



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

JANUARY 2014

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**Bonne annee
 godt nytår
 feliz año Nuevo
 新年快乐 (xin nian kuai le)
 С Новым Годом
 sanad wanagsan
 felix sit annus novus
 shana tova
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Bill and Roseanne Chamberlain, Hosts



LWVSC Holiday Party

A delightful holiday party “fun raiser” was held on December 11, 2013, hosted by Roseanne and Bill Chamberlain. Many thanks are extended to the Chamberlains for offering their lovely home for the event. Thanks also to Claudia Bonsignore and Louise Soto for planning and assisting in making the holiday gathering a festive event. Roseanne donated a wine cork wreath she had made for the raffle. Cont. pg. 2

Events to Stimulate Minds

January 7, 2014, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. Advocacy Workshop. Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Blvd.
Helen Hutchison, guest speaker— see pages 2 & 3

January 13-14 , 2014, Monday-Tuesday, Unit Meetings. Pg. 5

February 8, 2014, Saturday 12:30 -3:30 p.m. Program Planning Meeting at Colonial Heights Library

February 15 2014, Saturday 10:00 a.m. New Member Orientation @ Wellspring, 3414 4th Avenue. Pg. 3

March 15, 2014, Saturday 8:30-11:30 a.m. Voter Service Training, Arden Arcade Library. Pg. 3



Happy New Year — 2014



**2013-2014
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**
1107 9th Street, #303
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-447-8683
lwws@lwwsacramento.org
www.lwwsacramento.org

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Claudia Bonsignore (December-Febr.)
Susan Harrington (March-May)

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www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento



Helen Hutchison is the Vice President for Program and Advocacy for the LWVC. She has been a member of the LWV since 1969 and has been a member in many cities throughout the country. She served on the Boards of the Claremont, Clackamas County and Oakland Leagues in a variety of jobs. Helen was the president of the LWV Oakland from 2003 to 2007. She is a retired computer systems analyst and active member of Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, where she chaired the Building Renovation Committee.

Continued from pg. 1

Additional wreaths were donated by Elaine Lee, Lola Acosta and Shaun Morrow. Louise Einsphar coordinated the food donations of appetizers and desserts made by Louise Einsphar, Mary Hopkins, Nancy Findiesen, Eileen Heaser, Nancy Fox, Elaine Lee, Susan Harrington and Paula Lee. Beverages were provided by Bill and Roseanne Chamberlain, Claudia Bonsignore and Kathy Chovan (from a case of wine donated in the past) and brought by Catherine Troka. Andrea Morrow, new student member, assisted with greeting and selling raffle tickets.

Roseanne's ease at demonstrating how to make holiday decorations inspired members to try their own craft at home with a variety of materials such as greens, cloth, corks, herbs, colored beads and twigs. Thanks to League members for contributing their special wreaths as raffle items.
By C. Bonsignore, & B. Hopkins



Roseanne
constructing a
center piece.
12/11/13

Advocacy Workshop

Learn more about how League advocacy helps us connect with voters on an important issue and how the LWV speaks with “one voice.” Helen Hutchinson, guest speaker.

- How is advocacy in the League different from advocacy in other groups?
- What are these “positions” that League members keep talking about?
- Why is the League so slow to respond to an issue?
- Can we join coalitions to do advocacy on a ballot measure?
- How does LWV advocacy bring visibility to its members?
- How do we do an advocacy forum vs. a pro/con forum?

Dinner at 5:30 p.m. workshop begins at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7, 2014, Colonial Heights Library.

Please RSVP paula.lee @comcast.net (916) 400-3802 before Jan 4th if you plan to attend .

Update on Sacramento Affordable Housing

The LWVSC continues as part of a coalition of 33 community organizations led by the Sacramento Housing Alliance (SHA) and Sacramento Area Congregations Together (ACT) advocating for the continuance of strong and effective affordable housing policies and regulations in the City of Sacramento and unincorporated County of Sacramento.

