



The Voter



LWVSJC Shares a Booth with Health Care for All at Family Day in the Park

IMMIGRATION STUDY COMMITTEE BEGINS ROAD TO CONSENSUS

Studies are part of the League Program, and, in league parlance, league Program includes all of the positions the League uses to affect public policy, as well as the procedure for adopting these positions.

- Program is three-tiered:
1. Selection of an issue
 2. Study of that issue and consensus
 3. Use of the resulting position to affect public policy.

Studies can be initiated at the national, state or local levels. *But at all levels, the purpose of the study is to educate members so that they can be informed participants in consensus and provide necessary data for formulating the ultimate position.* The process is always a grassroots proc-

The Immigration Study Committee will begin a series of planning and implementation meetings on November 5th. The Committee will decide on how to get input on values that should underline public policy as well as to plan the consensus meeting.

Stay tuned !

ess, regardless of which level of League initiates the study.

As part of the Program Planning process in 2005-2006, local and state League suggested numerous important issues for study. By far the largest number of Leagues expressed interest in immigration

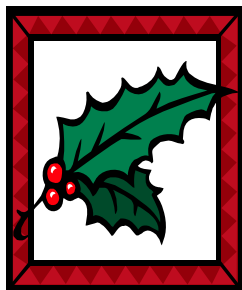
Delegates at LWVUS 2006 Convention in Minneapolis adopted Immigration as the first national study since Health care in 1992.

LWVUS has prepared background materials for League members to inform themselves on many aspects of immigration. Three of these papers have been included, in slightly abbreviated form, in the March and April-May 2007 issues of local Voter. Abstracts of other background papers will be included in the October, November and December issues also. Members can also go online to the LWVUS Web site (lww.org) for the full array of material for the study. Watch for notices of the Consensus Meeting to be held in January: time/place/date TBA.

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Holiday Party Set for December 11th
 Save the Date!

President's Message — Ann Pentecost

Our League year has gotten off to a successful start. The September Member Social was a great way to bring League members together and to introduce our plans for this year. Thanks to Donna Brown for opening her home for the event at her home and to the LWVSJC Board for hosting the get together.

Thanks, too, to Susan Loyko for coordinating our participation at the Family Day in the Park event this year. We were able to share a booth with Health Care for All San Joaquin which had the dual benefit of cost-sharing and being able to work with the local organization that is promoting universal health care which is one of LWVC's priority advocacy issues.

The third success in our busy September

was our Kickoff Program featuring Dr. Ellis Jones speaking on how to be a responsible citizen-consumer. See the article later in the Voter for a summary of his thought-provoking insights.

The rest of the Fall will focus on our participation in the LWVUS Immigration Study. Please read the article in this Voter for more background information on this timely topic. We hope to have many League members participate in the consensus discussion and other Immigration Study-related activities.

And do plan to join fellow League members at our Holiday Party on December 11th! It's always great fun!

ADVOCACY in ACTION

League Members Participate in City of Stockton General Plan Hearings



Several LWVSJC members participated in the hearings that the Planning Commission held on the City of Stockton's Draft General Plan Update. The

COS General Plan Update is slated to plan through 2035, longer than the more usual 20-year planning time frame.

Colleen Foster spoke on behalf of the League and reinforced concerns voiced by other groups and individuals, most notably members of the Campaign for Common Ground, Sierra Club and Morada-area residents. Issues of concern included accelerated population projections, transportation congestion and the need for smart growth, water supply and quality, agricultural land preservation, land use,

affordable housing and encouragement of citizen participation in the planning process.

Other League members spoke as individuals, as members of other groups (e.g., Campaign for Common Ground or Sierra Club) or attended the sessions to lend moral support to League members and to let the Planning Commission know that citizens are interested in land use planning and are committed to observing and participating in open government processes.

Active participation in government is central to the Mission of the League. Kudos to the following League members for their example of advocacy in action:

Ann Johnston, Dale Stocking, Donna Brown, Bill Loyko, Susan Loyko, Stan Thomas, Colleen Foster, Ursula Meyer, Esther Vasquez and Jane Wagner-Tyack

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Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Fran Abbott, Sylvia Kothe

Immigration Study

Eight background papers on immigration issues can be found on the national League web site: www.lwv.org For Members section. Excerpts from one of these papers is published here to give our members an idea of the issues and their complexity. Members are encouraged to seek out the complete documents.

EFFECTS OF GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE ON MIGRATION

By Dorrit Marks, LWV of Miami-Dade County; LWVUS Immigration Study Committee

According to a National Intelligence Estimate, globalization is stimulating migration. Expanding international trade, finance, investment and information flows tend to accentuate immigration pressures.

