



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

OCTOBER 2010

October 12, 2010

**Mad As Hell Docs State Capitol Rally:
10 am – 12 noon, north steps**

The LWVSC is a co-sponsor of this health care reform activity. We need you to attend!

October 24, 2010

UN Association Dinner:

The LWVSC is a co-sponsor of this event. Obtain tickets by contacting Ann Kohl at 916-484-0825.

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.

SAVE THE DATE:

November 2, Election Day, Navy Bean Soup for Registrar of Voters Workers: Look for an e-mail and LWVSC website information about how you can help!

2010-2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the beginning of our second 90 years, I want to first acknowledge League members who made our anniversary gathering Saturday August 28th memorable. Thank you one and all! It is always impressive to me to see people give their time to making our organization what it is, one that Sacramento can count on to make democracy work.

Our election season activities have volunteers busy, and community members thank us each time, saying things like "I am so glad the League conducted the issue forum; I was afraid to come and participate until I learned the League would be in charge." Others have said, "I waited until your presentation of ballot measures to mark my sample ballot."

This election season, because of a shortage of speakers, we have turned away community members requesting presentations on ballot measures. We read that nationally, League membership is down, perhaps a reflection of the economy, but there is still a role and a need for our dedicated members.

We are a participating League in the national Membership Recruitment Initiative, and hope you will talk with your friends, neighbors, and co-workers about the great feeling we have as members of the League. It is indeed terrific when community members thank us at the end of each presentation; when a League member's daughter attends our recent regional workshop to learn more about the League; and when we learn our Anne Rudin scholarship recipient, Tomasa Dueñas has dedicated her career to public service.

We ask you to renew your membership in the LWV of Sacramento County where members just like you are taking advantage of leadership opportunities and making an impact. We ask you to speak with friends about the opportunity you have as an LWV member, to contribute in a leadership role through the organization that has a great impact on local, state and even national issues. And we thank you for your support as members, those who are not able to participate more actively at this time.

Please watch our website, lwvsacramento.org and read the Voter for ideas about how you might give just a small amount of time to make a difference.

LWV OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT TOMASA DUEÑAS

By Anne Rudin

Sept. 15, 2010

We are very pleased to present this year's scholarship to a worthy recipient, Tomasa Dueñas who is working toward a Master's degree at the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning and Development.

I want to thank the League scholarship committee who so diligently pored over the applications and made this wise decision, and a special thanks to Trisha Uhrhammer for receiving us in her beautiful garden, and Suzanne Phinney for helping to create the refreshments.

Since her high school days, Tomasa has volunteered her time to community and public service activities. Currently she is on the staff of Sen. Oropieza and continues to work with the Latino Youth Leadership Conference that brings Latino High School students to Sacramento for a week-long leadership conference.

In 2006 she participated in the Senate Fellowship Program which stimulated her interest in public policy advocacy and development and now works to analyze bills as they move through the legislative process. She said in her application that she "enjoys being at the forefront of advocacy and policy formation".

Tomasa, as the first in her family to graduate from high school, has faced numerous challenges in her quest for higher education, particularly financial. With her work and her school responsibilities, Tomasa carries a heavy burden. The League is very happy to help her achieve her educational goal.



Left to right, Mayor Anne Rudin, scholarship recipient Tomasa Dueñas, LWV of Sacramento President Lola Acosta at the scholarship award ceremony.

ARDEN ARCADE CITYHOOD FORUM BRINGS OUT 200

By Cheryll Moore
Voter Service Director

On a Thursday evening at a Sheriff substation Community Room there was standing room only as the crowd pushed into the doors to hear the League hour-long Issue Forum. Present were Tim Cahill representing the side against Measure D and Peter De Marco representing the campaign in favor of Measure D. The League provided a valuable community service giving attendees an opportunity to ask their questions. The Wright Street Neighborhood Watch Group did a tremendous job advertising the forum. My thanks to all volunteers.

UPDATE, SB 810

By Lola Acosta

The following e-mail was sent to Barbara Storey, LWVC Health Care Committee Chair by Andrew McGuire, Executive Director, California OneCare Campaign August 31, shortly after SB 810 did not make it to the Assembly floor for a vote.

