



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

AUGUST 2007

AUGUST PEACE EVENT SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2007

The Annual Commemoration of Victims of the Atomic Bomb
Blast in Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Japan

Program from 4:00 to 5:30 PM (See article.)

Doors open at 3:00 PM for visiting tables hosted
by local community organizations including LWVSC.

California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, in the Alumni Center,
located on the southern end of the campus, off College Town Road

This is the 21st anniversary of this free family event with speakers and music,
light refreshments, and free parking.

For more information, contact Inga Olson, Tri-Valley CAREs Board, 916-307-6000.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY PARADE AND RALLY SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007

Parade starts at 9:30 AM at Southside Park

Sign-up at 7th & T Streets

Rally at 11 AM at the West Steps of the Capitol
Sacramento, CA

Join women, men, elected officials and supporters to commemorate and
reaffirm women's right to vote.

For more information, see article in this Voter, call 949-230-1169 or 916-435-9760, or visit
www.womenequalityparade.com

BOARD MEETING AUGUST 20 AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEAGUE OFFICE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My first message looks at the year ahead and the initiatives I will champion as president. I am pleased to be spending my 35th year in League leading this talented Board which is supported by many off-board consultants and committees. And it is always a pleasure to work with Barbara Hopkins, our immediate past president. I am very grateful for all of the time she has spent with me since I took office on June 2nd.

Voters Service: Sacramento County voters face three elections in 2008. Our Voters Service team will offer our regular slate of services. Please consider lending a hand or helping to financially support our Voters Service activities.

LWVUS: First up this fall is the Immigration Study. This will be followed in winter by national program planning in advance of the June 2008 convention in Portland, Oregon. Immigration is a complex subject with diverse views. Plan to attend our forums and consensus meetings where League's "grassroots" process thrives.

LWVCA: The May 2007 convention adopted three issues for Education and Advocacy---Universal Health Care, Education, and Redistricting Reform. A regional workshop for Northern California local leagues will be held in Sacramento in October.

LWVSC: At annual meeting on June 2nd, we adopted our issues of emphasis: voter outreach and education for the three elections in 2008, advocacy of single payer universal health care and SB 840, and global climate change education and awareness. However, before we had a moment's rest, we were called to action on several issues. You can read our action letters in the Issues section of our web site.

Initiatives: In previous Board terms I championed **unit meetings**. This year I shall champion the return of our **Observer Program**. Illa Collin suggested this to me this spring. Then the LWVUS published a new resource guide on the subject. I shall also champion the **LWVSC web site** where we posted our recent action letters and added the option to join, renew membership, or donate online. Soon we will post annual meeting minutes and Board member introductions. I shall also champion the **publications** on the **LWVC and LWVUS web sites** beginning with the recommendation that you visit the Immigration Study section of www.lwv.org. I am sure that you will be impressed.

Feel free to contact me via email to volunteer or offer comments and suggestions. I work full time for the State of California (as a mainframe computer performance specialist), so I usually reply outside of business hours or midday from my new iPhone.

HEALTHCARE FOR ALL, YOUR HELP URGENTLY NEEDED

by Rick Bettis

At this year's Annual Meeting the LWVSC adopted two very important issues for emphasis for the upcoming year, Global Warming and, at the top of the list, Senate Bill 840, the universal single-payer health care bill authored by Senator Sheila Kuehl. Supporting passage of SB 840 is also a top priority for the LWVC and other local Leagues throughout California. In-depth information is available on the LWVC web site www.lwvc.org.

SB 840 has passed the State Senate and Assembly Health Committee and will next be considered by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. A companion funding measure SB 1014 has been introduced and has passed the Senate Health Committee and will next go to the Senate Committee on Revenue and Taxation.

LWVSC members are urged contact their State representatives regarding this important issue by phone, e-mail or regular mail. Speaker Fabian Nuñez and Assemblyman Niello should be urged to support SB 840. Assemblymen Gaines and Nakanishi should be urged to reconsider their opposition. Assemblyman Dave Jones should be thanked for his continuing support of SB 840. Senator Darrell Steinberg should be thanked for his support and Senator Dave Cox should be urged to support SB 1014. Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata should be thanked for his support of SB 840 and urged to support SB 1014.