The County Board of Supervisors was scheduled to adopt an ordinance in mid-December that would have reduced the availability of affordable housing by approximately 100% or more and eliminate the requirement for including affordable units in large developments. However, they have postponed this decision until at least January 14. This is positive news as it indicates that the Board has heard our concerns and is giving more consideration to the needs of the community.

In the meantime advocates have testified before the Sacramento County Planning and Housing and Redevelopment Commissions with positive feedback. To raise public awareness approximately 60 members of the coalition held an inspiring rally and candlelight vigil at the offices of the Building Industry Association in Roseville. LWVSC leaders Sally Weinland, Doris Olson and I participated.

In another positive move the City of Sacramento formed a 14 member Technical Committee, including housing advocates as well as builders, to work with City staff to develop an affordable housing ordinance scheduled for adoption by June 2014.

LWVSC members are encouraged to contact their County Supervisor indicating your support for housing affordable for all in the County. For additional information you may contact Kay Knepprath, LWVSC Housing Consultant or me. By Rick Bettis

Welcome New Members

Lynda Bardis & Jennifer Pae

Voter Service Training

It's the beginning of a new year and before we know it, election season will be here. Please join us for the 2014 Training for a discussion of the qualifying ballot measures.

What: Voter Services Training

When: Saturday, March 15th, 2014

Where: Arcade Library @ 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento CA

Time: 8:30- 11:30 a.m.

For questions, please contact Sarah Loya, 559-303-4890

Children's Advocacy

The Children's Advocates' Roundtable met in Sacramento on December 5, 2013. The focus included: commercial sexual exploitation of children, foster care, and help for children aging out of foster care.

Foster children set priorities for the California Youth Connection and have proposed four issues for the next year, with detailed policy recommendations for each. The issues include transitional housing which includes preparation for emancipation, improvement of group homes, high school support and better sibling visitations.

The National Center for Youth Law has issued a report on the commercial sexual exploitation of children, emphasizing that children should not be arrested for prostitution since they cannot be liable for an act they cannot legally consent to. The children are victims, not perpetrators of such crimes. Senator Yee is introducing amendments to the Welfare and Institutions Code to clarify the status of such children. To end exploitation, multi-system collaboration is needed.

The Camellia Network has been formed to aid youth aging out of foster care. The theory is that people want to help such children, but cannot take on responsibility for such a child alone. The Network uses technology to allow crowd sourcing to meet this need. Through the organization's website, people can offer comfortable levels of support for emotional, material, job finding and community resource needs to youth aged 18-24 who register through their foster agency.

The Youth Law Center is focused on reducing dependence on group homes for foster children since they do not offer the supportive atmosphere needed and are often recruiting grounds for sexual exploitation. Their goal is to increase the number of trained foster parents and increase placement in foster homes instead of group homes. By B. Carr

Hydraulic Fracturing and Its Consequences

A recently released study by Food & Water Watch¹ describes many problems encountered when hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for gas reserves began in several rural counties in Pennsylvania. Thousands of natural gas wells were opened and many transient workers were employed.

Heavy-truck crashes rose 7.2 percent in heavily fractured areas.

Disorderly conduct arrests increased by 17.1 percent, 12.7 percent in un-fractured counties, (public intoxication, bar-room brawls and drunk driving were some of the causes). Pg. 8

After fracking, the average increase in chlamydia and gonorrhea cases was 62 percent greater in heavily fractured area. Pg. 2

Depression, divorce, alcoholism, and delinquency increased

Housing shortages doubled, in turn, tripling local rents resulting in lower income residents being forced onto public assistance. Pg. 4

In their fall 2013 *Special Report*,² they provide evidence of death of cattle who drank from a creek having "scummy growth and regular burps [of] methane." page 1. In another area of the state half of a cattle herd of 140 died and only eleven calves were born to the remaining cows. Similar reports from the states of ND, WY, and LA are described, page 1.

¹Food & Water Watch. (2013). [The Social Costs of Fracking: A Pennsylvania Case Study](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org). Washington, D.C., September, 2013. www.foodandwaterwatch.org.

