



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2009

Saturday September 12

Registration and Refreshments 9:30 AM

10:00 AM—12:00 PM

The League of Women Voters of Sacramento County General Meeting

City Charter Mini-Study

**E.M. HART SENIOR CENTER
915 27th Street., Redwood Room
Sacramento, CA**

**Featured Speaker: Dr. Robert Stanley Oden, Associate Professor of
Government at California State University, Sacramento**

EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

September 16, Suffragists Club Party

September 20, Opening Doors, 7th Annual "Learning to Live in America Fair," from 11:00 AM to 4 PM at Southside Park. Volunteers contact Lola Acosta at lwvs@lwvsacramento.org or phone 447-8683.

November 21, Consensus Meeting on City Charter Mini-Study

2009-2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This summer the League and Health Care for All, Sacramento Valley co-sponsored three health care seminars with other organizations to educate our members and the public. Events June, July and August brought a total of almost 150 attendees from Sacramento and Chico to hear Sacramento County Health Officer Glennah Trochet describe the condition of our health care system, economist Lenny Goldberg speak about the state and national economy as related to proposed changes in the health care system, and to provide speaker training for those interested in representing the League and Health Care for All regarding SB 810 (Leno) and health care bills under discussion in the Congress. If you participated in these events and would like to address a community group, contact League member Carolyn Negrete at CNegrete@comcast.net. It is obvious the public needs reliable information. We will say more about public education opportunities in the near future.

Suffragist Club

Making a donation to the Suffragist Club is the primary way members contribute to the League's financial stability. To date, thirty five members have contributed to the League of Women Voters of Sacramento Suffragist Club. If you have not already made a donation, you may want to consider giving to the LWVSC's General or Education Fund in \$100, \$150, \$200, or over \$250 amounts. To contribute to our General Fund, issue your check to LWVSC. To contribute to the Education Fund, issue your check to LWVSC Education Fund. Send your checks to the League office, 1107 9th Street, Suite 300, Sacramento 95814, and phone Kay Knepprath at 457-3793 to say whether you are attending the party.

Donations to the General Fund are not tax deductible. Donations to the Education Fund are tax deductible. The Suffragist Club reminder is included in this Voter because a party is planned for Suffragists September 16 and we would like to include you. At this special party, we will present Sunny Stevenson, a student at the University of the Pacific, School of Law with the 2009 Anne Rudin Scholarship. The party co-hosted by Trisha Uhrhammer and Suzanne Phinney will be in the garden of Trisha's home, 875 52nd Street, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

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CHARTER STUDY COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK

By Ophelia (Fifi) Zeff

The League Charter Study Committee is hard at work gathering information to present to members to help them come to consensus in November. Kay Knepprath and Fifi Zeff are co-chairs of the committee. The membership, at a general meeting on August 8, unanimously approved proceeding with the study. We had two speakers: Bill Edgar, chairman of the City Charter Review Committee and former Sacramento City Manager, and Anne Rudin, former Sacramento Mayor and past president of the Sacramento League and the State League. Mr. Edgar spoke about his committee's work and Mrs. Rudin spoke about the importance of the League proceeding with the Mini Study. Study committee members have been interviewing council members and present and past mayors and reviewing research. They have also been monitoring the Charter Review Committee meetings. A general meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2009 with a speaker giving League members background on City governance and the study committee reporting on its work. The written Every Member Tool will be prepared in October and published in the November Voter. The Consensus meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2009. Any League member who would like to join the study committee can contact Fifi at ohzeff@surewest.net.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued from previous page:

Unit Meetings

New to the League, I was unaware that Unit meetings are not held in July and August. The health care topic listed in the August Voter will apply to the September Unit meetings. New League of Women Voters U.S. research papers will be sent to Unit meeting chairpersons for distribution.

City Charter Study Committee

Under the leadership of our two Co-chairs, Ophelia (Fifi) Zeff and Kay Knepprath, the LWVSC City Charter Committee has made progress and recruited volunteers. Plan to attend the September 12th meeting at the Hart Senior Center for a progress report. Two articles authored by Fifi are in this issue.

Lola Acosta, President

CLIMATE CHANGE-A TOP LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRIORITY

By Rick Bettis

Recent studies indicate that global warming is occurring at a faster rate than was predicted a few years ago by the United Nations (UN) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and described in former Vice President Gore's Nobel Prize acceptance speech. The UN estimates that more than 3.5 million people will be impacted by climate change this decade, and according to the World Health Organization it may already have contributed to more than 150,000 deaths a year.

The LWVUS advocates for federal legislation that will prevent irreversible damage by limiting global temperature to increase to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to below 1990 levels by 25% by 2020 and 80-95% by 2050.

In July, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy Security Act; however it will not achieve these goals. In September, Senator Boxer's Environment and Public Works Committee along with other Senate Committees will take up the legislation. Senators Boxer and Feinstein support strengthened legislation; there is major opposition, especially from the oil and coal industries.

The LWV of Sacramento County has hosted a Community Forum, formed a Climate Change Committee and, with the LWVUS and Oxfam America, visited the local offices of Senator Boxer and Rep. Matsui. We supported the LWVUS positions and Oxfam's request for greater funding to help the developing nations adapt to the effects of climate change.

