



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

AUGUST 2010

Friday, Aug. 6, 2010

SACRAMENTO'S AUGUST PEACE EVENT

invites you to see COUNTDOWN TO ZERO

**FREE on opening night, Fri., Aug. 6, at 5 PM or 7:30 PM
at The Crest, 1013 K St., Downtown Sac.**

The Crest will validate parking in the 10th Street garage. Thanks to Participant Media for underwriting these tickets. To reserve your seat, go to www.augustpeaceevent.eventbrite.com. Or call (916) 482-3018 with your name, phone number, and showtime choice. August Peace Event intends to honor requests in the order received. If you can't join us on Aug. 6, COUNTDOWN TO ZERO will run until August 12. Bring this flyer for \$3 off tickets or FREE admission for those under 18. Thanks to the Ploughshares Foundation for underwriting these discounts. August Peace Event is an all-volunteer effort, in its 24th year. Donations are welcomed. For more info email jnakaw@comcast.net or call (916) 393-7690.

Saturday August 21, 2010

VOTER SERVICES: SPEAKERS BUREAU ORIENTATION

9 A.M. to 2 P.M., El Camino Gardens See Voter Service article page 3.

Saturday August 29, 2010

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS 90TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M, Colonial Heights Library Community Room: Celebrate the founding of our organization and women gaining the right to vote! Learn more about the 2010 Convention and meet new members. Refreshments will be served.

Save the Date: September 25th, 2010, LWVC Regional Training Workshop, USC Capitol Center.

2009-2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope all are enjoying the summer and watching your garden grow! We had a successful Annual Meeting, though it was a cliff-hanger until William Chamberlin, Mary Hopkins and John Schafer arrived. How surprised they were when we applauded their entrance! Without them, we would have lacked a quorum and would need to convene another meeting to vote. A By-Laws Review Committee was appointed before we adjourned to avoid another similar dramatic moment.

Thank you for choosing me as your President another year. I look forward to working with you to accomplish our goals. All members are welcome to attend Board meetings and upcoming League events.

Join me in welcoming our Board members Cheryll Moore, Miranda Perry, Rick Bettis, Roseanne Chamberlin, Eileen Heaser, Catherine Troka, Kathleen Chovan, Jennifer Gibson and Cynthia Hutchison in implementing our Program adopted at the Annual Meeting. Our Program will be posted to our website.

We welcome new members joining since May (listed on page 3) and hope to see you at the League 90th anniversary event Saturday August 28th, Colonial Heights Library Community Room.

League members may have been following the news about the condition of the state, local and school district budgets. Friday, July 23, 2010, the Sacramento Bee editorial spoke about the need for the public in Bell, CA and other cities to monitor actions of elected officials. While citizens of Bell were not vigilant, local officials voted themselves enormous salaries and pensions, out of proportion to comparable-sized cities in the state. The Bee clearly challenged all to serve as observers at public meetings, something the League has championed from its founding. A priority is identifying observers to attend meetings of the Redistricting Commission. If you would like to serve as an observer or coordinate observers, please contact me.

Additional volunteers are needed for our Voter Services program. If you would like to serve, please contact Cheryll Moore.

I am sorry to announce LaVerne Ireland resigned from the Board and as Chair of the Climate Change Committee for health reasons. She would welcome cards from members.

TIME TO PREPARE:
GENERAL ELECTION 2010

Cheryll M. Moore, Voter Service Director

The hot days of summer will soon lend themselves to cooler weather, but preparation for the election is already upon us. League opportunities will abound from Voter Registration events to speaking about the ballot initiatives (currently 10 qualified) to assisting at a forum for candidates. All of these activities are part of the core mission of the League and you can contribute your time and talents starting in August.

Volunteers Needed: Attend the combined one day training for ballot initiative speakers and candidate forum staffing. We will meet at the Atria El Camino Gardens in Carmichael on Saturday, August 21, 2010 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Contact me for any additional questions.

Email: votersservice@lwvsacramento.org

Thank you for your interest and commitment.