²Food & Water Watch *Special Report*. (2013). Fracking from Farm to Table. Washington, D.C., Fall 2013. By E. Heaser

For LWVC information on fracturing— <http://ca.lwv.org/issues/fracking-hydraulic-fracturing>

January Units

Protecting and Engaging Voters – the Pushback against Voting Rights

Over time the League's work has evolved from efforts to gain and foster women's suffrage to ensuring that all eligible voters – particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, minorities, the elderly, and low-income Americans – have the opportunity and the information to exercise their right to vote.

The right to vote is under attack in too many states across the country. The League believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed and that every eligible citizen should be able to register to vote and every voter should be able to cast a ballot – www.lwv.org By B. Lee

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday Jan. 13, 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday Jan. 14, 9:15 AM	Anne Berner Helen Shyroock 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday Jan. 14, 10:00 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday Jan. 14, 1:00 PM	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

PROPOSED TOPIC FOR THE FEBRUARY UNITS: [AGRICULTURE UPDATE](#)—

The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process. www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-readings

LWVSC committee members are B. Hopkins, R. Bettis, B. Lee. More volunteers are needed for the Study Committee to help with decisions and presentation of consensus questions in March. Contact any of the Committee members if you are interested. By B. Hopkins & E. Heaser

[Contact Bill Lee](#) , Unit coordinator, 916-688-5360, units@lwvsacramento.org

If you are unable to attend the Unit meetings but would like to receive emails of the Unit discussion materials, send an email to Bill Lee – oogie2lee@comcast.net

In Memory of
Amabel “Amy” (Walter) Jaynes
5/15/1930-10/26/2013

Amy Jaynes was a 50 year league member and maybe more since her mother was a suffragist. Amy served as president of a local Indiana League before she moved with husband Phil to California. They were active league members in addition to their membership in other national organizations, e.g., United Nations Association. Amy was an active voter service committee member; she assisted with community and school candidate forums and school board elections. She wrote for several newspapers in Indiana and California and was an alcohol and drug counselor with an emphasis on addicted mothers. Amy was an involved member of the south county Unitarian Universalists Society. By B. Hopkins & E. Heaser

Genetically Modified Organisms, Safe or a Risk?

The LWV is conducting a study of selected issues facing agriculture in the US. Among the controversial issues is Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). Both food and fiber crops are being “genetically engineered” (GE) which entails modification/manipulation of a plant gene through the introduction of genes from other organisms.

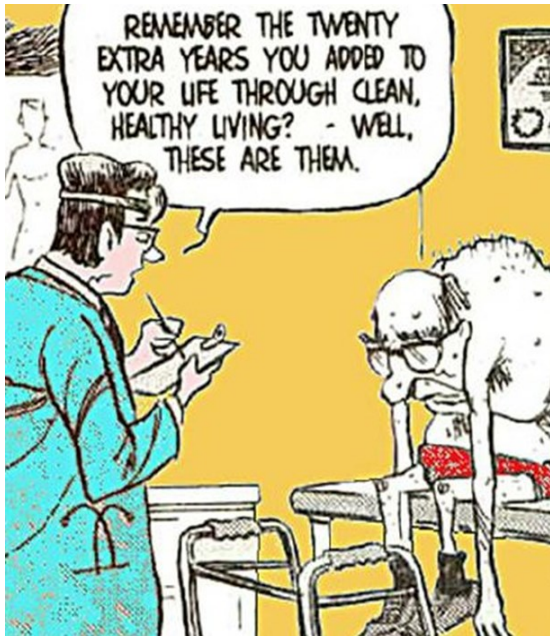
Relevant to this issue was a recent presentation at the University of California Sacramento Center by Dr. Alan McHughon a GMO specialist from UC Riverside. He provided an overview of the issues from his perspective as an experienced research scientist. He has authored twelve books on this subject and has served on several national panels on GMOs including the National Academy of Science.

