



**THE SACRAMENTO VOTER**  
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

APRIL 2011

**May 11, 2011 Fundraiser**

**A Sustainable Sacramento**  
**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**  
**at Mary & Mel Williams Garden**

Invitations will be sent by  
e-mail and postal service.  
Tickets can be prepaid on our website.

**SAVE THE DATE**

May 21, 2011 Annual Meeting, Casa Garden Meeting Center. Come for coffee and conversation, at 9 am and meet your League candidates.

**2010-2011**

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy beginning of Springtime! Approaching the end of our League's fiscal year, two activities are planned that will contribute to our bottom line; a May 11<sup>th</sup> fundraiser entitled "A Sustainable Sacramento" garden party at the South Land Park Hills home of Mary and Mel Williams and our Suffragist Club campaign. Last year, these two events helped us overcome the loss of two income producing contracts. Local League membership dues are being held constant in the face of rising national League dues. As you read Kay Knepprath's article in these pages, please consider how you might support the garden party with your volunteer time and financial resources, and contact Kay directly at [kay-genek@saclink.csus.edu](mailto:kay-genek@saclink.csus.edu).

Annual meeting is forthcoming and we hope you will save the date, Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>; look for "The Call" in the mail. Last year, it was nip and tuck whether we would generate enough member attendance to provide a quorum. At our 2010 Annual Meeting, two member-husbands saved the day. See you at Casa Garden Meeting Center!

U.S. Census outcome data is the focus of much local, state and national news. The immigrant population, growth in the numbers of the aging population, and shifting residential patterns in our community make some wish for the 'good old days'. For the League, as over the decades, population changes and growth mean our voter education and civic engagement goals adapt to include all Sacramentans. Fresh opportunities exist for all members to reach out and recruit new members and include under-represented communities in our program planning. Consider joining our Voter Services Speakers Bureau to extend our ability to bring our services to the wider community. Contact Cheryll Moore, Voter Services Director at [geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net) to volunteer.

I will look for you at our Unit Meetings which continue to be the grass-roots foundation of our organization, and where smart, vital members inform themselves about current issues of importance to our community.

## ANNUAL LWVSC FUNDRAISER MAY 11

### By Kay Knepprath

“A Sustainable Sacramento” is the theme of the 2011 annual LWVSC fundraiser May 11. Last year’s “The League Goes Green” was such a success the Fund Development Committee thought that a variation on the theme would be good. Mary Williams’ Land Park garden will be the setting. Patrick Mulvaney and his pasta Chef Dave Brochier have agreed to give a food demonstration. You will receive either an electronic or USPS invitation later. Now is the time to enlarge the fundraising committee and prepare members for volunteer opportunities. We must do fundraising because League activities cost more than our dues will cover.

**A bit of history.** Forty-nine years ago when I joined the League the annual fund raising activity was visiting business owners in the community to ask for contributions. We literally went door to door in pairs without appointments! The League’s most successful fund raising was the annual State of the Community Luncheon where the electeds of the city and county attended and the Mayor of the City of Sacramento and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors spoke about each of their jurisdictions. There was lots of friendly conversation both before and after the lunch and the business people that bought tables were able to have some informal time with their elected representatives. The last State of the Community Luncheon was in 2005.

Until last year we did not organize a fund raising event and discovered that we were losing community support, that we needed an event to focus the community’s attention. Many of you attended that fund raiser in Anne Rudin’s garden and went home with a healthy tomato plant contributed by Capital Nursery.

**Early help needed.** Before the event League President, Lola Acosta, and I will be making calls on prospective contributors. We will be working from the list of those who bought tables for the State of the Community luncheon and who have continued their support. It’s not a very long list. We need your suggestions to add to it. **Do you have a contact with a Sacramento business or corporation?** Would you please share that information with us and we will follow up, unless you want to make the plea for the League. We will first send letters with information about our recent activities and our purpose, then make a follow up call. The contributions of supporters are what makes the event financially successful.

### **How you can help with the party.**

1. Join the planning committee. You know, two heads are better than one. Well we have five heads and eight or nine would be better than five. There will probably be only three more meetings before the party.

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2. Coordinate the food. Members will be asked to provide hors d'oeuvres as you did last year. And we had lovely food for our guests.
3. Design the program for the evening and get it printed. This will be an almost last minute job when we know exactly who will be participating.
4. Contribute to the silent auction. We will have a limited silent auction of only 10 items. If you own a cabin in the mountains or on the beach, a weekend would be a fine contribution. Or a time share stay.
5. Invite your elected city representative and your County Supervisor. All cities in the county are included. They will be receiving USPS invitations. Thank you in advance for participating. Many hands make light the work!

Kay Knepprath, Call me, 457-3793, or email: [kaygenek@saclink.csus.edu](mailto:kaygenek@saclink.csus.edu)

**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).

## **WATER AS A HUMAN RIGHT**

**By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director**

Assembly Bill 685 has been introduced in the California Legislature that would establish as a State policy “that every human being has the right to clean and accessible water on an equitable basis, that is adequate for health and well-being of the individual and the family, and that no one should be deprived of that access or quality of water due to individual economic circumstances.” AB 1242 is accompanied by a package of five more bills that will support its’ implementation.

