



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

APRIL 2008

Regional Transit Master Plan



What Do You See for the Future of Transit in Sacramento?

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) is preparing for the region's growing transportation needs through its Transit Master Plan (TMP). This long-range district-wide transit guide provides a planning, policy, financial and operational framework for developing and delivering projects and programs through 2035.

RT General Manager Mike Wiley will speak about how RT is currently updating the TMP and will present three transit scenarios for public review and comment.

April 30, 2008, 7:00PM

USC State Capital Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento 95811

Limited off street parking is available in the unreserved spaces in the garage below the building. Street parking is free after 6 PM

BOARD MEETING APRIL 14, AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEAGUE OFFICE

2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While we give our full attention to Voters Service activities in the next two months, I would like to call your attention to these items.

Suffragist Club: Our annual request to members for contributions to our operating expenses is in the mail. Please consider this request.

LWVSC Program Planning: If you did not attend a March unit meeting discussion of local League priorities for the 2008-2009 program and you have a recommendation, please contact me at 483-6545 or president@lwvsacramento.org before the April 14th Board meeting. I will include your suggestion in the Board discussion.

2008 Anne Rudin Scholarship candidates should apply by May 2nd: The League established the Anne Rudin Scholarship to commemorate the accomplishments of former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin and to enable other women to pursue higher education in the fields of public administration and public policy. The scholarship of \$1,000 is open to women who are enrolled in public administration, government, or public policy related programs at an institution of higher education in the Sacramento area. The applicant must have completed her sophomore year or be a graduate student. See our web site for details or phone Kay Knepprath at 916-457-3793.

LWVC Leadership Council 2008: League leaders, members, potential members, and friends are invited to attend the LWVC Leadership Council "Bridge to the Future" in Sacramento on May 17-18, at the Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, 300 J Street, with preliminary activities May 16. The council program is designed to present the most current information regarding League issues and to discuss the vision for our future. The keynote speaker will be LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson. Workshops are open to members and non-members. All members may attend the plenary sessions but only official delegates (President or their designee) may vote. For details see www.lwvc.org. Attend for one day at reduced rates. Or volunteer to staff the council events. The plenary sessions need doorkeepers, runners, timekeepers, mike monitors, and parliamentary aides. The workshops need coordinators. The registration and hospitality desks need volunteers. Contact Jennifer Joseph at (916) 442-7215 or jjoseph@lwvc.org.

VOTERS SERVICE UPDATE: April, a Prelude to the Busy Month of May and the June Election By Cheryll Moore

The Voters Service program will need your time and expertise during the next two months as the June 3rd election draws near. Here is our schedule to date:

April 15- Mock Moderator Forum Training at the Metro Cable recording location, 6:30-8:30 PM, 700 H Street, Suite 1450, Board of Supervisors chambers. Parking across the street on the second level is free after 6 PM. The League will serve a light dinner. **RSVP to Cheryll at geroeducator@att.net or 483-5524.**

April 17- NAACP State Capitol Event, with League voter registration table, 1-4 PM, South side

April 20- Sacramento Earth Day, 11 to 6, Southside Park, with League voter registration table.

April 26- Pros and Cons Speaker Training Session from 9 AM until noon, 1910 Chatsworth Lane, Carmichael. RSVP to Cheryll.

April 26- Candidate Forum, Sacramento Mayoral and Supervisor District 3, with the River Park Neighborhood Association, 9 AM – Noon, Fremont Presbyterian Church, 5770 Carlson Drive.

May 3- Candidate Forum, Metro Cable Taping Session, Board of Supervisors chambers, 9 AM-1 PM.

May 13-Candidate Forum, Supervisor District 3, with the Arden-Arcade Community Alliance, 7 PM.

Pros and Cons guides will be available at the League office and Cheryll's home around April 21st, and the Easy Voter Guides around May 16th, for distribution in the community. Call the office at 447-8683 or Cheryll at 483-5524 for copies.

League Volunteers Provide Year Round Help to Voters

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the following Voter Registration Affidavit Outreach volunteers who distribute Voter Registration forms to post offices, DMV sites and other community locations. Eileen Heaser is the coordinator of the effort. Volunteers are: Mary McCullough, Donna Chipps, Vera Loehr, Betty Youngren, Margaret Herman, Anne Mouer, Virginia Kaser, Catherine Troka, Anne Wiley, Mynga Futrell, Olga Batey, Penny (Mitzy) Wisler, Barbara Oliva, Doris White, Vivian Skintauy, Lola Acosta and Rina Humphers. Judy Hoefling is responsible for submitting to the Registrar of Voters quarterly reports of the number of forms distributed and for renewing the annual contract. Thank you to all!

Observer Corps: RE-Launched in Sacramento

By Penny Niland

Saturday, March 15, 2008 was a significant date in Sacramento League history—the first League participants in the Observer Corps met for the first training session. This event marked the re-institution of the Observer Corps as a key and on-going activity for Sacramento League. The impetus for this generation of observers was a commitment to the concept by National League--which is providing training materials for Corps leaders and participants—and the Sacramento League Board which recognized the potential for Observer Corps to extend the Leagues' ability to be a watch-dog for good government thought the Cities and County of Sacramento.

The Sacramento League Board is actively recruiting members to observe government agencies in Sacramento, including: Sacramento County boards and commissions, Reclamation Boards, City Councils, the County Board of Supervisors and regional agencies such as SAFCA (Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency).