Dr. McHughon cited approximately fifteen studies that show that GMO crops are safe and free from adverse environmental effects, and stated that all studies that concluded they are not safe have been discredited. GMOs are strictly regulated by the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency. He presented a slide that compared approximately fifteen sheets of documentation required for the approval of a non-GMO product to a two-foot high stack of documentation for a GMO product.

He asserted that one should be wary of any information obtained on the Internet. Dot-org and dot-com websites should be avoided with two exceptions: bio.org, and bioinfo.com, whose members include research institutions as well as the producers of GMO crops and products.

In the US 90% or more of corn, cotton, soybeans, alfalfa, canola and sugar beets are GMO products. GMO crops require less pesticides, tillage and fuel for production and improve biodiversity. None of these crops have been abandoned due to safety concerns. He does not think that labeling is an effective way to convey information on food products due to space limitations. He asserted that most of the YES votes on labeling initiatives in California and Washington State came from uninformed, non-agricultural areas of these states. Not addressed were the 26 European nations that have partial or complete bans on GMO crops.

He believes that GMO crops provide the best means of meeting the future food needs of the world. Food needs should increase by 70% by 2050 to meet current shortages and accommodate the projected increase in population from seven to nine billion. By Rick Bettis



Credit to: jokeallucan.blogspot.com/ Joke All You Can, blog 8/4/2013

Affordable Care Act—Q & A

Emily Bazar (*S. Bee*) answers questions about the ACA.

Q.-Traveling out of state or country what is the coverage? Traveling within the State? Moving to another state?

A-Travelling outside the state you are only eligible for emergency and urgent medical services. Traveling in-state it depends on your insurer and the kind of network the hospital and doctors offer .If you move to another state you need to enroll in another plan. You will be able to enroll in another plan immediately after moving to another state. *S.Bee* 11/20/13, B7.

Q.-Immigration status covered by ACA?

A.-Naturalized citizens and legal immigrants must have insurance by 1/1/14. Green card holders, temporary workers and those with student visas (H-1B, J &F) refugees, asylees, Cuban & Haitian entrants can purchase from the exchanges. People here illegally cannot qualify for Covered California or Medi-Cal. *S.Bee*.12/4/13, B7 . By E. Heaser

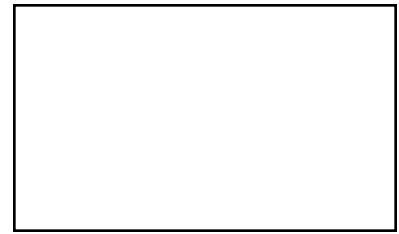
Holiday Party 12/11/13
 Louise Einspahr
 Catherine Troka
 Roseanna Torretto



Kathy Correia and Maria Tait 12/11/13

Barbara Carr—cork wreath 12/11/13





THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

1107 9th Street, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-447-VOTE

Fax: 916-447-8620

www.lwvsacramento.org

E-mail: lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

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From: *Leader's Update*, December 5, 2013. Elizabeth McNamara, LWV President

“Last week, the [IRS issued a notice asking for public comment on proposed rulemaking regarding 501\(c\)4 organizations](#). In the wake of the 2012 election during which millions of dollars in secret money poured through networks of such organizations, the [League of Women Voters has issued a statement](#) welcoming this new rulemaking process because we applaud those aspects that would rein in the dark money abuses that we have seen since *Citizens United v. FEC*. On the other hand, we are deeply concerned about those aspects of the proposal that would define voters service work, including the non-partisan work of the League, as political activity inappropriate for 501(c)4 social welfare organizations.”

Follow the links for more information on this evolving story. E. Heaser

Nominating Committee

Are you interested in becoming more involved with League? Have a certain area of focus you're passionate about? Looking for more to do? The Nominating Committee is currently in the process of requesting volunteers for the 2014 Board. We are encouraging those who have previously served and those who have yet to serve to join the Board. If you are interested in becoming a Board member or would like more information please contact S. Loya.