For more information and sample letters of support please see Senator Kuehl's website www.sen.ca.gov./Kuehl and click on SB 840. Copies of letters or e-mails should be sent to Senator Kuehl's office. You may also call Senator Kuehl's office for information at (916) 651-4023.

OneCareNow, a non-profit health care advocacy organization also is seeking volunteers for their campaign to educate and gain public support for this important legislation. These activities include tabling, leafleting, and, possibly, speaking to small groups. To obtain more information regarding this legislation and how you can volunteer you should consult the web site www.OneCareNow.org. LWVSC member Carolyn Negrete is coordinating the local activities for this campaign. She can be reached at (916) 424-5316 or cnegrete@comcast.net.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY ENDANGERED: SUPPORT URGENTLY NEEDED NOW AND ON AUGUST 8, 2007

By Rick Bettis

For nearly five years the LWVSC has been part of a coalition of community organizations organized by the Sacramento Housing Alliance advocating for a strong affordable housing ordinance for Sacramento County. The ordinance was passed in December 2004 and is being implemented by the County Planning Department with more than 4000 affordable units "in the pipeline" and \$75 million in fees committed for implementation.

In April an Every Member Tool was sent to LWVSC members and a General Meeting on this issue was held on April 18. May Unit meetings discussed this issue, and another article on this matter appeared in the March issue of the Voter.

However, a lawsuit challenging the ordinance was filed by the Building Industry Association (BIA) following its passage. The Superior Court dismissed the suit saying that it was "without merit." However the BIA has appealed the case and "settlement" conference meetings have resulted in proposed modifications that could significantly weaken the ordinance. (Continued on page 4)

AUGUST PEACE EVENT, SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2007

The program includes the traditional telling of Sadako's Story written by Zoe Hana Lackmacher. Sadako was a young girl who died of radiation sickness ten years after the A-Bomb was dropped. The paper crane has become an international symbol of peace in recent years as a result of its connection to this story.

Program participants include Mary Wind, President, Teach Peace; True Colors, Women's chorus; Mary Perner, Community Organizer, Tri-Valley CAREs (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment); and Taiko Dan Drummers, U.C. Davis.

August 6 and 9, 2007 are the 62nd anniversaries of the U.S. use of the atomic bomb in war. This is a time to think about victims of all wars and to support movements, policies, and actions for nonviolent alternatives. It is also an opportunity to join together to tell Congress to reject the plan under debate to build 125 nuclear weapons annually.

Note that the League of Women Voters of the United States has a long standing position on arms control which includes, as a long term goal, the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons. For the details of the LWVUS position, go to our web site at www.lwv.org and view the Issues section, International Relations.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The LWVSC has been participating in the Housing alliance coalition campaign to prevent these changes. Action alerts have been sent to LWVSC members and we successfully have written a comment letter to the Bee, have written and are meeting with the Board of Supervisors, and have participated in a press conference and two rallies at the Board of Supervisors. The League and other members of the coalition have been especially concerned that the negotiations between the County and the BIA have been private and the affordable housing advocates have not been given the opportunity for input during the process.

This issue is scheduled to be heard at an August 8, 2007 (probably in the afternoon) meeting of the Board of Supervisors. LWVSC members are urged to contact their County Supervisor urging them not to change the ordinance, and to attend this meeting and a rally that will be held by the coalition prior to the meeting. For more information on the issue please consult the housing alliance web site www.sachousingalliance.org. or call the Housing Alliance at (916) 442-1198.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY PARADE AND RALLY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007

The ratification of the 19th amendment on August 26, 1920, marked the end of a 72-year political campaign which began with the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls in July of 1848. The date was celebrated by those concerned, but didn't receive much public notice until Bella Abzug, Congresswoman from New York City, petitioned the Nixon administration to declare it Women's Equality Day in 1971. That did not make it an official holiday, however, as it must be re-proclaimed by the president each year. It is hoped that these parades will be the first step toward making August 26 an official women's holiday.

The League of Women Voters especially recognizes this date. In addition to the suffrage the leaders also founded the League of Women Voters with the mission of educating voters to make informed choices when they voted. In her founding speech, Carrie Chapman Catt declared: "The vote is the emblem of equality, women of America, the guarantee of your liberty. That vote of yours has cost millions of dollars and the lives of thousands of women." The Suffragists who gave so much would shudder to learn that 22 million women voters chose not to vote in the 2004 Presidential Election.

