



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2010

Suffragist Club-Anne Rudin Scholarship Reception

Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M.

The Urhammer garden, 875 52nd Street,
Sacramento 95818.

This year's scholarship will be awarded to Tomasa Dueñas.
For more information, e-mail president@lwvsacramento.org.

LWVC Regional Training Workshop

Saturday September 25, 2010, 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

USC State Capital Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento.

League members and the public learn what the League does and how we do it.

Join us! For registration options, go to our website,

<http://www.lwvsacramento.org>.

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:

October 24: United Nations 65th Anniversary Dinner (See accompanying article.)

October 12: Mad As Hell Doctors rally for health care reform at the state capitol, Sacramento. More information in the October Voter.

2010-2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy 90th Birthday to League members, supporters, and all who enjoy the rights suffrage brought us all! All over the United States, while others may overlook the significance of this month in our history, Leagues are celebrating Women's Equality Day, observed on August 26th, marking the 90th anniversary of the constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote, an achievement that has had enormous implications on the political landscape of our country. As we approach what could be a pivotal Election Day, it's worth taking a moment to consider the impact the suffrage movement continues to have all these decades later.

The road to victory in achieving women's suffrage —150 years in the making—was fraught by near-impossible political odds, often hostile public opinion, and considerable strategy disagreements between key suffragists. Many of us are familiar with the mass acts of civil disobedience, White House pickets, hunger strikes and intense backroom negotiations that marked the movement.

Often overlooked is the fact that the suffrage movement served as a testing ground for many of the grassroots mobilization and civic engagement strategies still widely in use today. Regardless of their background or scope of interest, modern-day civic leaders can learn some fundamental lessons from the suffragists:

First, seek to always attract new voices to your cause.

"I always feel the movement is a sort of mosaic. Each of us puts in one little stone, and then you get a great mosaic at the end." --Suffragist Alice Paul

In covering the suffrage-era roots of the League of Women Voters, author Robert P. J. Cooney, Jr. discusses the critical role played by women representing a variety of age groups and geographic regions. In particular, he notes that Maud Wood Park, on recognizing a surprising lack of young women at suffrage meetings, began mobilizing college-age women in order to bridge the age gap. Further, Cooney notes that it was in many cases *male* voters who provided the public and electoral support necessary to enfranchise women in key states. Their support added to the groundswell of pro-suffrage voices and greatly contributed to the movement's political feasibility.

Second, think broadly—but act locally. While some individuals and local suffrage organizations were successful in promoting electoral equality early on in the movement, it wasn't until women self-organized into localized units unified by a nationwide message and supported through an organized national-state-local structure that they succeeded in establishing the critical mass needed to achieve suffrage. In doing so, they gave future grassroots movements a roadmap for success.

Finally, victory is only the beginning. As we now know, the adoption of the 19th Amendment marked the beginning, not the end, of the women's rights movement in this country. Suffragists did not pack up and go home after attaining the vote. In fact, many considered it a personal responsibility to take up the work of educating, empowering, and most importantly, turning out all the newly enfranchised women voters they had fought for.

Even before the passage of the 19th Amendment, preeminent suffragist Carrie

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Chapman Catt founded a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots organization with the mission of "finishing the fight" and providing a forum for civically engaged women. That organization, the League of Women Voters, is still mobilizing citizens in more than 800 communities nationwide. The work of notable women, and the contributions of many, many more, have helped ensure that the fight for a level playing field did not end when women won the right to vote.

Another suffrage leader would go on to author and propose the first Equal Rights Amendment in 1923. And Jeannette Rankin, a Montana suffragist and the first woman to serve in Congress, spent the next fifty years lobbying for issues including peace, women and children's access to healthcare and income, and civil liberties. The work of these notable women, and the contributions of many, many more, have helped ensure that the fight for a level playing field did not end when women won the right to vote. From their lasting public policy legacy to the opportunities they ushered in for modern-day women, their impact can still be felt today.

Where do we go next?

Much has changed since the adoption of the 19th Amendment. Women have had a lasting political impact at the ballot box and in the halls of power. They have outnumbered men at the voting booth in every major election since 1964 and turned out in the largest percentage difference ever (60.4%, vs. 55.7% of men) during the 2008 election.

Women have also made a lasting impact in public service, running and being elected to all levels of office and serving in a wide array of cabinet and other leadership positions. And, Sen. Hillary Clinton's competitive, yet ultimately unsuccessful, run for her party's 2008 presidential nomination eliminated questions about whether a woman could become Commander in Chief.