ANNE RUDIN SCHOLARSHIP

This year's Anne Rudin Scholarship will be awarded to Tomasa Duenas. The scholarship will be presented to her at the Suffragist Club reception, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M., September 15, 2010, at the Urhammer garden, 875 52nd Street, Sacramento 95818

Tomasa is earning her Master of Public Administration degree at the State Capitol Center, University of Southern California's School of Policy, Planning and Development. Along with her studies she has demonstrated her interest in public policy by serving as a staff member for a State Senator following her participation in the California State Senate Fellowship program in 2006.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS MAY-JULY 2010

Celine Donaldson

Paula Eldot

Jo Ann Fuller

Anna Molander

Sandi Russell

HEALTH CARE UPDATE

By Jennifer Gibson

July 10, 2010, Health Care for All (HCA) Sacramento Chapter and Physicians for a National Health Program Sacramento Chapter (PNHP-SAC) held their first joint meeting at the Hart Senior Center. This meeting marked the beginning of a formal collaboration to pass SB 810, California's Single Payer legislation.

An important topic at the meeting was the recent passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the federal health care legislation. PPACA will impact the delivery of health care services in important ways. Several changes will take place immediately. Specifically, PPACA requires insurers to cover dependents up to age 26. In addition, insurance companies may not deny coverage to children up to age 18 because of a preexisting condition. Another provision allows anyone who has been unemployed or uninsured for six months to buy insurance.

Other changes will be implemented by 2014, including the provision prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage to any individual based on preexisting conditions. The provision requiring everyone to have insurance coverage takes effect in 2014.

PPACA also sets limits for the percentage of premiums that can be used to pay for administrative costs, marketing, and profits. Companies will be required to adhere to certain medical loss ratios--the percentage of premiums insurance companies spend on health care services. For large group markets, insurers must spend 85% of premiums to pay for health care services. In smaller markets, they must spend 80%.

Noticeably absent from PPACA, however, is a cost-containment provision that would bend the "cost curve" for providing medical services. Therefore, although PPACA eventually achieves universality through mandates, it does nothing to address the hundreds of medical bankruptcies filed each year, more than half of which are filed by families with medical insurance.

Another important topic at the meeting was the current status of SB 810. SB 810 passed the California Senate and the Assembly's Health Committee. Currently, the Bill is on the California Assembly's suspense appropriations calendar, which is scheduled for hearing on August 5, 2010.

Action: Constituents are asked to write members of the Assembly and the Appropriations Committee urging passage of SB 810.

Upcoming events include a Speaker's Training Workshop scheduled for Saturday September 11, 2010. Other upcoming events include presentations by the group **Mad as Hell Doctors** from Oregon on Tuesday October 12, 2010 in Sacramento and Sunday October 10, 2010 in Davis. Locations will be announced.

Joint meetings for HCA-Sacramento County and PNHP-SAC are held on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Hart Senior Center on 915 27th Street. To join either group, or obtain information on meetings, contact Carolyn Negrete at CNegrete@comcast.net or Bob Vizzard (PNHP-SAC) at 916-663-1739.

SPRING FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

By Kay Knepprath

Not only did we do well financially, we had a great time! About 75 people came to Anne Rudin's garden on May 6 to learn about plants, how to care for them, what to put in the ground and the importance of choosing plants with water conservation in mind. To help with this were:

- Ed Hollingsworth, Hollingsworth Landscaping, 8377 Jackson Rd., 381-6293, and a horticulture instructor at A.R.
- Donna Burris, Anne's gardener and a student of Mr. Hollingsworth.
- Seth Thomas, Capital Nursery, certified nurseryman and drought tolerant plant expert, 4700 Freeport Blvd, 455-2601.
- Chris Lewis and Betsy Weiland, Sacramento Valley Chapter, Native Plant Society, <http://www.sacvalleycnps.org/>
- Brian Kesler, California Victory Gardens, promoting edible landscapes, brian.kesler@yahoo.com

Our expenses were nominal because members made the food (we didn't need a caterer), the wine was donated, thanks Mike Acosta; the soft drinks were donated, thanks Kathy Chovan and Bob Rubin; as was the venue-we're grateful to Anne Rudin.