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County is a cosponsor and invites members to contact Catherine Troka (troka@sbcglobal.net or 916-446-5933) to help with the League table. Look for the League banner in the parade. Join us, march or watch.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Raymond Blakley

Gary Hart

Daphne Lake (transferred from Pasadena League)

Alice Lee

Elizabeth Leslie

Jean Scolnick

Norma Vuletich

Wilma Zanze

Phyllis Zell

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

Kay Knepprath

Katherine M. Thompson

SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER TWO FIREARM RELATED ORDINANCES ON AUGUST 9, 2007

During the Directions to the Board at the Annual Meeting, Doris White, Mid-City Unit Chair, urged that we do something about gun violence and “children killing children.” And within a month we learned that the Sacramento City Council will consider two firearm related ordinances on August 9. Recently the City of Sacramento has experienced a significant increase in the level of gun violence. In the first half of the year, 32 people have been killed by firearms and near record number of semiautomatic handguns have been confiscated by the Sacramento Police and Sheriffs Departments. The two ordinances would provide law enforcement with useful tools to discourage and investigate crimes, as well as increase accountability of gun owners and ammunition dealers.

The Mandatory Reporting of Lost or Stolen Firearms ordinance would require gun owners to report lost or stolen guns to the Sacramento Police Department within 48 hours of knowing of the actual loss or theft. Failure to report the loss or theft of firearms would result in either an infraction or misdemeanor. This ordinance would provide the local Police Department with additional information regarding the ownership of guns and aid their efforts in criminal investigations; encourage greater responsibility in gun owners in maintaining the safety and security of their stored weapons; and discourage illegal gun sales. San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, and Berkeley require gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms.

The Mandatory Maintenance of Ammunition Sales Logs by Firearms Dealers ordinance is aimed at preventing illegal ammunition purchases within the city and increasing the detection and apprehension of persons committing firearm related crimes. This ordinance would require ammunition dealers to record the identity of the purchaser and details of the transaction, and forward the information to the Police Department. It is important to know that this ordinance will not prevent or delay a sale of ammunition at the point of sale. Eleven other California cities and counties, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Oakland, have already enacted similar ordinances.

The LWVUS adopted its first position on gun control in 1990 and has been lobbying Congress for the passage of federal legislation to control the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the U.S. In particular, the League supports the allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers. See www.lwv.org Issues section, Social Policy, for details of the League gun control position.

The author of the ordinance has asked for a strong showing of public support. (Such ordinances draw powerful, nationwide, opposition campaigns.) League members are encouraged to call or write to their Councilmember, and to attend the City Council Meeting on Thursday, August 9, 2007. Send copies of any support letters to the co-sponsors, Councilmembers Kevin McCarty and Robbie Waters. (Go to www.cityofsacramento.org to find your council contact. Contact author Kevin McCarty's office for more information.)

LWV SACRAMENTO COUNTY 2007-2008 REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Unit Meetings will take place in the week beginning the first Monday after the first Tuesday of every month from September through May.

The Board of Directors plans to meet on the second Monday after the first Tuesday of every month.

SAVE THE DATE

Immigration Forum, Wednesday, **September 19, 7 PM**, USC State Capitol Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento (Contact Lola Acosta, 445-8186, lola@winfirst.com, for more information.)

LWV California Regional Workshop, Saturday, **October 20, 9:30 AM to 2 PM**, USC State Capitol Center

JOIN, RENEW, OR CONTRIBUTE ONLINE AT www.lwvsacramento.org

Or mail this coupon and a check for one year's dues of \$50 to:

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

801 12th Street, Suite 210, Sacramento, CA 95814

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens, 18 years of age or older. Non-citizens and youth under 18 may join as associate members. Membership dues, payable to the LWVSC, are \$50 per year (\$75 for families). Membership dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. Joining the LWVSC makes you a member of all levels of League (local, state, and national).



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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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.

DOES THE LWVSC KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

The LWV is trying to focus its communications online and in email. It helps reduce costs and increase communication about upcoming events and action alerts.

If you are not receiving our emails, please send an email to lwvs@lwvsacramento.org and ask us to add or update your email address.

We maintain a strict privacy policy and will not share your email address with any third party.