



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

1507 21st Street, Suite 303 Sacramento, CA
August 2005

Message from the Board of Directors

By Barbara Hopkins, Co-President

In her Women's Movement comments, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Supreme Court Justice, captured the League sentiments in planning this historic event:

"I think about how much we owe to the women who went before us-legions of women, some known but many more unknown. I applaud the bravery and resilience of those who helped all of us-you and me- to be here today.

American women today are living the proud legacy of the Women's Rights Movement (1848-2005), although many may be uninformed about our foremothers. And August 26, 2005, will mark the 85th Anniversary of women winning the right to vote, after following the ratification of the 19th amendment to the U. S. Constitution. This year is also the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters by the Suffragists and was designed to educate women to be informed about political issues.

On August 25th, the Sacramento County League will celebrate this historic anniversary of woman's history and discuss the role of the League in continuing the legacy. Everyone who attends will also receive the special anniversary copy of the Gazette, a Suffragists newspaper, updated with 85 Profiles of Suffragists and historical data (16 pages) by the National Women's History Project (www.nwhp.org). Individual invitations will be mailed to League members, and a telephone RSVP to the LWVSC office voice mail(447-8683)so is important so Judy Hoefling can order enough refreshments. We extend a very special thank you to Mary and Mel Williams for their generosity in opening their lovely home and garden to the League for this August celebration. -808

Other summer news and that we urge League members to note include:

- **The LWVSC OFFICE** will **not** be staffed and open the part-time hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m-3 p.m. The office will be monitored three days week by volunteers and the office telephone calls will be received by Judy Hoefling. The board members names and numbers are listed in the

Voter and League Directory and we invite members to call us if there are any questions.

- During the Annual Meeting on May 26 League members approved the Budget Committee recommendation to reduce personnel costs in the Sacramento office since the State of the Community Luncheon will not be continued and the personnel income will not be available. This means that Rita Bridges, who has been the dedicated Office Administrator for five years will not continue. The outgoing Board gave Rita a beautiful vase of yellow roses, symbolic of suffrage and the incoming board already misses her invaluable service.
- The new League board has been meeting this summer to implement recommended and new changes intended to improve the League operation. The new board will not be responsible for traditional portfolios, with the exception of the co presidents, vice president and treasurer. The secretary position remains open and we would welcome the help of an off board member. The Board work will be done by committees to share the workload of areas of League responsibilities, such as administration, membership, program, voter service, fund development and advocacy.

Again, we are turning to off board League members to volunteer to help by calling the co-presidents, Judy Hoefling or Barbara Hopkins.

- Also the Board will continue to meet the first week of the month, either Wednesday or Tuesday, and the date will be printed in the Voter. Members are welcome to attend and we are looking for more volunteers for both on-board and off-board committees.

Mark your calendar for other League August meeting dates listed in this Voter

- August 3- 5:30 p.m.- LWVSC Board Meeting- LWVSC Office
- August 20- 9 a.m. Carpool to LWVSC Training Workshop- Grass Valley
- August 23- 5:30 p.m. Voter Service committee meeting- LWVSC Office

September events will be presented in September Voter.

LWVSC Regional Training Workshop— "Retooling for League"

Saturday, August 20, 2005 • 8 AM to 3 PM • Peace Lutheran Church, 828 W. Main St. Grass Valley, CA

Hosted by: LWV Nevada County

RSVP by mail to Sue Nepstead, 661 Morgan Ranch Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95945

Carpool: Call League office voice mail at 916-442-7215 - See Page 6 for more details

2005-06 Board of Directors

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Meet the New Board of Directors

The LWVSC Annual Meeting on May 26, 2005, elected the incoming Board of Directors. The officers are Judy Hoefling and Barbara Hopkins as copresidents, Carol Moon Goldberg, Vice President; Vivian Skintauy, Treasurer and Secretary of open. The Directors are elected At-Large and will participate on committees to perform responsibilities essential for maintaining the League operation. The nominating committee will continue to add new board members. This Board will try a new method of operating to allow for more sharing of the responsibilities of the League tasks and continue to work to invite more League members to participate in the leadership role in both on and off board capacities.

The copresidents, Judy Hoefling and Barbara Hopkins, will work with the board to coordinate the administration, operation and program for the League. Board meeting dates will be published in the Voter and members are welcome. Board members will work together on committees in areas of Administration, Membership, Voter Service, Program, Fund Development and Nominating for next term.



