



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

NOVEMBER 2009

CONSENSUS MEETING, CITY CHARTER STUDY

Saturday November 21, 2009

8:30 AM Coffee and Registration, Meeting 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

University of Southern California State Capital Center
1800 I Street, Sacramento 95811-3004

CLIMATE CHANGE MEETING: “CLIMATE CHANGE, CAUSES, SOLUTIONS: WILL COPENHAGEN GIVE HOPE?”

Monday November 30, 2009

Open at 6:30pm; Program at 7 pm

Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park

3330 McKinley Blvd-Enter off Park Drive on south side

Free; refreshments provided

Speakers

Deb Niemeier, Ph.D. Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and
Director of the John Muir Institute at UC Davis

Carl Zichella, Sierra Club Director of Western Regional
Alternative Energy Programs

This event is being hosted by the Sierra Club , the LWVSC is among 17 co-sponsors. For more information contact Rick Bettis at the LWVSC office 447-8683

2009-2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***Consensus Meeting: City Charter***

We ask all Sacramento League of Women Voters members to attend a Consensus meeting Saturday, November 21, 2009 at the University of Southern California State Capital Center, 1800 I Street. Join us for coffee at 8:30 A.M. and the meeting from 9:00 A.M. to noon.

Members attending the Annual Meeting asked the Board of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County to study the proposed changes to the city charter. This issue of the Voter contains the Every Member Tool prepared by the study committee and consensus questions. Please review these prior to our meeting and bring them as a guide to our discussion. The following is a description of study activities to date, leading to our Consensus Meeting.

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County endorsed the study and at a general membership meeting on August 8, 2009, members voted to adopt a study of the Sacramento City Charter so that the League could take a position on the issue of charter amendment. At this meeting, Bill Edgar, chair of the City Charter Review Committee described the Committee's charge and action. Former Mayor Anne Rudin spoke of the importance of proposed charter changes and of a League study.

At the September 12th general meeting Robert Stanley Oden, PhD, Professor of Government at CSUS discussed the types of municipal governance in California. He observed that it is the mayor's personality and leadership that make a difference, rather than the power granted by charter.

The League study committee interviewed seven City Council members and three former mayors, monitored the City Charter Review Committee meetings, researched the history of the City's charter, the provisions of the current charter, the charters of several comparable cities, and the changes proposed by the initiative which has qualified for the June 2010 ballot. Our interviews revealed mixed opinions among the council. Very few of them felt that the form of governance was a problem in getting things done in the city.

Proposed State Government Reform

November Unit meetings will focus on other aspects of government organization and reform led by Repair California, the proposed constitutional convention and other government changes proposed by California Forward.

NEW BOOK HONORS LATE LWVSC MEMBER JO SMITH

By Rick Bettis

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) has recently published a new book in honor of Jo Smith, a longtime League member.

Until her death last year Jo had been a League member for over 50 years. She served the League in many capacities at both the state and local levels. She has been credited with initiating the League's legislative advocacy program, which led to the establishment of the professional state office of the LWVC.

Jo was a co-founder of ARNHA and had inspired, edited and illustrated twelve ARNHA publications. The new book, "The American River Almanac, Reflections on Nature throughout the Year," includes Jo's fine drawings of plants, birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, and fish along with thoughtful and perceptive essays by Peter Hayes, a retired editor of the former local daily Sacramento Union newspaper.

The book is available at the ARNHA gift shop at a cost of \$9.75. It can be ordered on the internet at www.arnha.org or from ARNHA, P.O. box 341, Carmichael, CA 95605. All proceeds go to ARNHA'S education programs.

VOTERS SERVICE REPORT

By Cheryl M. Moore

On September 2, 2009 the first CalPERS Candidate Forum was held with the Sacramento League serving as the moderator that evening. The event was taped and blogs on the CalPERS State Workers website followed the forum.

Volunteers who made the evening a success were Cynthia Hutchison, Pat Justice, Rick Bettis, Roseanne and Bill Chamberlain and Kathy Chovan. Thank you all for your time and energy.

Rick Bettis, who is always willing to contribute his time to the League, counted ballots for a small homeowner's election during the month of September. Thank you so much Rick.

Stay tuned for additional meetings, forums and other activities and opportunities to volunteer for Voters Service.

CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATES AND CLIMATE AGRICULTURE SUMMIT

By Rick Bettis

The very critical United Nations Climate Change Conference will be held in Copenhagen from December 6 –18 this year. It is important that the U.S. be prepared to take a leadership role at this vital summit meeting. The LWVUS continues to advocate for the passage of strong Federal climate change legislation before Copenhagen.

In June the House of Representatives passed the comprehensive 1200-page “American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.” Senator Barbara Boxer has introduced the complementary “Clean Energy, Jobs and American Power Act.” It will be soon debated in Senator Boxer’s Environment and Public Works Committee. However, competing bills will probably be introduced in other Senate Committees such as Finance, Transportation and Agriculture. The LWVUS is supporting Senator Boxer’s bill and we should all join in this effort.

Meanwhile I recently attended the “climate and agriculture summit” at UC Davis. This event attracted a “sold out” attendance of over 150 progressive farmers, environmentalists, economists, academics, students and others seeking to define the role of agriculture in finding solutions to this critical problem.

Climate change could have devastating impacts on agriculture resulting from the decrease in available water supplies and negative impacts on crop growth and disease due to higher temperatures and changes in growing seasons.

Agriculture also is a significant contributor to the climate change problem due to its high dependence on mechanization and the use of fossil fuels for equipment and petroleum-based agricultural chemicals. Our food production and distribution system results in an average travel of the food on our grocery shelves of more than 1500 miles. The Sacramento Region exports over 95% of its agriculture product out of the region, while importing nearly 90% of our food.