With every passing year, women are also reaching new levels of leadership in the private sector. With higher-than-ever education rates and opportunities for career advancement, women face unprecedented options when choosing how and where to excel. This has translated into many more women in leadership roles on Main Street as well as on Capitol Hill.

Despite the incredible strides made by women in the last several generations, there remain very real barriers to full equality:

- Women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar that men earn, maintaining an unfair balance in the workplace and, [according to President Obama](#), adding undue stress on the U.S. economy.
- Only [15 Fortune 500 companies](#) are run by women (although, [Bloomberg](#) reported in April that women who do reach CEO status tend to earn more than men).

Women remain severely underrepresented in elected leadership, holding only about 17 percent of seats in both the House and Senate. These gaps grow disproportionately wider for women of color (see more facts about women in office at [Rutgers' Center for American Women in Politics](#)).

Women are still a long way from attaining full equality, but there are opportunities for improvement.

First, civically engaged women and men must continue to advocate for family-friendly policies and workplace protections to close existing gaps, especially for women of color and low-income women.

Second, women across the political spectrum must continue to seek and be granted access to funds, training, and political support so that they can run—and win—campaigns for elected office. The 2010 Census will usher in redistricting across the country in 2011, allowing for the creation of new voting districts and open-seat races, a scenario proven to provide more opportunities for women candidates.

Finally, all of us must continue to recognize the responsibility we have to build stronger communities and a democracy that is truly representative of all Americans.

Acknowledgements to Elizabeth McNamara, President, League of Women Voters of the United States: comments to the National Conference on Citizenship, August 26, 2010

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY
COSPONSORS OF THE UNITED NATIONS 65TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER
OCTOBER 24, 2010, 6PM - HILTON HOTEL**

By Barbara Hopkins

On October 24, 2010a dinner to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations will be held at the Hilton Hotel, Arden West, Sacramento, at 6 PM, with a 5:30 social hour. League members are invited to mail their registration check and food preference to Judy Hoefling, 8020 Briar Ridge Lane, Citrus Heights, CA 85610; judithoefling@comcast.net (916-966-7002). Please make checks payable to UNA-USA, Sacramento Chapter. The chicken dinner price is \$35 per person with a vegetarian option.

The featured speaker will be Bill Mcgavern, Director of the Sierra Club of California, who will discuss "Why California should Reject Proposition 23, Affirm AB 32 and the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Pollution."

Proposition 23 is an important environmental issue for California, the nation and the world. The Proposition 23 ballot measure not only undermines AB 32, the world's first comprehensive cap on greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), it is another international example about the U.S. lack of commitment to climate change action that will be visible at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, December 2010.

The League has supported the United Nations from the time when it was an abstract idea. The League was recognized for training more than 5,000 speakers who helped in a nationwide campaign to build public understanding, which led to the agreement to establish the UN. In 1945 the League was one of the nongovernmental organizations (NGO) invited by President Truman at the charter conference to serve as a consultant to the U.S. delegation, and this NGO role continues today. The history of the role of the League in the UN can be found in the "Impact on Issues" publication. The LWVUS United Nations Observers Report is presented at every convention. Part of a nationwide educational effort, the LWVUS adopted a strong position on Climate Change with a "Toolkit for Climate Action" and national listserv available at the LWV.org website.

WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Doris Fodge

Lisa Harper

Donna Paul

Yolanda Torrecillas

CHILD ADVOCATES' ROUNDTABLE, AUGUST 12, 2010

By Barbara Carr

Discussion at this meeting focused on bills nearing the end of the legislative cycle, including:

SB 399 Sponsored by Human Rights Watch, this bill sets up a process for children sentenced to life without possibility of parole to have that sentence reevaluated. The bill is out of committee and is very close to a vote. Current policy is seen contributing to the growing geriatric prison population, and the US is the only country in the world that allows this sentence for minors. The bill requires that the re-evaluation be done by the same judge that did the initial sentencing.

AB 2264 This bill would prohibit courts from garnishing wages of homeless youth, giving children with jobs a chance to earn a living.

AB 12 This bill extends from 18 to 21 the age for foster children to emancipate in foster care. It is the biggest change in the foster care system. The bill is currently in the Senate appropriations committee and has 48 co-authors, about 10 of whom are Republicans. It was presented as cost-neutral.