The Sacramento League members who enter the program will receive training in the objectives and duties of an observer. The observers and the League Board will work together to determine which league member is assigned to observe a public agency that they are interested in. The new observer will be accompanied to her or his first meetings by a League Board member who will briefly summarize the Observer Corps program and introduce the Observer Corps representative to the members of the public agency.

Whenever an observer is “on the job”, she or he will be wearing a League badge and taking notes to learn what the agency is doing and to monitor whether or not the meetings are conducted in an open and transparent way. When issues arise that relate to existing League positions, the Board will designate a League officer to offer public comments on the issue at a subsequent meeting of the agency. Observer reports will also alert the League Board of issues that may merit a new League study or an update of an existing position.

We appreciate the advice and encouragement we have received for this project from Anne Rudin, former Mayor of Sacramento, and Illa Collin, former member of the County Board of Supervisors, both former League presidents. Their experience in public office has shown the importance of League being present to observe meetings. We also appreciate the assistance of Board member Roseanne Chamberlain, consultant to Local Agency Formation Commissions and former public member of the Sacramento LAFCo.

Sacramento League will be conducting training for new observers on a regular basis. For more information and dates for training contact League Board Member Penny Niland, 916-492-9096 or pniland@earthlink.net .

IMPORTANT MEETING- PLANNING SACRAMENTO'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUTURE

By Rick Bettis

At the April 30 LWVSC general meeting Mike Wiley, Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) General Manager, will speak on how RT is currently updating its Transit Master Plan. This Plan is a critical component in our effort to create a sustainable future for the Sacramento Region. LWVSC members and guests will have the opportunity to express their opinions regarding public transportation in our region as well as hear directly from Sacramento's top transit official regarding our future. Mike Wiley has over 30 years experience with RT and was recently appointed its top Manager.

The Sacramento region is a "non attainment" area for the Federal Air Quality Standards. It should be recognized that these standards are not arbitrary environmental protection regulations. They are based on health studies that increasingly verify the serious negative effects of auto emission caused pollutants such as increased incidence of asthma, emphysema, cancer, and heart disease. A key element in the efforts to achieve these standards is changing from the use of the automobile to public transit as well as alternative modes such as walking and biking. Personal auto trips now result in more than 40 percent of harmful emissions. Reducing private auto use will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the potential multifaceted dire effects of global warming.

Currently only approximately one percent of all trips in the region are by public transit. This is very low in comparison to cities such as New York, Washington D.C. and many European cities where transit is used for approximately 50 percent or more of all trips. Alterations of personal habits as well as a substantially improved transit system are needed. Our land use patterns need to become more transit oriented with more compact new developments and infill. Commercial, service, and other business and government uses should be mixed with residential to reduce travel needs.

The April 30 meeting will provide all the opportunity to participate in this important effort to improve the quality of life in our community. Please attend and invite all who are interested in the future of Sacramento.

**2008 Anne Rudin Scholarship candidates should apply by May 2nd.
(See President's message and www.lwvsacramento.org .)**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Laurel Groff

Shirley Hicks

Marilyn Lambeth

Heather Miller

Joyce Rasmussen (returning member)

John Stockdale

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

Goldie Hall

Vi Long

Anne B Jones (nonmember)

UNIT MEETINGS: Independent Judiciary

Note LWVUS Fair Judiciary web site www.lwv.org/faircourts and the essay, "A Fair, Impartial, and Independent Judiciary", by Sandra Day O'Connor, in the February 2008 issue of the National Voter.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Apr. 7 6:15 PM	Doris White 383-0189	8632 Fallbrook Way Sacramento
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Apr. 8 9:30 A.M.	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Apr. 8	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Apr. 8 1 P.M.	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or eheser@csus.edu

LWVSC PARTICIPATES IN SAFCA FLOOD CONTROL DEVELOPMENT FEE WORKSHOP

By Rick Bettis

On March 17 the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) conducted a Workshop to discuss its proposed fee on new development that would be used to fund flood improvements to primary flood control facilities in the Sacramento Area.

The fee would be imposed on new development in the floodplain area that would result from a 1 in 200 probability event in the areas subject to flooding from the American and Sacramento Rivers and the south Sacramento stream group which includes Morrison, Elder, Florin and Unionhouse Creeks.

Currently funding is available to provide protection against a 1 in 100 probability event. This funding mostly comes from State bond funds and Federal reimbursements, with approximately 10% being provided by the SAFCA property assessment that was passed last year by a vote of property owners in the floodplain area.

The development fee funds would be used to increase the level of protection for the area to accommodate a 1 in 200 probability flood event. The fees would range from \$1.06 to \$1.79 per damageable square foot for residential projects, \$1.79 per damageable square foot for industrial projects, and \$2.69 per damageable square foot for commercial projects.

Final adoption of this fee is expected by May 2008.

JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

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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APRIL 2008

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JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Affordable Health Care for All Speakers Training and Workshop

Sponsored by Health Care for All Sacramento Valley

To include presentations by Senator Darrell Steinberg
and Sara Rogers, Healthcare consultant to Senator Sheila Kuehl

Saturday, April 5, 2008, 9:30 AM - 3 PM

The Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street, Sacramento, CA 95817

Registration Fee \$15 send to

Carolyn Negrete, 5624 Delcristo Circle, Sacramento, Ca. 95822

For information call Carolyn Negrete 916-424-5316

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE! www.lwvsacramento.org