As many as 250,000 California Central Valley residents lack safe water for drinking and other household needs. Many others have seen their water service disconnected when they cannot afford to pay their bills.

Similar legislation, AB 1242 passed the Assembly in 2009, however was not successful in the Senate. The LWV C supported this bill based on the LWVUS Policy that supports “stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking water supplies,” The LWVC has not, as yet, taken a position on AB 685.

The affordability aspects of this legislation are linked to the controversial issue of “privatization”, the acquisition of water supplies by investor-owned corporations. In 2003 the LWV of San Joaquin County joined a coalition of community and environmental organizations opposing the City of Stockton contracting with two large corporations to operate and maintain the City’s water system. This opposition, including a lawsuit, resulted in a cancellation of the contract by the City.

The LWVC “Action Policies and Positions” includes a thirteen question “Water Privatization Checklist” that provides guidance as to the acceptability of proposals for privatizing of water resources and services. The questions address economic, environmental and social justice considerations.

The Water as a Human Right issue is even more critical in undeveloped and developing nations throughout the world. In July 2010 the United Nations General Assembly declared that safe drinking water is a Human Right. The UN has estimated that 1.5 million children under the age of five die, and 443 million school days are lost because of water quality related diseases.

## HOMELESSNESS

By Lola Acosta

This topic has been much in the local news, with campers rousted from the American River Parkway region. Editorials in the Sacramento Bee and the Sacramento News and Review agree that more must be done to assist the homeless in a time of scarce resources. No one seems to have THE answer.

The local League position on housing can be found in the Roster and Handbook. Low and affordable housing, as well as in-fill housing are addressed in the position statement.

It isn't widely known that several League members volunteer in support of homeless individuals and families. Rick Bettis refers to the homeless as his friends, as he volunteers for Family Promise as an "Overnight Host," staying with four or five homeless families on the floor at a church, friends he describes as good people who need some help. Rick also volunteers at Loaves and Fishes serving lunch, with River City Food Bank, and works with the Coalition for Regional Equity, so many of the homeless are Rick's friends.

League member Sally Weinland, is a co-founder of Family Promise, and Barbara Hopkins, past President of the League, and member Ruth Range also volunteer with Family Promise.

We need Observers to review and monitor local government events and discussions about possible solutions to the homeless issue, and to share information with our board and membership. An orientation to the role of Observer can be arranged. If you are interested, please contact me at [president@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:president@lwvsacramento.org) or call 447-8683.

### **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES ACTION ALERT** **Clean Air Act and Other Environmental Protection Laws**

Right now your Senators and Representative are on recess from business in Washington, D.C. Most are home in their districts or states, and this is a particularly important time to contact them. When they return to their offices in your nation's capital they are expected to consider legislation that would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) responsibility to limit health-threatening pollution. There are a number of bills in both the Senate and the House of Representatives that would either destroy or seriously limit the effectiveness of the Clean Air Act and other laws that protect Americans from polluters.

Now is the time to call your Senators and Representative in their home offices.

It is your right to be heard by your elected officials. Take advantage of the congressional recess by calling your Senators and Representative now. Tell them to vote against any legislation that would limit the EPA's ability to regulate pollution.

## California DREAM Act Update

The California DREAM Act has been reintroduced by Assemblymember Gil Cedillo as AB 130 & 131. AB 130 would allow students that meet the in-state tuition requirements to apply for and receive specified financial aid programs administered by California's public colleges and universities. AB 131 would allow students that meet the in-state tuition requirements to apply for and receive Cal Grants by California's public colleges and universities. These students would not be eligible to apply or receive any Competitive Cal Grant unless funding remains available after all California resident students have received Competitive awards that they are eligible for.

The bills would not become operative until July 1, 2012.

Eligible students are those who may qualify for in-state tuition at public colleges and universities in California (California Education Code §68130.5) and meet ALL of a number of requirements. For more information, please see <http://asmdc.org/members/a45/legislation>.

## APRIL UNIT MEETINGS

April Unit meetings will discuss the proposed California criminal justice position to be presented at state convention May 2011 for adoption by concurrence. See the enclosure in this issue of the Voter. Unit Coordinator Eileen Heaser may send other educational materials to Unit Chairpersons. Please invite friends, co-workers and neighbors to Unit meetings.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, April 11 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, April 12 9:15 AM	Alice Ginosar 863-7741	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, April 12 10:00 AM	Virginia Moose 446-7149	1312 Robertson Way Sacramento 95818
Elk Grove	Tuesday, April 12 1:00 PM	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

**Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or [eheser@csus.edu](mailto:eheser@csus.edu)**



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OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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***APRIL 2011***

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### **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](mailto:lwvs@lwvsacramento.org).

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### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Natahsha Jordan**

**Betty Schwarze**