Despite strong economic prospects in Mexico, disparities in living standards, the increased demand for labor in the U.S., and immigration rules regarding family ties will sustain Mexico as the single largest source of authorized and unauthorized immigration to the United States.

Immigration Demographics

Immigrants are generally young and mobile. They go where there is work. Refugee resettlement in the U.S. reflects a new trend of resettlement in smaller cities or mid-sized metropolitan areas, rather than popular urban locations as in the past.

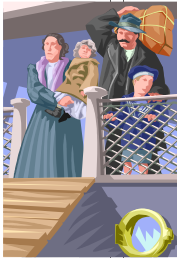
Remittances

The flow of remittances (the transfer of money by foreign workers to their families and communities in their home countries) represents a major source of income for millions of individuals and communities. Latin American households receive \$60 billion annually from remittances worldwide. This is more than these countries receive in aid from the US and from institutions such as the World Bank. The money foreign-born workers send home is mainly used to cover basic necessities. In a small percentage of cases, remittances are spent

on business start-ups or investments. Remittances enhance growth and reduce poverty. Conversely, they may permit some family members to reduce their work effort, according to some studies.

Unintended Effect of U.S. Policies

U.S. policies have inadvertently increased unauthorized immigration. For example, farm subsidies, an important part of U.S. agriculture policy, allows U.S. Farmers to sell corn, e.g., at prices below cost. NAFTA tariff reductions have opened the Mexican market to corn imports from the U.S. and Canada and local Mexican farmers are unable to compete. On the positive side, cheaper corn lowers the price Mexican consumers pay for tortillas and to feed their cows.



NAFTA

Because of NAFTA, trade is now 55% OF Mexico's gross domestic product compared to 30% in 1990. Foreign investment [in Mexico] is up by more than 225 percent since 1994. Despite these positive effects, "real wages for most Mexicans are lower than when NAFTA took effect," according to an article in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. "Mexican wages are diverging from rather than converging with U.S. wages, despite the fact that Mexican worker productivity has increased dramatically."

Mexico's Labor Market

Many new working-age people entering the job market in developing countries will fail to find work and some will decide to emigrate. Mexico, for example, has a job creation rate of 700,000 while the number of new workers entering the Mexican market is nearly one million annually. Mexico also has a brain drain: nearly a third of all Mexicans with advanced degrees leave Mexico for the

United States. Emigration has become a substitute for the lack of opportunities in Mexico.

Competition for Graduate Students and High-Skilled Workers

Global competition to attract foreign graduate students to universities is growing. The U.S. is losing its dominance in attracting the most talented students to higher education and highly skilled jobs in the U.S

Globalization increases the demand for high-tech and other professional workers. Ease of employment-linked permanent residence is a factor that can facilitate or deter immigration to the U.S.

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Foreign-born Professionals

In the U.S., discussions about the immigration of scientists and engineers focus primarily on the extent to which foreign-born professionals displace native workers. However, they affect more than labor supply and wages. Foreign-born engineers start new businesses and generate

jobs and wealth at least as fast as their U.S. counterparts.

Conclusion

Pressures to emigrate from developing countries will remain intense, fueled by poverty, lack of jobs, population growth and political instability. The global integration of the labor market for both highly skilled and unskilled workers is also a continuing trend. Immigration policies and law need to take these realities into account.

Former LWVSJC Intern Gets D.C. Opportunity

Betsy Hammer interned with LWVSJC for two semesters. Her help was invaluable. She is bright, interested in how politics affects people's lives and how we as individuals can get involved to make a positive difference. This past summer, Betsy had another internship opportunity. Here is her summary of her experience.

This summer, I interned with the United States Department of Communication and Outreach in the Department's headquarters in Washington, D.C. Though I had had some previous experience interning, notably with the San Joaquin County League of Women Voters and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's office, this experience was completely unique.

The federal bureaucracy is huge. Of course, everyone knows that, but I don't think that most Americans truly comprehend the size of our government. The federal government is the

largest employer in the country, and after a summer spent riding the Metro downtown with all those employees, I believe it! Though federal jobs are quite desirable for many reasons, like yearly cost-of-living raises, great job security, and excellent benefits, many employees express discontent with their jobs. Often, this is due to a lack of alignment between the overall goals of the department and the day-to-day tasks of individual employees.

I got to help with a variety of tasks in our office. My main project, though, was working closely with a co-worker on a mammoth publication called *The Guide to U.S. Department of Education Programs*. This book is published each year in hard copy and posted to the Department's website. It's a huge undertaking, involving about 250 programs and grants and hundreds of Department employees. It was a fantastic way to learn about the

goals and scope of the Department. This year's version should be just finishing the print cycle, and I'm very excited to see the final product of my work! In addition to the *Guide*, I helped edit, proofread, and write many different Department publications, including books dealing with No Child Left Behind and charter schools, among many other topics.