The balance of the agenda focused on arguments pro and con for three propositions on the November ballot:

Proposition 24, the Tax Fairness Act. This proposition, which is supported by LWV, repeals three corporate tax breaks enacted in 2009, one of which has taken effect and two of which would take effect the first of 2011. The three are:

- State income tax calculation for multi-state corporations.
- Research and Development tax credit.
- Net operating loss carry-forward and carry-back.

Proposition 25, Majority Vote for State Budget. This proposition is supported by LWV, and would change the current requirement that state budgets be passed with a 2/3s super-majority to a simple majority. It would retain the 2/3s requirement for tax increases. It also would disallow pay and per-diem, even on a retroactive basis, for legislators if a budget is not passed on time.

Proposition 26, Supermajority Vote to Pass New Taxes and Fees Act. This proposition, which is opposed by LWV, would amend the California constitution to require a [2/3s supermajority vote](#) in the [Legislature](#) for many fees that currently can be enacted by a simple majority vote.

Editor's note: At this meeting, pros and cons were presented by individuals known for legislative advocacy. Because of limited space, comments, many of which related to the impact on children or children's services, were excluded. The full text of Barbara Carr's notes will be shared at the Unit meetings.

CLIMATE CHANGE- GLOBAL WORK PARTY- 10-10-10

By Barbara Hopkins

The Global Work Party- 10-10-10- What Can the League Do in Sacramento?

Have you heard about the 350.org- 10-10-10 day? October 10, 2010 is the International Day of (Climate Change) Action for 10-10, a global campaign to cut carbon by 10% a year starting in 2010. Bill McKibbens, founder of 350.org and author, launched 350.org, the worldwide movement that engaged people to send over 5,000 photos with their 350 signs to be posted on the www.350.org website, including three from Sacramento groups. The pictures sent a message to policy makers that their votes did not provide the strong climate change policy needed and the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in 2009 was disappointing.

We watch the daily news confirm the scientists' projections of extreme global climate changes, and people want world leaders to vote for an aggressive climate action plan that reduces greenhouse gases when they convene again in December in Cancun, Mexico, at the United Nations International Climate Change Conference. And 10-10-10 is asking Global Work Parties worldwide to demonstrate they are working on local projects and want policy makers to work on agreements to critical global climate change policy and to reduce the level of CO2 accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from the current 390 parts per million level to 350, the standard for centuries.

The LWVUS Convention approved energy and climate positions with a Climate Toolkit so local Leagues can participate in the 10-10-10 project in support of a global climate change policy.

What can we do in Sacramento? The November California election includes Proposition 23 funded by two Texas oil companies that would kill AB 32, our state landmark climate legislation widely recognized for its efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. Other state Leagues are gathering 350 signatures for their local issues. Sacramento League members are talking of plans to be more visible in their advocacy to defeat Prop 23. Education is critical to prevent Prop 23's passage that would severely harm the environment by "suspending" regulations, supposedly to save jobs until the CA state unemployment rate remains at 5.5% for four calendar quarters...never.

Let's get together and create a League action plan to reduce the climate's impact on the environment. The possibilities are endless, such as: tree planting parties, community garden work, energy efficiency projects, trash clean up, bike rides, solar and wind projects, etc. Two events are being explored, with a new Sacramento 10-10 group tabling to defeat Prop 23 at the Second Saturday on October 9th, and a "West Steps State Capitol Party" at 3 PM after the "Crop Hunger Walk" around the Capitol on October 10th. If you would like to help plan the League project please e-mail Barbara Hopkins, barbhopkins2@yahoo.com or Alice Ginosar, aliceginosar@yahoo.com.

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).

SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS

September Unit meetings will focus on measures appearing on the November 2, 2010 ballot. 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 Cheryll Moore, Voter Services Director at [geroeducator @att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net).

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Sept. 13 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Sept. 14 9:15 AM	Alice Ginosar 863-7741	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Sept. 14 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Sept. 14 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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SEPTEMBER 2010

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VOTER SERVICES

By Cheryll Moore

Calling all volunteers! A busy election season is shaping up, and additional volunteers are needed. While some attended the Speakers Bureau Training Saturday August 21st more volunteers are wanted. Volunteer assignments include speaking on ballot measures, timing candidates at forums, greeting the public entering the forum, and serving as moderator. If you missed the speakers training last Saturday but have served in the past, you are welcome to participate again. For more information, and to indicate your availability, contact me at voterservice@lwvsacramento.org of 916-483-5524. A list of forums and speaking engagements is at our website, lwvsacramento.org and in this document; the online information will be updated as it changes. We look forward to working with you!