Dear Barbara,

Last night, on the state Assembly floor, Senate Bill 810 was not brought up for a vote and, therefore, died. The reasons for the failure, as best as we can tell at this time, are twofold.

First, the conservative Democrats (some label them Blue Dogs, we label them Yellow Dogs) were scared that a vote for single payer would provide their Republican opponent a campaign issue that would lead to their defeat in the November elections. Thus, the Speaker of the Assembly heeded their election concerns and didn't bring the bill to a vote.

The second reason is just as predictable and insidious. The health insurance lobby did everything in their power, which is considerable as we know, and helped kill the bill. The insurance industry has our single payer legislation on their political radar screen and they, as they say, went to work.

In the coming weeks, we'll provide you a more detailed analysis of this defeat, after we gather more information. Senator Leno communicated to us that he will re-introduce the bill next session. We must learn from this event and redouble our efforts to pass the bill next year.

We've made huge progress during the past two years of this campaign for SB 810 and we profoundly thank you for our continued support and action.

We know that with your help, WE WILL WIN.

Andrew McGuire
Executive Director
California OneCare Campaign

DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT FOR 10-10-10?

By Barbara Hopkins

During the October 10, 2010 weekend the Sacramento LWV will join members across the country and people around the world participating in the Global Work Party sponsored by www.350.org, part of an exciting people's movement. Bill McKibben, who founded the website urges everyone to "Let's Get to Work" and take photos of your special project so 350.org can stitch together a global mosaic for world leaders and the media showing people all over the world working on climate change solutions. 350.org also has a gigantic photo petition that shows that people demand leadership on solutions to climate crisis that will get the world back to 350. Scientists say 350 is the most important number in the world-it is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. To read more about 350 go to the www.350.org website and read many other resources about this issue. An amazing 2700 projects are registered for 10-10-10 in 150 countries and 350.org also asks for help in getting projects started in the thirty two (32) countries that don't have work parties yet.

Delegates to the LWVUS convention agreed to participate in 10-10-10 and League members have been posting their creative plans on the [lwvclimatechangelist-serve](http://lwvclimatechangelist-serve@member.lwv.org) at the member.lwv.org website. League projects vary from planting trees to collecting signatures for petitions for various environmental issues related to climate change.

The November 2nd election in California threatens to "suspend" or repeal AB 32, California Global Warming Solutions Act-2006, landmark legislation that provides regulations to reduce the CO2 emissions at the source to the 1990 level by the year 2020. Out-of-state oil companies financed Proposition 23 to 'suspend' AB 32 until unemployment is reduced to 5.5% for one full year. This will kill clean energy standards in CA and increase dependency on oil, threaten public health with more air pollution, kill competition from job-creating wind, solar and other green industries that will go to other states if Proposition 23 passes.

The Sacramento LWV Climate Change Committee will participate in No On Prop 23 tabling October 9th at the Second Saturday Art Walk, midtown. If you would like to join this effort to defeat Prop 23 contact LWVSC Climate Change Committee member Barbara Hopkins at barbhopkins2@yahoo.com. You can also go to 350.org to register your special project. Become a part of this people's movement for climate change; help save the climate for us and future generations. We are also linked with the Sacramento 10-10-10 climate change group of local residents planning a variety of projects listed on Facebook at sacramento10-10-10. Sunday October 10 we will gather from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the Mother's Support Network at Fremont Park, 16th/P Streets for the "100 Mile Potluck" where people will share potluck dishes made from food grown within 100 miles of Sacramento.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES' ROUNDTABLE, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

By Barbara Carr

The most important legislation for children's services is the budget bill. Payment delays due to the lack of a budget and uncertainty about future funding is causing stress in the child care and development arena.

The following are some bills on the Governor's desk:

SB 1381 would change the age for kindergarten admission. The savings generated from starting some children later in school will be devoted to Transitional Kindergarten. The program, partly socialization, partly introduction to structure along with pre-reading exercises, would enable children otherwise able to enter kindergarten to enroll, keeping the Average Daily Attendance for the school at the same level.