The Board members pictured are (right to left) Melinda Avey, Jan Geiger, Barbara Hopkins, Joann Monaco, Mignon Marks, Judy Hoefling, Carol Moon Goldberg, Hazel Bergtholdt, Virginia Kaser, and Roseanna Toretto. Not pictured: Rick Bettins, Beth Benedetti, Coco Gumacal.

Board Briefs

The Board met at USC for an orientation and board meeting on June 21, 2005 and enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by Michaelangelo's. The Board:

- Elected Beth Benedetti to the 2005-2006 Board of Directors
- Accepted with regrets resignation of Mignon Marks from Board for family reasons
- Approved renewing the office lease when it is received at \$25 increase for total of \$525 month.
- Approved submitting the \$12,000 bid to perform the California Vendors Policy Election for the Department of Rehabilitation in September 2005.
- Approved the summer meeting on August 25 at the home of Mary Williams to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment.
- Scheduled board committee meetings for following areas:
 - July 6- Administrative Committee Meeting
 - July 11- Membership Committee Meeting
 - July 18- Program Committee Meeting
 - August 23- Voter Service Committee Meeting
 - TBD- Fund Development Committee Meeting.
- Agreed that Board meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of month at 5:30 p.m. for potluck and meeting from 6- 7:30 p.m.
- Agreed to complete annual calendar planning at August 3 meeting
- Agreed to continue outreach to recruit more board members and off board committee members for 2005-2006.

LWVC Convention Report

LWVSC sent 5 delegates to the League's statewide convention in late May. The convention's purpose is to set LWVC's program and budget for the next two years, to share information on membership, fund development, programming, and action among the local Leagues, and to learn first hand information from speakers who are working on the issues of today.

LWVC's issues for education and advocacy for the next year are:

1. Redistricting—educating members and the general public on the issues, monitoring current proposals for redistricting, tracking legislation in the state legislature and on state ballot initiatives, as well as advocacy for legislation based on the LWVC position.
2. State and Local Financing—educating members and the community on the state budget process and proposals for improving it, as well as advocacy for legislation that comports with the LWVC position.
3. Health Care—educating members and the community on the issues of health care, including health insurance, as well as tracking legislation in the state legislature and advocacy for any legislation that is consistent with League positions.

All of the issues for emphasis are also "legislative priorities" chosen by LWVC's Board of Directors. This means that LWVSC's Trudy Shafer, who is also our statewide Legislative Advocate, will be following legislation on these issues. The state league will also review all statewide ballot measures and decide whether to take a position on them.

This year's convention featured speakers from the Secretary of State's office, the California Senate, and Common Cause. Both Bruce McPherson, the newly appointed Secretary of State, and John Mott Smith, Voter Outreach Director for the Secretary of State commended the League and urged it to continue its work on registering voters and explaining why they should vote. The Secretary of State's office intends to support the League in its efforts. Mr. Smith pointed out that the 76% voter turnout for the 2004 elections is the highest in the last 25 years. He sees this as a pivotal time in which such turnout must be encouraged to continue.

State Senator Shelia Kuehl, LA and Ventura County, began her talk to delegates with a cautionary tale about "babies in the river", the core of which was don't just rescue the babies, find out why they're in the river in the first place and fix the problem! Senator Kuehl's baby is health insurance. She outlined the problems with the current health insurance system and asked for the League's continued support for her bill which would create a singly payer health insurance system for all California residents. LWVC is supporting the Senator's bill, SB 840.

The Executive Director of Common Cause also spoke to delegates. Kathy Feng urged the League to continue its work to support changes in the redistricting process. The League in partnership with Common Cause supports the use of an independent body to draw district lines.

LWVSC delegates participated in a number of workshops, including one that featured Suzanne Phinney and Mignon Marks talking about energy issues. This workshop turned our two members into celebrities, so they spent the remainder of the convention either being complimented for their work or asked for specific, detailed information on a variety of energy related questions. We hope to have them recreate this workshop for our own League in preparation for the upcoming energy study.

LWVSC delegates Suzanne Phinney, Mignon Marks, Jan Geiger, Virginia Kaser, and Carol Moon Goldberg appreciated the opportunity to attend the convention and promise to act upon what they learned on behalf of LWVSC. For further details on the convention, check the state web site ca.lwv.org/lwvonly.

*Welcome
New*

John Abbott, Sacramento, CA
Ann R. Conner, Folsom, CA
Marilyn O. Evans, Sacramento, CA
Penny Kastanis, Sacramento, CA
Elizabeth A. Morse, Citrus Heights, CA
Connie Neish, Sacramento, CA
Gloria J. Rea, Elk Grove, CA
Marsha L. Wilson, Carmichael, CA
Rhonda King, Sacramento, CA
Vivian Hida, Carmichael, CA

Membership Renewals due during Summer—
Contact Vivian Skintauy, Treasurer if any questions.



