311 or malialani@comcast.net) if you'll attend as a light meal is served.