



The Voter

Thanks
to League Member
Dale Stocking
for
getting our
Voter
Online!
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www.sjc.lwvnet.org

Democracy in the Age of the Citizen-Consumer

Dr. Ellis Jones believes in democracy—and the power of the individual. Below are some of his thoughts on how the Citizen-Consumer can help make a better world.



so also new centers of power form. The most recent historical manifestation of this kind of power center is the modern corporation.

Make no mistake, these new power centers are not democracies. We don't vote for the CEO's or their policies (unless we are: rich enough to be significant shareholders, informed enough to know what's going on, and compassionate enough to care about more than just personal profit), yet our lives and destinies are increasingly in their hands.

As these power centers shift, we must shift our own voices if we wish to

(Continued on page 3)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2
League Board of Directors	2
LWVSJC in ACTION	2
Membership Roster	3
Immigration Study	7
Water Lawsuit Update	7
A Few Good Men	7
Upcoming Events	8

“Democracy is a system of government founded on the idea that power in the hands of the few is inherently destructive. For a government to even have a chance of being truly fair and just, it must begin by distributing power into the hands of its people.

In today's world it's easy to see that we have another form of power we must consider in this democratic experiment, namely money. Wherever large amounts of money collect,

WHO: Dr. Ellis Jones, UC Davis Professor of Sociology

WHAT: General Membership meeting—
HOW TO CREATE A BETTER WORLD THROUGH SHOPPING!

WHEN: Wednesday, September 26th, 6:00 p.m. (no host dinner); program at 6:30

WHERE: Valley Brew

Come Meet Fellow Leaguers

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

A survey of San Joaquin County League members last year revealed that many League members don't know each other—but would like to! So LWVSJC Board is hosting an afternoon social for our members. Light refreshments

WHAT: Social Gathering for League members and potential Leaguers

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 16th, 3:30-5:30 p.m.

WHERE: 4273 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton

will be served in this first opportunity of the year to gather as League members. Members are encouraged to bring potential members to this free event which will *briefly* highlight our plans for the coming year. Join us!

President's Message — Ann Pentecost

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. The Board has been busy planning an active Fall and a change or two. The biggest change for most of our members is The Voter, itself. Thanks to Dale Stocking, The Voter is now online. Members without email will continue to receive it by mail, but for the rest of us, The Voter will come via the computer. This is one way we are cutting costs.

I hope that all members will find a way to be involved in League activities this year. September will be a busy month with several opportunities to participate. We will start with a League Social on September 16th. Bring a potential new member and get to know fellow League members. We have so few opportunities

to just visit and get to know each other.

We will be participating in "Family Day in the Park" on September 22nd. This is an opportunity to gain some visibility in the community. Finally, we have a wonderful program planned for September 26th. All of these are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this issue.

There will be a number of other activities throughout the year which I hope you will find of interest. Some to look forward to include the LWVUS Immigration Study and a very full election season on the horizon. I hope to see you all at a League event or program sometime this coming year.

ANNIVERSARY OF WINNING THE VOTE FOR WOMEN

*Guest Column Commemorating
Women's Equality Day
- by Sally M. Miller*

The two towering figures in the struggle for equal rights for women did not live to see women win the right to vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were the acknowledged leaders of the Woman's Rights Movement of the nineteenth century. In fact, it was Stanton who called the first conference on woman's rights to be held anywhere in the world. That conference met in 1848 in her hometown of Seneca Falls, New York. A few hundred people attended and wrote a document paraphrasing the Declaration of Independence in which they demanded that women be accorded the inalienable rights due all human beings. Anthony was not at that conference although some of her relatives were. Within a couple of years, however, she joined the emerging woman's movement. She became its chief



see women win the right to vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were the acknowledged leaders of the Woman's Rights Movement of the nine-

teenth century, and while they had the satisfaction of seeing women win a number of fundamental rights, the struggle for the vote took seven decades, far longer than anyone predicted. They died before it was achieved.