LWVSC Annual Meeting

The Casa Gardens Restaurant of the Sacramento Children's Home on Sutterville Road was the setting for the LWVSC Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2005, that included forty five members and three guests. Carol Moon Goldberg, as member of the Management Team, was selected as chair by cohorts, Suzanne Phinney and Hazel Bergholdt. .

Unit Meetings

Units are small discussion groups. No Units will meet in August and members are urged to attend the General Meeting together. Call ahead as Units may change location and meeting date.

Mid-City

Monday: 6:15 p.m.
Doris White , 383-0189,
8632 Fallbrook Way

Morning Suburban

Tuesday: 9:15 a.m.
Mary McCullough, 967-7382
2426 Garfield Ave,
Carmichael

Greenhaven/Land Park

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m.
Mary Hopkins, 422-6958
45 Sunlite Circle

East Sacramento

Tuesday: 1:00 p.m.
Elinor Hickey-456-3794
1307 39th Street

Elk Grove

Tuesday : 7:00 p.m.
Nancy Myers, 689-6943
9710 Parktree Way

Foothill/Sunrise

Wednesday: 10:00 a.m.
Anna Antos, 967-4484
8085 Capitola, Fair Oaks

Two highlights of the annual business meeting were guest speaker ,Professor Kimberly Nalder of the Department of Government ,CSUS, who discussed "Citizenship, Politics and Spin". Suzanne, Carol and Hazel , on behalf of League, gave Rita Bridges a vase of yellow roses symbolic of the suffrage movement to Rita Bridges, LWVSC Administrative Office Manager, for her five years of invaluable service in the Sacramento League office. The membership voted to adopt the budget, program and new Board of Directors for 2005-2006. Business included the adoption of the budget and program for the new term.

Carol summarized the challenges of the past year that explained some of the changes.

The limited size of the Board of Directors demanded much of the seven devoted members and limited the program of the plans who conducted a full program agenda. Their recommendation of reducing demands and expenses by eliminating the Annual State of the Community Luncheon and need for the personnel costs will alter the operation of the LWVSC. Also the plan to hold more General Meetings with the four Units using the program topics will also reduce the monthly demands on program volunteers. Voter Service will continue and need member involvement for issue forums and registration during the Special Election in November.

Vivian Skintauy, Treasurer, who also managed the membership reports this year , reported that the May membership was 293, including two new fifty year members: Amy Jaynes and Betty Ann McKenzie. And the Total LWVSC Equity is \$74,666.58, with a total annual income for the year of \$38,193.82, that included the State of Community Luncheon profit of \$12,400, the major fundraiser for LWVSC. She praised the SOCL committee and asked for alternative fundraising ideas

Donna Chipps, Budget Chair, presented the proposed budget that was mailed in The Call. The major income will be from membership dues, the Suffragists Club and the special election contract with Department of Rehabilitation. Total expenses may exceed income, and the members approved the budget committee recommendation that LWVSC use the Education Fund for expenses as allowed by LWVCEF. A deficit of \$1,790 is expected.

Hazel Bergholdt presented the proposed local program that was approved by members to retain all local positions with recommendation of two issues for emphasis in 2005-06: Voter Outreach to new and underrepresented citizens and Land Use General Plans and Blueprints. Hazel coordinated the ambitious Voter Service program that included a special election for the Congressional Representative following the loss of Congressman Robert Matsui.

Judy Hoefling , on behalf of the incoming Board of Directors, recognized the outgoing board for their successes during the past year and the difficult circumstance of recruiting leaders to help. She pledged to streamline LWVSC program and expenses to make League less demanding for new incoming Board of Directors, essential for LWVSC to continue. The new LWVSC Board members include: Judy Hoefling and Barbara Hopkins, co-presidents; Carol Goldberg, vice president, Hazel Bergholdt, voter service, Vivian Skintauy, treasurer, vacant, Secretary. Directors -at-large: Roseanna Torretto, Melinda Avey, Jan Geiger, Beth Benedetti, Virginia Kaser, Rick Bettis. Nominating Committee members Sally Weinland and Doris Olson are talking with League members to participate as Board members this year.

A closing announcement invited members to attend the 85th Anniversary Celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment when women won the right to vote at a location to be announced.