Interning with the SJC League was a great foundation for my work in Washington, D.C. It was nice to get a chance to observe the governmental process from the other side. In Washington, groups like the League really can and do make a difference—and I know that this League makes a wonderful positive impact right here in San Joaquin County! I'm thrilled to continue to be a part of the League.

League Members Learn to Shop Responsibly

Dr. Ellis Jones, Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Davis, and author of [The Better World Handbook](#) and [the better world Shopping Guide](#), presented seven 'considerations' for League members to ponder when they choose how to spend their dollars on corporate-made goods:

1. **The Rise of Economic Power:** We are experiencing a shift from political to economic power centers. As eco-

nomic power ascends, political power—and democracy—are weakened.

2. **With Power Comes Responsibility:** We are no longer in the age of the good citizen. We have move into the age of the citizen-consumer. While government is responsible to the voters, large corporations have no responsibility to citizen-consumers. Citizen-consumers must take charge by conscientiously spending our average \$18,000 'dollar votes'



annually in a way that encourages corporate good behavior. Our collective buying patterns can reshape the face of this planet.

3. **Democracies Need Good Information:** Citizen consumers need good information as much as voters do—but it is difficult to come by. The political arena has political advertising, media headlines and

(Continued on page 5)

A better world through SHOPPING!

(Continued from page 4)

Trusted Nonprofits (like the League), consumers have ‘infomercials’, media headlines and the Consumers Union. It is up to citizen-consumers to locate good information.

4. **It’s about more than Global**

Warning: Being concerned about global warming is good—but it’s not the whole story. We need to look at human rights, social justice issues, worker rights, animal protection, the environment as a whole and corporate community involvement to see the whole picture. As consumers, we need to realize that micro-uses (what we do as individuals) contribute to macro problems.

5. **Consumers must move beyond Boycotts and “Buycotts”:** There are stages of ethical consumerism:

- **Boycotts:** economic divestment—‘don’t buy this product’—for a variety of good reasons
- **“Buycotts”:** targeted economic support for ethical companies

- **Socially responsible Shopping:** *Comprehensive* consumer strategies utilizing dollars as “votes”

It is difficult to effect REAL changes in behavior—so keep it simple!

One method for decision-making

would be to use the rankings in the better world Shopping Guide.

Dr. Ellis has done extensive research on companies to come up with rankings within industries to help us—citizen consumers—support responsible companies with our dollars.



Susan Loyko, Dale Stocking and Bill Loyko at the September Kickoff meeting.

6. **Make the Most of Your Consumer Dollars:**

- Target the most effective areas first
- Avoid the Worst companies
- Support the Best Companies

The Top 10 Essential Changes

- 1) Banks
- 2) Gasoline
- 3) Supermarkets
- 4) Retail Stores
- 5) Cars
- 6) Seafood
- 7) Chocolate
- 8) Coffee
- 9) Credit Cards
- 10) Cleaning products

7. **Each Person Must Find a Unique Balance:**

Each person must develop innovative strategies, balancing ideals (or values) with realities (e.g., budgets), must weigh short-term effectiveness against long-term sustainability in their shopping patterns. Dr. Jones said he, personally, aims for a “B” ranking in his personal spending choices. “A” products are often too hard to find and/or more expensive. But all of us can do better with a thoughtful buying

Family Day in the Park a Success!

Casting Ballots at Family Day in the Park

While parents learned about the importance of voter registration, 172 youngsters marked their ballots to decide what kind of activity they’d like to see return to Stockton as part of the League of Women Voters booth at Family Day in the Park.



The students had four choices: roller skate rink, miniature golf, water park with water slides, and ‘other’. More than half enthusiastically voted for the water park with water slides. Thirty one percent (31%) of the young

voters liked the idea of a roller skating rink, while 9% thought having a miniature golf course would be a good activity to have.

But they didn’t limit themselves to the three choices. Other suggestions included a graffiti wall, a social club, ice skating rink, box track and a drive-in movie.

“The purpose of the event was to give young people the opportunity to vote for something meaningful to them and, in doing so, impress upon them the importance of voting,” said Ann Pentecost, President of the League of Women Voters of

San Joaquin County. While the students were voting we also had the opportunity to talk with their parents or family member about voter registration and voter education.”