The hard working creative **event committee** made it all happen:

Lola Acosta
Jennifer Gibson
Charity Kenyon
Kay Knepprath (Chair)
Michele McCormick (2 of her staff did the P.R.)
Cathy Minicucci
Miranda Perry
Suzanne Phinney
Trisha Uhrhammer

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Spring Fundraiser Underwriters:

- Stonebridge Properties
- Construction and General Laborers Local 184
- Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 447
- Thomas Enterprises
- Greenberg Traurig
- Law Firm of Taylor & Wiley
- SKK Development
- Charity Kenyon & Mike Eaton

We netted: \$2,625 in ticket sales and \$ 3,905 in contributions for \$6,530. This does not close the hole in the budget. Our 2010-11 budget goal calls for raising \$7,000.

We are planning a fall fundraiser which will need help. We will be going back to some of the businesses that supported us when we held the State of the Community Luncheons - the last one in 2005. If you have suggestions of corporations or businesses that you believe would be interested in supporting the League's work, please call me (457-3793) or Lola Acosta (920-9414). It's the personal relationship that opens doors.

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 (two adults at same address) \$100.00
- Student Membership \$15.00
- Supported Membership (\$15 minimum) _____

Assistance requested from Membership Support Fund; Please fill out amount enclosed

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

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 INFORMED VOTERS

By Katie Lichty

“Politics and the workplace should never mix.”

This is advice my father shared with me on more than one occasion while I was growing up. He promised me that, if discussed at work, this topic would foster disagreements and tension amongst even the most cohesive group of colleagues. This seems to be a fundamental principle he stood behind throughout a 30-year law enforcement career and a rule that I intend to follow.

Shortly after the beginning my employment at CirclePoint, I began working with Project Manager Jennifer Tencati on a pro bono project that brought politics into the workplace...well, nonpartisan politics, that is.

The project involved media outreach for a fundraising event to benefit the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County. The event, “The League Goes Green,” held May 6, at the home garden of former Sacramento Mayor and League of Women Voters Member Anne Rudin.

Local landscape and horticulture experts were present at the event to answer gardening questions and offer advice on native and drought resistant plants, irrigation and landscape design. Information at the event reflected the League’s mission to protect the environment through the conservation of water and natural resources.

While I did learn a little bit about landscaping, this event also made me more aware of the importance of voting and the political process. I learned about the League’s effort to inform the community about the political process by producing and distributing factual, nonpartisan voter education materials.

I began thinking about how nonpartisan and factual information for voters is largely absent in the current political climate, when greatly needed.

This spring’s primary elections indicated that voters in many states appear heavily divided along party lines. The word “nonpartisan” is infrequently heard in the current political landscape.

As the November elections approach, anyone who watches just minutes of TV cannot help but notice the barrage of mudslinging advertisements. This can leave voters unable to decipher between fact and fiction.

It is refreshing to see the League of Women Voters pursue efforts to convey facts to voters in a nonpartisan way. I enjoyed working on this project not only because of the knowledge I gained, but also because it rejuvenated my view of the importance of fulfilling my civic duty. I suppose politics in the workplace can be OK, as long as they are nonpartisan.

If you are curious how I will vote this November, I would decline to comment...that would be in violation of my father’s principle!



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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AUGUST 2010

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LEAGUES FILE AMICUS BRIEF IN LAWSUIT CHALLENGING AZ IMMIGRATION LAW

The League of Women Voters of Arizona and the League of Women Voters of the U.S. joined the lawsuit challenging the recently-enacted SB 1070 in Arizona, purported to be an attempt to curb illegal immigration, that “will subject United States citizens and legal residents who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and particularly those who may be perceived to be somehow ‘foreign,’ to the disruption, stress, and humiliation of detention and interrogation.”

E-MAIL V SNAIL MAIL ANNOUNCEMENT

If you would like to receive the Voter by e-mail instead of U.S. postal service mail, please contact the League office at: lwvs@lwvsacramento.org.