Two education bills signed by the Governor were designed to comply with the Race to the Top program. These took effect even though California did not qualify for the grants: SBX51; among other changes, establishes a parent-trigger or improvement program. Parents of children in the 50 lowest performing schools could petition for one of four models for the school: turnaround, restart, closure or transformation.

SBX54; would allow parents of children in the lowest performing schools (elementary, middle and high) to enroll their children in any other school in the state. It does not include transportation or other funding for the program changes.

AB 12 is California's opt-in to 2008 federal legislation to extend the age for foster care. This bill allows California to receive federal subsidies for guardianship of foster children from the age of 18 to 21. The bill is on the Governor's desk. Letters to the Governor advocating signature are welcome. Editor's Note: As usual, please sign your letter as an individual.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY REGIONAL SANITATION DISTRICT (SCRSD) FACES MANDATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT UPGRADES AND HIGHER COSTS

By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director

On September 3, 2010 the State Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) issued a draft decision that if adopted, would require substantial upgrades to the SCRSD wastewater treatment plant before a permit to discharge the treated water to the Sacramento River near Freeport would be granted. The reasons given for these upgrades are to reduce possible negative impacts of excess ammonia and trace pathogens.

These upgrades have been estimated by the SCRSD to cost \$2.06 billion to construct and an additional \$77 million per year to operate and maintain. This would mean that the average monthly SCRSD charge for a residential ratepayer would jump from \$20 to \$61.75. The Impact Fee per home for new service would increase from \$2,800 to \$13,800 for infill development and from \$13,000 to \$35,000 for new development areas. These increases range between 300% and 500%.

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In addition the required new treatment processes such as nitrification, denitrification, microfiltration, and ultraviolet disinfection have large energy requirements which could contribute to climate change/global warming.

On September 14 I attended a SCRSD briefing on this issue with approximately 100 Sacramento County business, government, and community leaders. The District believes that most of the proposed upgrades are unnecessary and have not been substantiated by credible scientific studies. They believe that upgrades to reduce ammonia in the discharges are warranted. These upgrades would cost around \$300 million and would result in much smaller increased fees of approximately 30 to 40%

The SCRSD believes that "Advocacy Science" by those who export water from the Delta, such as the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California had a significant influence on the proposed ruling.

Written comments to the CVWQCB on the Draft decision are due by 5 PM on October 8, 2010 and public hearings are scheduled for December 8, 9, and 10, 2010 by the Regional Board. For more information you may consult www.sacramentodeltasolutions.com.

OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS

October Unit meetings will focus on the remainder of measures appearing on the November 2, 2010 ballot not covered in September. To prepare for this discussion, it is suggested that members read the Advocacy section of the state League website, ca.lwv.org, as well as the members only site, Action Election Materials. Those interested in volunteering in educational election-related activities should contact Cheryl Moore, Voter Services Director at [geroeducator @att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net).

UNIT	DATE &	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Oct 11 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Oct. 12 9:15 AM	Diana Dithridge 486-9542	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Oct. 12 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Oct. 12 1 PM	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

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



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OCTOBER 2010

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HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15 begins Hispanic Heritage Month, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino." More than 35 million people identified themselves as [Hispanic or Latino](#) on the 2000 Census.

Source: Infoplease.com

Aug. 07, 2010, the American Bar Association announced plans to study Hispanic legal issues, under the new leadership of Stephen N. Zack, a Cuban-American lawyer from Miami – and announced the creation of the Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights. The ABA commission, to be headed by Miami lawyer César L. Alvarez, also a Cuban-American, will hold public hearings in major U.S. cities with Hispanic populations to study whether the legal system is addressing the needs of the country's largest and fastest-growing minority. Findings from the hearings will be compiled into a report similar in scope to the one issued earlier this year by the ABA's Commission on Immigration, currently circulating in Washington D.C. Alvarez is with the law firm Greenberg Traurig.

Source: Fabiola Santiago, The Miami Herald