Your help is needed to attain passage of strong legislation before the scheduled international climate summit in Copenhagen this December and to insure that current EPA health-based regulations are not weakened. To learn more and to see how you might participate, visit www.lwv.org/climatechangeaction.

State and local activities include the implementation and augmentation of the landmark California climate legislation AB32 and SB375. To become involved locally you may contact lireland@ix.net.com or lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

H1N1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

by Anne Rudin

How often does one have the opportunity for a person to person discussion with a federal government official on an important health issue that can affect everyone? How often is our opinion sought as to how to deal with it?

Recently, we were privileged to participate in a day long Community Engagement Meeting convened by The Keystone Center and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) partnering with the University of Nebraska. Sacramento was one of ten cities across the nation chosen to participate in this Public Engagement Project designed to provide basic information about the H1N1 virus and advise the CDC regarding a strategy to adopt for a vaccination program.

We learned a lot about the new influenza virus, how it is spread and it's impact on individuals. The CDC assumes it will hit certain population subgroups more severely than others; children, pregnant women, young adults and individuals with underlying medical conditions. Vaccination will be voluntary and vaccine will become available in October 2009 but there will not be enough for everyone in the target populations until February 2010.

The question before us was how vigorous a vaccination program there should be. Attendees worked in small groups, each with a facilitator, to consider three possible approaches: "go easy," a moderate approach, and "full throttle," with discussion of pros and cons of each.

The consensus of most of the groups was that no one method was appropriate to all steps of implementation. In general, taking a moderate middle ground was preferred. In this mode, vaccination would be promoted for eligible groups. Extra vaccination locations beyond those used in a regular flu year would be set up and large numbers of eligible populations would be vaccinated relatively quickly with intensified volunteer involvement, partnerships and program monitoring.

Using the "go easy" approach, program activities in areas of communication, volunteer involvement, partnerships, safety, disease and coverage monitoring would be increased only slightly over those undertaken in regular flu seasons.

Consensus developed that, along with the moderate effort approach for some functions, "full throttle" should be applied to public outreach, education and communication with professionals, special needs and vulnerable populations, and ethnic groups for whom vaccination is not the norm for disease con-

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trol. No time should be lost in recruiting and training volunteers to help with the program and the collection of useful statistics.

Emphasized was the importance of the vaccination program in protecting the maximum number of those at risk without putting the public in a panic mode or detracting from other prevalent health concerns. Also important is equal availability to all and the voluntary nature of the program.

We found this community education and outreach project valuable. It was also meaningful that the CDC took the issue directly to the people to solicit our views on the direction that government should take. With a potential pandemic that puts health and safety at risk, it is important to have reliable information from a respected source as well as informed cooperation among the public and health professionals.

2009 ANNE RUDIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Sunny Stevenson

A student at the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law with an interest in pursuing child welfare law, Sunny was a 2009 University of Michigan Law School Bergstrom Child Law Fellow and received training in that field of law before beginning her summer position as a case aide with Sacramento Child Advocates. She has also been appointed as the 2009-10 American Bar Association Law Student Liaison to the Center on Children and the Law.

VOTERS SERVICE NEWS

By Cheryll Moore

The end of July marked the first time after many years that the League conducted a Homeowners Association election. The University Park Home Association contacted us and Roseanna Torretto and Dianna Dithridge and I worked as a team that evening. The homeowners were pleased to have the non-partisan League members present to count the votes for their board of directors. Thank you both Roseanna and Dianna!

Stay tuned for additional activities from Voters Service

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Alice Hannam

Julie C. Larsen

Debra Rafter

SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS HEALTH CARE

Continuing member education, we ask that discussions focus on two background papers printed in the August Voter. Since then, the LWVUS published two additional research papers:

[A Short History of Major Changes in the U.S. Health Care System since 1994: Costs, Coverage and Quality](#) by Doris Isolini Nelson

[From SCHIP to CHIPRA](#) by Robin Lane

These will be shared with Unit Chairpersons for discussion by members attending Unit meetings.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Sept. 14 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Sept. 15 9:15 AM	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Sept. 15 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Sept. 15 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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CSUS PROFESSOR WILL SPEAK AT SEPTEMBER 12 GENERAL MEETING

By Ophelia (Fifi) Zeff

Dr. Robert Stanley Oden, Associate Professor of Government at California State University, Sacramento, will be the featured speaker at the League general meeting on the Charter Mini Study on Saturday, September 12, 2009, at 10 a.m. at the E.M. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street., Redwood Room. His topic will be municipal government, particularly the forms of governance.

Dr. Oden is a graduate of the University of California Davis and received his PhD from University of California Santa Cruz. He teaches courses in Urban Politics and California State and Local Government. He also worked in local government for 20 years serving in the city of Berkeley, in San Diego and in the city of Oakland. League members are fortunate to have a speaker with such expertise give them background information for their study of the governance of the City of Sacramento.

Following Dr. Oden's presentation and an extended question period, members of the League study committee will report to the membership some of the information they have been gathering.