



The Voter

Annual Meeting Highlights

**LWVSJC
THANKS
Ursula Meyer
for her
generous
contribution
to our
Ed Fund**



This year's Annual Meeting was held at Bud's Seafood

Grille on June 19, 2008. The small room was packed with League members and guests and you could hear the lively buzz of conversation both before and after the business portion of the meeting.

latures. The fact that the legislator does not have to live in the district he/she represents was disconcerting at first, but based on her observations, it did seem to work for constituents. She also found it interesting that the British do not debate values.

They assume they share common values.



They focus on *issues* instead.

The business meeting followed Betsy's presentation. League members adopted the budget for the coming year—and adopted a dues increase, from \$50 to \$60/year, necessitated by an increase in LWVUS/LWVC Per Member Payments.

The members also elected officers:

- Peaches Ehrich—co-President
- Cate White—2nd VP
- Bea Lingenfelter—Secretary
- Ann Pentecost—Treasurer
- Katrina Jaggears, Daphne Shaw, Pat Thomas and Ester Vasquez—Directors

We are still searching, however, for a second co-President. Please consider taking on this role.

The final highlight of the evening was the presentation of the **Helen Pearson Award to Sally Miller**. Sally was recognized for her work as organizer and historian, on the Immigration Study Committee and her terms on the Board. **Congratulations, Sally!**

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The evening began with an interesting presentation by former LWVSJC intern Betsy Hammer who shared her impressions as an intern with the British Parliament during the spring semester. Betsy was an aide to the leader of the House of Commons, Harriet Harman. Betsy found several differences between the British and American legis-

Voters and Foreclosures

Thanks to Diane Park for the following brief article:

There have been estimates of as high as 1.4 million foreclosures in this country in recent months. That represents an estimated 900,000 or more voters who have been moved from their residence.

That's 900,000 new voter registrations if they all re-register to vote from their new residence. Or, that's hundreds of thousands of voters who will not bother to re-register and who will be stopped from voting or challenged when they do get to the polls. Every registered voter needs to check to

ensure their registration is up to date and then do it again later this year before their state voter registration deadline.

Source: John Gideon
Daily Voting News
7/6-7/08
www.votersunite.org

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California Budget Impacts Everyone

The League sponsored a forum on the California Budget as its closing meeting of the year. Advocacy Chair Cate White presided over the program which was attended by over 25 people from the League, AAUW, Sierra Club, CA Alliance for Retired persons and members of the public at large.



that studies the impact of the California budget on low and middle income communities.

Gonzales primary premise was that this budget year is different from other budgets because the problems are more widespread than in previous years and “all the budget gimmicks have been used up.”

Rebecca Gonzales of the California Budget Project presented historical and current data on the California budget and the structural problems that plague the budget. The California Budget Project is a grant-funded non-profit organization

California is only one of three states that require a supermajority of two thirds in order to pass the budget. This complicates an already difficult process. “Before term limits, legisla-

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LWVUS CONVENTION Report

- Ann Pentecost, 2007-2008 President

The national convention of LWVUS was held in Portland, Oregon on June 14 to June 17. 49 states and the District of Columbia were represented. Only Rhode Island was missing. There were almost 700 voting delegates and fewer than 1000 total attendees. It was mostly an exhilarating experience, though at times it was tedious.

The exhilarating was primarily the various speakers. They included two former governors of Oregon, including Barbara Roberts, the first woman (and so far only woman) Governor of Oregon. There was an especially informative panel on Climate Change which looked at both the science and human impact.

The core business of the convention is the election of the new board and the adoption of the national program for 2008-2010. The 2008-2010 Board includes Mary Wilson serving an additional two year term Also, Norman Turrill of Oregon was elected as the first male Director.

For the 2008-2010 Program, the LWVUS Board proposed the following, which was adopted: to retain all current LWVUS positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy; to amend the Principles by adding, “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial;” and to adopt a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed.

In addition, several “Not Recommended” items were brought to the floor and three were approved by the convention. They are a concurrence position on redistricting, a multi-level Education and Advocacy campaign

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LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2007-2008

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Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed: Peaches Ehrich & Colleen Foster

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Sylvia Kothe, Cate White

Taking a Balanced Approach to the Budget



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 tors had time to get to know each other”, she said, so the process was more cooperative and less partisan.

Cate White of LWVSJC & speaker Rebecca Gonzales of the California Budget Project

This year the gap between the State’s income and its projected expenditures is \$14.2 *billion*.

There are many reasons for this gap: Lower revenue from income and sales taxes, increases in service costs (e.g., prisons and healthcare) and the impact of unexpected costs, e.g., fires raging statewide. In addition, payment on the debts incurred to solve budget deficits in previous years and mandates imposed through the initiative process

have cut into General Fund revenues. While Gonzales said the CBP agreed that cuts in services need to be made, she said that one contributing factor that is not often recognized is that taxes have been substantially reduced over the last 15 years. The CBP believes that some of these taxes need to be reinstated as part of a reasonable and balanced state budget.

Personal income tax represents a growing percentage of California’s revenue while Corporate income taxes have steadily declined since the 1990s. And with the shift from a product-based economy to a service-based one, sales tax captures an increasingly small part of the expenditures of individuals and businesses in California.

At the close of the presentation, Cate White informed the group that the LWVC

has taken the position that cuts alone will not solve California’s budget crisis. The state needs a balanced approach to the budget—and that means both cuts and new revenue.



The budget just agreed on by the Assembly and Senate leadership—once again well past the legal deadline of June 15th—does include

proposals for serious cuts in services as well as the reinstatement of revenues previously reduced: corporate taxes, dependent tax credits, and income tax relief for the wealthiest Californians. Cate provided postcards for those at the meeting to send to their legislator in support of this balanced plan.

LWVUS CONVENTION

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 to fight global climate change, and a study item entitled: “the advisability of using the national popular vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President.”

A large number of reports were given including those from the Executive Director, the Treasurer and the President. Mary Wilson’s remarks included the need to have a consistent message about what the League does. That message is “The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join Us in making democracy work!” “The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join Us in making democracy work!”

There were also a large number of caucuses and workshops to attend between the plenary sessions. The caucus on the Massachusetts Health Care Reform and

two workshops on fundraising letters were very informative.

The tedious included a great deal of time spent getting the rules of the convention adopted and considering eleven Bylaw changes.

If you want more complete information, it can be found on the National website at <http://www.lwv.org> in the “For Members” section. Along with all the reports and the workshop materials, it is hoped that at some point there will be webcast of the speeches which were presented.

I would like to give a big “Thank you” to the LWVSJC for sending me to the conventions. It was a wonderful experience. I would urge us to continue to send a member as funds allow as it really gives one a better understanding of the League and how it works.



Fundraising Notes



Garage Sale Redux
 Thanks to Peaches Ehrich for coordinating and hosting our year end fundraiser, a garage sale at her house. Although it was organized quickly, we still netted \$120!

“Painless Fundraising” at the Annual Meeting

Thanks to all the League members who contributed to the League by donating the ‘spare change’ they collected during the month before the Annual Meeting and/or who added to the kitty at the meeting itself. We netted \$126.28!

Asparagus Festival

And a big *thank you* to Loralee McGaughey and volunteers who worked the League booth at the Asparagus Festival. Your efforts earned us a check for \$1084.60!



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Democracy is not a spectator sport!

*Plan to participate
in League activities
this coming year!*

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.