Progress toward equal rights came first in the western states, even though those areas did not have a nucleus of woman's rights groups that emerged back east. But because the region was newly settled, no established traditions of legal inequality existed. Everything was new, and so innovative ways of thinking and flexibility meant women could hold property, serve on school boards and, among other

(Continued on page 4)

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2006-2007

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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

Water UnPrivatization

When Lawsuits are the Right Thing to Do

For the League to file a lawsuit there must be outrageous conduct by a government agency. The 2003 Stockton City Council provided that behavior. In their haste to thwart public input, they outsourced the City's municipal water utilities to private operations just two weeks prior to a ballot measure to let people vote on contracts of this nature. In so doing, they failed to conduct a required environmental impact report (EIR). Clearly, public process had been violated.

The League sponsored ballot initiative -- along with Concerned Citizens Coalition and Sierra Club -- passed by more than a 60 percent margin. Late League member and former Mayor Joan Darrah formally endorsed the initiative, along with former Senator Patrick Johnston.

The 20 year contract with OMI-Thames Water was the largest privatization contract

west of the Mississippi. The City and OMI were able to hire several law firms and had the financial resources to appeal court decisions each time we won -- resulting in a 4 year battle.

We were fortunate to receive expert legal advice from the outstanding legal firm of Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger. Our attorneys Rachel Hooper and Amy Bricker were thorough and professional, at the same time patiently educating our coalition as to legal intricacies -- of which there were many.

Under court order by Judge Elizabeth Humphreys, the city must return the utility to municipal management. This is of course as it should be. In a SF Chronicle opinion piece Sunday, August 5, 2007, Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman, whose documentary THIRST featured Stockton, said of course the public has a right to have a say in the transfer of *taxpayer created assets* to private industry!

Thank you ALL for your support.

Sylvia Kothe, Coalition Chair
Diane Park, LWVSJC Liaison

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. - Margaret Mead

This quote was appended to every email sent by CCCoS Chair Sylvia Kothe during the long battle over water privatization in Stockton. Sylvia did indeed lead a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens, including League members Diane Park, Dale Stocking, Bill and Susan Loyko, Ursula Meyer, Jerry Briscoe, Ava Langston-Kenney, Ann Johnston, Genie Van Schoten, and Pearl West along with many other concerned Stocktonians. Stockton and the League owes them a THANK YOU for their tireless dedication—and their hard won success!

- Editor

A Better World through SHOPPING (continued)

(Continued from page 1)
be heard. As citizens, on average, we might vote once every 4 years, if at all. As consumers, we vote every single day with one of the purest forms of power...money. The average American family spends around \$18,000 each year on goods and services. We must begin to think of it as casting 18,000 votes every year for the kind of world we want to live in.

Five years of intensive research into social and environmental responsibility of companies has resulted in a comprehensive database of over 1000 companies that utilizes over 25 public, private, and nonprofit sources of data to cover issues like: the environment, human rights, community development, animal protection, and social justice.

This research has been translated into A to F

rankings of products and brands to allow consumers to make more informed decisions when they cast the economic votes that shape the face of our world.

Please join me to discuss how each of us can become more responsible citizen-consumers and bring democracy to this often overlooked piece of the puzzle."

In his book the better world SHOPPING GUIDE, Dr. Jones names names—what products and brands can we buy to encourage responsible business practices and what products *not* to buy. Come find out where Nabisco crackers, Sam Adams beer, Snapple, Klorox, California Pizza Kitchen and others are in the ranking of responsible businesses.

LWVSJC testifies before Stockton Planning Commission

Boardmember Colleen Foster testified on behalf of LWVSJC at the City of Stockton Planning Commission public hearings on the proposed General Plan Update 2035. She used League positions as backdrop for her comments on each part of the plan she highlighted. Areas of concern were citizen participation, agricultural land preservation, land use and development in the Delta Secondary Zone, affordable housing, transportation and smart growth, and the need for adequate water to support continued development. You can read the text of her comments at our web site: www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org.