LWV volunteers for the day’s event included Jane Wagner-Tyack, Ronda Sanders, Fran Abbott, Ann Pentecost and Susan Mora Loyko. Thanks to Ronda, a fifth grade teacher at Victory School, for the terrific idea of the subject matter for the vote. Much appreciation to all the volunteers for turning out on such a rainy day.

- Susan Mora Loyko,
Event Coordinator for LWVSJC

Focus on LWVUS

LWVUS Declares: “President Has Left America’s Children Behind”

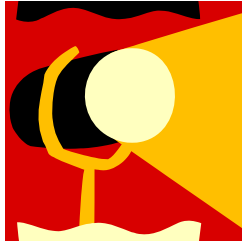
League Denounces Presidential Veto on SCHIP

League President: “Congress Must Override”

Washington, DC: League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson today condemned the President’s veto of the crucial State Children’s Health Insurance Plan (SCHIP) and urged Congress to act swiftly to override this veto.

“President Bush has left America’s children behind,” said Wilson. “His veto goes against the overwhelming support of both parties in Congress, and

shows disregard for the country’s most vulnerable children.



“I can not state it in clearer terms: The President is simply wrong. Congress has been left no choice but to override this misguided decision.”

The League of Women Voters has long supported the concept of universal

access to quality health care, and works to ensure that all children should have access to quality health care including preventive and primary care and that programs like SCHIP play a key role in promoting the health, well being and full development of children.

How You Can Help

Without SCHIP millions of children whose families cannot afford health care coverage will go uninsured!

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Senators and Representatives now, by phone or by email, and urge them to vote to override the Presidential veto.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens - your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Senators and Representatives today!

For more information, go to lww.org.

Invite a Friend to Join!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Dues are not tax deductible.

Dues year is July 1—June 30

I want renew my membership in the League of Women Voters:

Dues: _____\$50 [individual] _____\$75 [sustaining] _____\$75 [household] _____\$30 [student]

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Email _____

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

_____ I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the League Education Fund. Following LWVC guidelines, if you wish to make a contribution to the Ed Fund, please submit a separate check to LWVSJC Ed Fund and send it to the above address. This will help to insure the Ed Fund status as a charitable and tax deductible organization. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. ***Thank you for your generosity.***

News for Members

Members Please Note:

If you want me to forward e-mails or send out messages to League members **please send it to lwvsjc@gmail.com**. It saves me copying/pasting/etc. and hopefully we can eliminate all those carets that always appears with forwarding.

Also by sending it to the gmail if I'm out of town, sick, etc. it allows someone else to take care of it.

Thanks, Sylvia

Immigration Study Committee Welcomes Participants

It's not too late to join the Immigration Study Committee. The initial meetings are scheduled for November 5th and 16th.

To join the group guiding LWVSJC participation in this important study, contact Colleen Foster at 951-2311 or at malialani@comcast.net.

Boardmembers Meet with Congressman McNerney

President Ann Pentecost, Advocacy Chair Cate White and Voter editor Colleen Foster met with Rep. McNerney on August 22, 2007, to introduce our League to the new congressman and to talk to him about national issues the League is concerned about. Rep. McNerney said he is a co-sponsor of the D.C. Right to Vote legislation and we thanked him for his support. His take on health care reform at the federal level, however, was less encouraging: "Nothing will happen until after the next [presidential] election. Keep working on it at the State level."



The Voter Now Online

Welcome Online Readers! This is our first issue that will sent by mail only to those League members who don't have email. The rest of us will get the full benefit of The Voter *in color* online!

Members who have Internet access but who prefer to receive a paper copy are asked to contribute \$20/year to help us defray costs.

We are hoping to accomplish two things: with this change:

1. Save money on printing and postage
2. Make our publication and League activities, programs and concerns available to a wider audience

Many thanks to League member Dale Stocking for making this plan a reality!

The Annual Meeting Kit, a membership document, will continue to be mailed to all members.

Membership Rosters in the Mail

Membership Rosters for the 2007-2008 membership year are in the mail. All members in good standing who didn't get their rosters at one of our September meetings will receive one at home soon.

Memberships not paid by 9/30/07 are now considered delinquent. Rejoin now!



Ronda Sanders, above, and Fran Abbott, below, engage kids at Family Day in the Park



Dr. Ellis Jones, above, urges League members who attended the Kickoff Meeting at Valley Brew to learn about responsible corporations—and to shop accordingly!





League of Women Voters
of San Joaquin County
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www.sjc.lwvnet.org

CALENDAR

Holiday Party for League Members
Tuesday, December 11, 2007; 5:30 p.m.

LWVC Leadership Council is scheduled for May 16-18, 2008 in Sacramento.

LWVUS Convention: June 13-17, 2008, Portland, Oregon

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

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