At the Davis “summit” and at Sacramento Area Council of Governments meetings working toward “Urban Rural Connections Strategy,” policies to enhance “localization” of our food production and distribution system are being developed, along with ways to reduce dependency on greenhouse gas emitting energy sources. The preservation of local farmland through improved land use planning policies that will minimize our urban footprint is also being pursued.

COMMISSION ON THE 21 ST CENTURY ECONOMY

By Lola Acosta

This commission was created by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Legislature and chaired by Rancho Santa Fe businessman Gerald Parsky in an effort to develop proposals that would end the cycle of budget crises. The report of the Commission will be the subject of the December League of Women Voters of Sacramento County Unit meetings.

On October 7, 2009, the [California Budget Project](#), a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization seeking fiscal reforms to benefit low and moderate income Californians, conducted a public meeting to present an analysis of the Commission's report issued September 29, 2009. The analysis of the California Budget Project, entitled "Fatally Flawed" is available on their website, www.cbp.org.

Briefly, the California Budget Project believes the Commission's proposals would shift the cost of state services from high to low and middle income taxpayers and rely on a risky new tax that would penalize businesses that provide high wage jobs with good benefits. The Commission's tax changes, if implemented for Californians with an income of one million dollars and over would see a tax cut of more than \$109,000. By contrast, Californians earning \$50-75,000 would see a tax cut of \$187. Additionally, the Commission's tax plan would eliminate all deductions and credits except mortgage interest, property tax and charitable contributions.

On July 15, 2009, Janis Hirohama, President of the League of Women Voters of California, wrote to Commission Chairman Gerald Parsky outlining why the LWV of CA opposes the Commission plan. You may read Ms. Hirohama's letter on the LWV of California website.

With this and other government-change proposals making their way to the 2010 ballot, the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County will provide voter education and public speaking orientations early in the new year to interested members. Look for Cheryll Moore's announcement in future editions of the Sacramento Voter, and consider attending and preparing yourself to provide a valued non-partisan community service.

SAVE THE DATE

Leadership Council 2010, scheduled for Sacramento Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16. All interested Sacramento members are welcome to attend.

LWV REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

On Saturday October 17, 2009 the LWVC conducted an educational session for about 27 northern California League members, where the LWV of Sacramento was the host. Sacramento League members Catherine Troka, Jennifer Gibson and Franciska Acosta volunteered. El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, Humboldt, Sonora, Mendocino Counties, Diablo Valley and Redding Area Leagues were represented. Topics covered included "Political, Yes; Partisan NO! Walking the Fine Line," by Jackie Jacobberger, "Tools You Can Use: A Guided Tour of LWVC's Member's Only Web Page Plus Examples of How Leagues Use Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter," by Jenny Waggoner, and "Redistricting & Constitutional Reform What's Happening and What You Can Do to Make It Happen," by Suzanne Stassevitch. During the lunch period, League members networked and discussed topics of interest including policies affecting water quality and supply. We acknowledge our gracious host, the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning and Development for providing a meeting room and facility management support.

Watch the Announcements page of future editions of the Sacramento Voter and our website for more information about the Leadership Council 2010, to be held in Sacramento Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16. All interested members are welcome to attend.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out this form, include a check or money order and mail to:

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
1107 9th Street Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Individual Membership \$65.00

Family Membership \$100.00

(two adults at same address)

Student Membership \$15.00

Supported Membership _____
 (\$15 minimum)

Assistance requested from Membership Support Fund

Please fill out amount enclosed

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 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).

LEAGUE MEMBERS VOLUNTEER YEAR 'ROUND

At the October 3- Women Take Back the Night event at the state Capitol, Jennifer Gibson and Kathleen Chovan provided tabling; Rick Bettis attended. There were speeches, music and a march. Numerous people stopped by the table and took information about League membership.

October 4 – Tom Swift, Pat Justice, Rick Bettis and Barbara Hopkins volunteered at the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Annual Voter Education & Candidate Forum event at California State University, Sacramento. Several hundred people attended, and League members offered voter registration and LWV information to attendees.

Did you notice all the health fairs across the community? October 11th Pat Justice provided tabling at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, provided League visibility and distributed League voter information and voter affidavits. She suggests Spanish speaking League members for the next event at the Church. Please notify Lola Acosta if you have Spanish language skills.

The Arden Arcade Incorporation Committee requested Voter Service assistance to moderate a public meeting considering community law enforcement needs October 22 at the Arden Church. Voter Services Director Cheryll Moore rallied volunteers Kathleen Chovan to moderate the meeting with Barbara Hopkins, Laurie Pejuhesh, Lanette Davies and Lola Acosta.

NOVEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

In keeping with our local program including government organization, the November Unit discussions will focus on the efforts of Repair California to call a constitutional convention. Another organization, California Forward, held a series of public meetings and plans to approach the legislature with other government reform measures, and failing legislative action, go to the initiative process.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Nov. 9 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Nov. 10 9:15 AM	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Nov. 10 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Nov. 10 1 PM	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

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



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VOLUNTEERS (2) NEEDED: VOTER AFFIDAVIT PROJECT

Do You Live Near the Citrus Heights or Land Park Post Offices?

Volunteers are needed to stock and report use of voter affidavits at the Citrus Heights and Land Park Post Offices. If you are interested please contact Eileen Heaser for guidelines and supplies. Part of the volunteer assignment involves making quarterly on-line or mail-in reports using a form available on the LWVSC website. Judy Hoefling receives and compiles these reports.

Locations:

Citrus Heights Post Office, 6330 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights CA 95610,
and

Land Park Post Office, 5930 South Land Park Drive, 95832

Contact Eileen Heaser at eheser@csus.edu or phone 278-6797.