Winning the Vote for Women

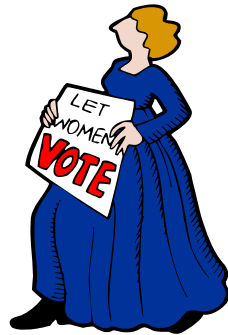
(Continued from page 2)

things, vote. Equal rights arguments were seldom voiced but instead it was maintained that the presence of women in public roles would be civilizing influences on roughhewn frontier society. Accordingly, and without elaborate campaigns, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho granted women the right to vote between 1869 and 1896.

The state of California was not far behind the Mountain States in allowing women public participation. In 1878, San Joaquin County's own Laura de Force Gordon, a journalist, lawyer, and suffragist, convinced the State Legislature to repeal a law which excluded women from admission to the bar, and it accepted her draft of a clause for a new state constitution forbidding the exclusion of women from the business and professional worlds. In 1911, California women won the right to vote, and in that same decade, all other western states except one extended the vote to women.

East of the Mississippi River, however, the long-settled and more tradition-bound states did not grant women the right to vote. Extensive campaigning on the precinct level by women won

very few converts among the male electorate, as shown by the fact that as late as 1917 only Illinois and New York State allowed women to vote in that entire region of the country. Finally, under the auspices of the nationwide National American Woman Suffrage Association, state-level cam-



paings were de-emphasized in favor of the goal of a constitutional amendment so that all American women would win, by that one measure, the right to vote. By then, seventy years after the Seneca Falls conference, the idea of women exercising the ballot did not seem as startling as so

many had thought earlier. In addition, the fact that the United States in 1917 had joined the Allied side in World War One -- viewing it as a struggle to spread democracy around the globe -- made it impossible to withhold a basic right of citizenship from one-half of the U.S. population.

Under the auspices of the NAWSA led by Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt, intense lobbying of the U.S. Congress and of President Woodrow Wilson was carried out. Simultaneously, a radical group of women took to the streets, under the leader-

ship of Quaker Alice Paul, who had witnessed assertive, "unladylike" tactics by suffragists in England when she worked there. These American women picketed the White House, got themselves arrested, conducted hunger strikers, and in other ways did not permit the public to ignore the issue of female suffrage. With all of these pressures and forces at play, both houses of Congress passed the suffrage amendment at the end of the war, and by 1920 the necessary three-fourths of the states had ratified the amendment. The date of the memorable event was August 26, 1920. The NAWSA promptly dissolved, and then immediately reorganized itself as the League of Women Voters, taking up the task of educating new voters to their civic responsibilities. In the meantime, the radical women of the era under Alice Paul soon announced the goal of an Equal Rights Amendment to the constitution. Looking back, one can surmise that Anthony and Stanton would have embraced both causes.

Sally Miller is a League member, former League Board member, and Professor Emeritus of History at the University of the Pacific.

Environmentalist Waldo Holt Dies

Legacy of Stewardship

On July 11, San Joaquin County Conservationist Waldo Holt passed away. League members remember Waldo as a dedicated naturalist, committed to preserving the habitat for the remaining species and vegetation that are indigenous to our area.

Waldo served for 20 years as the Con-

servation Chairman for *San Joaquin Audubon* and was a member of the COG committee that developed the *San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan*. The Plan crafted a strategy to conserve open space and provide for the long-term management of plant, fish, and wildlife species. [<http://www.sjcog.org>]

Our League spoke in favor of the Plan's

passage at Board of Supervisors and city council meetings throughout the County. It was an amazing achievement to have countywide approval.

Waldo Holt left a legacy of stewardship that will sustain natural resources in our region for generations to come.

- Diane Park

San Joaquin County Health Care Coalition News

The SJ Healthcare Coalition, of which our League is a part, is made up of over 16 church, labor and community groups. Like the League, many groups in the coalition support the single payer plan S.B. 840. Every group is working toward health care reform.