Tribute to Rita Bridges

We are sorry to lose Rita Bridges as the LWVSC Office Administrator who has kept the Sacramento League Office running smoothly for the past five years and has coordinated arrangements for many League events from meetings, dinners, and special parties, to name a few of her special services that are really missed by the League board and members. Rita represented the League to the public and was always available to answer members' questions or forward their requests. The Board especially regrets that the loss of income from the annual luncheon required that we reduce personnel expenses.



Rita Bridges was presented with a beautiful bouquet of yellow roses by Suzanne Phinney, Carol Moon Goldberg and Hazel Bergtholdt, the outgoing Management Team, (see photo above), at the Annual Meeting on June 16, 2005. Carol discussed the significance of the roses as suffragist colors during the campaign to win the vote and was especially sad that Rita could not continue since she was part of hiring her five years ago. Her contacts were invaluable from caterers to special deliveries or whatever special service League needed to finish a project.

We are fortunate that Rita will continue to work with League as a member and plans to help the League by conducting the special election for the Department of Rehabilitation, California Voters Policy Committee (visually impaired) this fall. We all miss talking with Rita in the office and we look forward to seeing with her at League events.

Regional Equity Forum Considers Affordable Housing

By Rick Bettis

On June 30+ the LWVSC participated in a "Regional Equity Forum" organized by the Sacramento Housing Alliance. This writer filled in for the League's Housing Consultant, Kay Knepprath. Also attending were representatives from Policy Link from Oakland, New York City and Washington D.C., Action Media from Minneapolis, and the local organizations; Cottage Housing, Housing Now, Interfaith Service Bureau, Loaves and Fishes, Mercy Housing, Mutual Assistance Network of Del Paso Heights, Paratransit, Self Help Housing, Sacramento Valley Organizing Committee, and the Sierra Club.

Each organization described their activities and emphasis, which included a broad range of service and advocacy in a variety of areas. All the organizations confirmed that there is a critical need for affordable housing and many participated in the recent successful campaign to motivate Sacramento County to adopt a comprehensive affordable housing ordinance. The resistance to affordable housing by the market rate building industry was discussed, including the lawsuit filed by the Building Industry Association in attempt to invalidate the Sacramento County ordinance. Some communities are only collecting in-lieu fee and are not producing affordable housing.

Policy Link described some of their successful efforts in other cities. Action Media presented a recommended approach to conducting an advocacy campaign and framing the message for maximum effectiveness. They emphasized the need to frame the message in a manner that the listeners can identify with and is consistent with their values. They also described a focus group survey that they conducted regarding growth issues. Their primary finding was that 70 to 80 percent of Californians see housing as a consumer issue and not a social issue.

The participants agreed to continue to work together where possible to bring much needed affordable housing to the Sacramento area.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Get more involved with the League of Women Voters Sacramento County by attending League events!

Attention: Voter Affidavit Volunteers

By Eileen Heaser Project Coordinator

There are new procedures for picking up Voter Registration forms from the League office. Since the League office is closed or will not have regular open hours, before you drive to the office to pick up voter registration forms, please call either Barbara Hopkins, 359-0991, or Vivian Skintauy, 991-5409, who will meet you at the League office.

If you pick up the registration forms from Elizabeth Byerly this arrangement will continue.

Please contact me at eheaser@csus.edu or 916-278-6797, if you have any questions about this change in picking up voter registration affidavits in the League office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Voter Service Committee Organizing Meeting

August 23, 2005 ♦ 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

The November 8 Election will be small but controversial and an exciting opportunity for League Pros and Cons speakers to demonstrate the nonpartisan presentations that are our valued hallmark. Outreach voter education to under-represented voters as adopted as an Issue for Emphasis at the Annual Meeting. Planning to implement this membership activity will require members making special contacts and making presentations. The Voter Service Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 23, 2005 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the LWVS Office. Call Hazel Bergholdt at 928-9486 to insure you can get in the back door at 1507 21st Street.

Mark your calendar and do not miss the Speakers Training on September 17, 2005 at location to be announced.

LWVC Regional Training Workshops

Learn more about League and meet with members from other Leagues at two training workshops sponsored by the League of Women Voters of California. They are designed for members of Northern California Leagues and offer something of value for longtime and new members, board members and program chairs.

Sacramento League members may attend Regional Workshops in Grass Valley or Palo Alto. We may carpool to the Grass Valley workshop and leave Sacramento at 8 a.m. Saturday August 20. RSVP to LWVSC office and leave message at (447-VOTE) or Barbara Hopkins, 359-0991, barbarah@surewest.net. by August 15.