Town Hall Meeting

July 8, 2007, the Coalition held a town hall meeting to express concerns about the need for health care reform in California to our local State Legislators. Each of the Legislators from San Joaquin County was invited. Officials attending included Assemblymen Greg Aghazarian, Alan Nakanishi, and Senator Mike Machado. Also in attendance were Lucinda Ehnes, the Director of the Department of Managed Health Care for the State of California representing the Governor, and Eugene Acevedo from Congressman Jerry McNerney's Office. About 400 people attended the event. Coalition partners presented the legislators with a set of common principles that all



the partners support. The principles ranged from healthcare coverage for all whether or not a person has insurance, to coverage for all children. Legislators were asked to sign on to a large poster stating the principles, indicating their support. Assemblyman Aghazarian said that he would support legislation that included accessibility, affordability, and sustainability. He added those words to the board and signed them. Assemblyman Nakanishi said that he could support providing health care to children. Senator Machado went directly to the board without hesitation and signed on to support all the principles.

Galgiani Town Hall Meeting

On July 9th, Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani (who did not attend the July 8th event) held a health care town hall meeting at Cesar Chavez Library. She chose to focus only on the Nunez bill, A.B. 8, and contrasted it with the

Governor's proposals (which are not in bill form), claiming that S.B. 840 had been covered at the July 8th meeting. She also indicated that she felt that since the Governor had vetoed S.B. 840 last year, it wasn't currently under serious consideration. It appears Assemblymember Galgiani needs further education on this issue, as several people at the meeting suggested.

Future Plans

The coalition continues to push for healthcare reform. We are currently trying to schedule follow-up meetings with State Legislators. In addition, we will be meeting with the editorial board of The Record about coverage for our events. (The Record did not cover the town hall meeting.) Out goal is to keep educating the public and working with our legislators until all our common principles are met.

- Cate White, 1st VP/ Advocacy Chair

LWVC Regional Workshop hosted by Sacramento League

A regional training workshop covering topics of interest to local Leagues will be presented in Sacramento on **October 20th**. LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama will present a new class, "21st Century League." This is an opportunity to meet and hear from our newly elected state president. Voter Service, Membership and Com-

munity Visibility will be highlighted in this new and exciting class. There will also be a segment on "How to do a Study", highlighting the new state study process.

Workshop starts at 9:30 with registration and ends at 2:30 p.m. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch.

A similar workshop will be held in Fresno on October 6th, featuring information on the Brown Act rather than the study process.

If you are interested in attending, contact President Ann Pentecost. LWVSJC will pay for registration.

Asparagus Festival Adds to Coffers

The Good News: LWVSJC received a check for our participation in the Asparagus Festival in the amount of \$1,056.04! Thank you to all of you who volunteered and to Lorelee McGaughey who coordinated our participation in this community event.



The Bad News, however, is that we budgeted \$2000.00 as our income from the Festival. Although attendance was up at the Festival and they distributed more money than last year, we had fewer hours allotted to us this year than last. Lorelee has already begun to request a

higher level of participation for us in next year's Festival.

In the meantime, LWVSJC welcomes your participation in any/all of our fundraisers this year, as well as ideas for opportunities to add to our coffers without raising dues.

Focus on LWVUS & LWVC

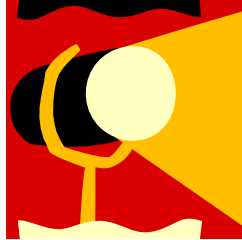
From LWVC

February 5, 2008 Presidential Primary and State Ballot Measures

Because of the new early primary in February 2008, the LWVC board will review the ballot measures at its September meeting and will provide the results of our deliberations in the October LWVC Leaders UPDATE.

The following are initiatives that have qualified for the February ballot so far:

- Transportation Funding - prohibits retention of funds earmarked for the Transportation Investment Fund by the General Fund after 7/1/08, and requires repayment of prior borrowings for other non-transportation purposes.