August 20

"Retooling for League"

Sponsored by LWV Western Nevada at the Peace Lutheran Church 828 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA. (Dottie Schmidt- 530-273-7324)

September 10

"Re-tooling for League".

Sponsored by LWV Palo Alto at the Hyatt Residence, 620 Sand Hill Road, across from Nordstroms Stanford Shopping Center.

Training Workshops Programs include:

- League 101

- Membership
- Voter Service
- Legislation and Advocacy led by current and past LWVC board members.

Registration- \$25 advance; \$30 Day of event (Lunch and materials) **Grass Valley, RSVP by August 13** to Sue Nepstead, 661 Morgan Ranch Drive, Grass Valley, 95945. Indicate sandwich choices: Chicken Salad or Vegetarian.

Directions to Grass Valley (GV):

- I-5 North to I-80: North to Auburn, Left on Hwy 49 to Grass Valley.
- Take GV/Colfax exit
- Left onto S. Auburn St. and go to 3rd stoplight
- Left on W. Main
- Continue past 2 stop signs to Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship hall, 828 W. Main on right.

“It leaves a mark on one, such a struggle”

“To get the word ‘male’ in effect out of the Constitution cost the women of the country fifty-two years of pauseless campaign. During that time they were forced to conduct fifty-six campaigns of referenda to male voters: 4880 campaigns to get Legislatures to submit suffrage amendments to voter; 47 campaigns to get State constitutional conventions to write woman suffrage into the state constitutions; 277 campaigns to get State party conventions to include woman suffrage planks; 30 campaigns to get presidential party conventions to adopt woman suffrage planks in party platforms, and 19 campaigns with 19 successive Congresses.

“Millions of dollars were raised, mainly in small sums, and expended with economic care. Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, hundreds of thousands gave constant interest and such aid as they could. It was continuous, seemingly endless, chain of activity. Young suffragists who helped forge the last links of that chain were not born when it began. Old suffragists who forged the first links were dead when it ended...



“ it is doubtful if any man, even among suffrage men, ever realized that the suffrage struggle came to mean to women before the end was allowed in America.

How much of time and patience, how much work, energy and aspiration, how much faith, how much hope and how much despair went into it.

It leaves its mark on one, such a struggle. It fills the days and it rides the nights. Working, eating, drinking, sleeping, it is there. Not all women in all the State of the Union were in the struggle. There were some women in every State who knew nothing about it. But most women in all the States were at least on the periphery of its effort and interest when they were not in the heart of it. To them all its success became a monumental thing.”

Carrie Chapman[Catt and Nettie Rogers Shuler., Woman Suffrage and Politics, 1922. Gazette, National Women’s History Project, 2005

LWVC Board Update on Legislation—June 2005

Months of uncertainty came to an end on June 13 when Governor Schwarzenegger called a special election to be held on November 8, 2005. As of June 30 the LWVC Board voted to oppose two of the five ballot measures in the special election. In March, the Board voted to oppose the Parental Notification initiative (Termination of a Minor’s Pregnancy, Waiting Period and Parental Notification). At the May meeting the Board voted to oppose “Live Within Our Means” initiative. These two ballot measures are Constitutional Amendments and the third is the Reapportionment that LWVC has not taken a position on yet.

Information about all the initiatives is available on the Secretary of State’s web site at: www.ss.ca.gov/election/elections_j.htm. or Attorney General’s site, www.ag.ca.gov/initiatives/activeindex.htm and the Legislative Analyst’s fiscal analyses at la.o.ca.gov/ballot_source/Initiaves.aspx.

In September the LWVC will provide an Action Guide analyzing in depth the measures on which state League has taken a position and informing local Leagues how they may advocate for League’s positions. Excerpts from Marion Taylor, LWVC, Legislation Director.

LWV Mission Policy

The League is a broadly based, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and involved citizen participation in government through voter service and Influences public policy through education and advocacy

LWV Diversity Policy

LWVSC Affirms, in both its values and practices, its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism which means there shall be no barriers to participation on the basis of national origin, race, gender, creed/religion, age, sexual orientation or disability. Adopted 2001

The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The League subscribes to belief and diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organizations ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

The League affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its board, staff and programs.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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For information leave a voice mail message at 916-447-VOTE (8683)

The Sacramento Voter is published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County. Membership is open to all United States citizens, 18 years of age or older. Membership dues, payable to the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, are \$50 per year (\$75 for families). Contributions for the LWV and membership dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes.

Joining LWVSC makes you a member of all levels of League (Sacramento County, State and Nationals).