- Community Colleges - establishes independent public community college districts and Board of Governors, including minimum levels of state funding for this segment of Proposition 98, and other provisions.

A few legislative constitutional amendments are still pending, and could be placed on the February

ballot. The High Speed Rail Bond has been postponed until November 2008. Prison bonds are to be issued as lease-revenue bonds and do not need to go on the ballot. Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed water bonds but these did not get out of their first committee.

Linda Craig, *Legislation / Advocacy Director*

From LWVUS

Congress Made Strides before Recessing

Before adjourning for their August recess last week, members of the House and Senate took positive action on a number of important LWVUS legislative priorities:

- Passage of SCHIP (State Children’s Health Insurance Program)
- Passage of the Open Government Act
- Sweeping bipartisan lobbying and ethics reform was passed by both chambers

LWVUS is still seeking your stories for LWV Storybank. Submit your story at www.lwv.org/storybank—and share your stories with LWVSJC, too!

RENEWALS WELCOME NOW!

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



The Voter Now Online

We are moving into a new era! Our newsletter, The Voter, will be available on our Web site:
www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

We are hoping to accomplish two things:

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

Many thanks go to League member Dale Stocking for implementing this action. His skill made the process seem easy (which it wouldn't have been for most of us) - and his turnaround time is almost instantaneous! Thanks, Dale, for making this plan a reality!

All League members who have email and Internet access will receive a notice online when a new issue is available online. Starting in October, we ask all these members to get their Voter from our Web site. Members without Internet access will continue to receive their paper copies.

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

The Annual Meeting Kit and Annual Report will continue to be mailed.

IN MEMORIAM

Joan Darrah

(April 6, 1935-July 27, 2007)



Joan Darrah, Mayor of the City of Stockton from 1990-1996 and a League member, passed away at her home on July 27th of ovarian cancer. Joan approached her life with optimism and unflagging civic commitment. She was an active member of the Harry S. Truman Club until weeks before her death. She was generous with her time, talent and money. She was the first to commit as a sponsor of the League's 85th Anniversary celebration.

Joan has been rightly praised for her leadership as mayor and for the dignity she brought to Council business. But it is her laughter and un-failing sense of humor, her preference for Bud Lite —and her glasses that matched her every outfit—that her friends will remember warmly. We are all the richer for having known her. She will be missed.

Family Day Volunteers Welcome!



LWVSJC will once again participate in Family Day in the Park, a literacy awareness day for San Joaquin County. Family

Day will be held on Saturday, September 22nd, from 9:30-3:30 at University Park in Stockton.

The event has typically drawn over 15,000 people, mostly families with children. Community groups that participate provide interactive projects for children and information to adults about the services they provide. This will be the third year that LWVSJC will participate, helping to build community awareness of the League, our activities and services.

Anyone interested in volunteering for a 2-hour stint at the League booth should please call Susan Loyko, coordinator of the League's participation, at 943-1575.



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

www.sjc.lwvnet.org

Please Pay Your Dues NOW.

CALENDAR

September 6, 2007—5:30 p.m. - Board Meeting, Valley Brew, 157 W. Adams, Stockton

September 16, 2007—3:30-5:30 p.m.—4273 Boulder Creek Circle, Stockton
League member social. Join us—and bring a friend! **PLEASE RSVP** by 9/12 to 951-2311.

Family Day in the Park—September 22, 2007—University Park—10:00-3:00
Call Susan Loyko to volunteer to be part of this event.

September 26, 2007—6:00 p.m. - Valley Brew, 157 W. Adams, Stockton
Kickoff General Meeting: Dr. Ellis Jones will speak on how you can make a difference—by how you decide to spend your money. **PLEASE RSVP by September 21st** to LWVSJC@aol.com or 465-0293 if you will be able to attend.

October 4, 2007—5:30 p.m.—Board Meeting—Place TBA

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

Board Meetings

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

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.