



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

FEBRUARY 2014

INDEX

- 1. A. Rudin
-Events
- 2. A-. Ginosar
-C.C. Catt
- 3. New/Returning Members
-New Member Coffee
-GMOs
- 4..LWVUS & Local Program
Planning– General Meeting
-Affordable Housing Update
- 5. Unit Meetings
-Agriculture Update
- 6. Advocacy
-Global Warming
- 7. E. Gunterman
-Australian Fracking Alliance
- 8. Nominating Committee
-Voter Service Training



Scholar, Lauren Suedkamp & Anne Rudin (L to R)

Anne Rudin’s 90th Birthday was January 27, 2014. In celebration of our own Dear Anne, former LWVSC President 1961-63 and former LWVC President, please make a donation in her living honor by sending a check earmarked for “Anne Rudin Scholarship” Fund.



Events to Stimulate Minds

- January 28, 2014, Tuesday, Affordable Housing , Pg. 4 for details
- January 29, 2014 Wednesday, Affordable Housing, Pg. 4 for details
- February 5, 2014, Wednesday, Affordable Housing, Pg. 4 for details
- February 8, 2014, Saturday, 12:30 -3:30 p.m. Program Planning Meeting at Colonial Heights Library, Pg.4
- February 15 2014, Saturday ,9:30-11:30a.m. New Member Orientation @ Wellspring, 3414 4th Avenue. Pg.3
- February 22, 2014, Saturday ,9:30—12:00 p.m. Agriculture Update & speakers @ USC 18th & I street Pg.5
- March 15, 2014, Saturday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Voter Service Training, Arden Arcade Library. Pg. 8
- March 22, 2014, Saturday, 9:30-12:00 p.m. Agriculture Update CONSENSUS meeting @ USC 18th & I Street. Pg. 5



HAPPY VALENTINES DAY & PRESIDENTS’ DAY

Happy 94th Birthday— League of Women Voters

2/14/2014



**2013-2014
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**
1107 9th Street, #303
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Conveners:
Barbara Hopkins (June-August)
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Voter editor— Alice Ginosar
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Alice Ginosar
LWVSC Board
Convener and leadership
member
September —November 2013



Carrie Chapman Catt—Born 1/9/1859 Ripon, WI, Died 3/9/1948, age 88, New Rochelle, NY

The League of Women
Voters celebrates its ninety-
fourth birthday on February
14, 2014.



“The League of Women Voters was an experiment. It was a wholly new thing and no one could tell...in which direction its evolution would go,” said [Mrs. Catt at National Convention in 1921](#), “but I am satisfied...that every woman here...is convinced that there is work and a big tremendous work for the League of Women Voters to do...and that the League of Women Voters is going to give the greatest service in all the world to womanhood...So I look to the League of Women Voters to lead us out of this stage of discontent, which is common to our own country and to all the others in the world.”

From—*Leaders’ Update*, January 9, 2014

[Convention 2014](#) will be held in Dallas on June 6-10, 2014.

Welcome New & Returning Members

Heather Fargo, Mayor of Sacramento
2000–08, returning
Kristine Rekdahl
Janet Sather
Heather Skinkle

New & Returning Members Orientation Coffee/Tea

All members are invited to attend the orientation coffee/tea on **Saturday, Feb. 15, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** -Wellspring Women's Center, 3414 4th Ave. You will have the opportunity to meet board members, learn about League basics, hear plans for the coming year and ask questions. The Women's Center, located in the old Oak Park Fire Station, has street and off-street parking behind the Center. Approaching from the west on Broadway go to 34th St. turn right on 34th St. to 4th Ave. turn left on 4th Ave. the Center is on your right in the middle of the block., reverse course approaching from the east. We will be celebrating the birthday of the League of Women Voters, founded on Feb. 14,1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt. (916)447-8683 or membership@lwvsacramento.org. C.Troka, Membership Adm.

Clarification—Genetically Modified Organisms

In the January *Voter* I wrote an article, “Genetically Modified Organisms, Safe or a Risk?” Do to space limitations a disclaimer indicating that this article did NOT represent the view of either the LWV or me was missing. The article documented the view of Dr. Alan McHughon who is a strong advocate for the use of GMOs in crops and products.

GMOs are a very controversial issue, it is one of the subjects included in an upcoming LWV update study of agriculture. There are many who believe there is scientifically verified evidence that the use of GMOs constitutes a significant health risk and results in the increased use of potentially harmful pesticides. In 2012 a California ballot measure, Proposition 37, would have required the labeling of food products indicating that they contained GMOs. It was defeated by a narrow margin of 51.4% to 48.6%. The biotech industry contributed \$46 million to the campaign opposed to Prop 37 while the proponents raised \$9 million.

In the suggested reading for the Agriculture Update the LWVUS recommends a report by the Union of Concerned Scientists, *A Healthy Farm, A Vision for US Agriculture*, a science based evaluation of GMOs. For more information on the Update see: www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee By R. Bettis

February General Meeting: LWVUS and Local Program Planning 2014-2016

The **February 8, 2014 (Saturday)** general meeting will address both national and local program planning.

Every two years local Leagues participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues – *this is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization*. We are now preparing for the 51st National Convention of the League of Women Voters to be held June 6 – 11, 2014, in Dallas, Texas.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence. It gives members and Leagues the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. While it is important for *every* League to hold a Program Planning meeting to discuss issues at the national level, it is not essential that every League select an issue.

The LWVUS public policy positions are the official statements of position for each program area and reflect the program adopted by the most recent national convention. To prepare for our February discussion we recommend you visit and read the 81 page *Impact on Issues*, the official statements of position for each program area, which briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, and indicates links among positions. The LWVUS public policy positions reflect the 2012-2014 program adopted by the 2012 convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States. The *Positions in Brief* document summarizes the official statements of position.

<http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues> http://www.lwv.org/files/IoI2012_PositionsInBrief.pdf

To interact with fellow members throughout the country login as a member at www.lwv.org, select Forums, Groups, Convention & Council, Program Planning Discussion.

LWVSC Local Program Planning 2014-2015: Our local positions were published in the 2013 Roster and on the LWVSC web site on the Issues page, look for Program. By R. Torretto

Affordable Housing Update

The LWVSC continues its advocacy in support of the efforts of the Affordable Housing Coalition led by the Sacramento Housing Alliance and Sacramento Area Congregations Together. The goal is to convince the City and County of Sacramento to adopt affordable housing ordinances that would help solve the critical need for housing affordable to Sacramento residents. Many of us spoke in support of the Coalition positions at a January 14, 2014 Sacramento County Board Public Workshop. Unfortunately the results of this workshop were disappointing. The Coalition advocated for an "Inclusionary Ordinance" similar to the current ordinance that was adopted in 2004. That ordinance required that all larger new residential developments provide at least 15% of the units be affordable to low income residents. Unfortunately only one of the five supervisors supported this proposal, while four supported a "fee only" ordinance, advocated by the Building Industry Association and developers. A fee only ordinance would require the developers to pay a fee intended to help subsidize the construction of affordable housing. This approach does not assure that affordable housing will be constructed. If constructed, it may be located in a concentrated area resulting in "economic ghettos". The Coalition also determined that the proposed fee of \$2.50 per square foot of market rate housing constructed would provide only approximately 50% of the funds needed.

Meanwhile there is more hope for a positive result with the City which will be holding the following public workshops to discuss the Update: **Jan 28, 2014, Tuesday at Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Jan 29, Wednesday, at South Natomas Community Center, 2921 Truxel, Feb. 5, Wednesday, 6 to 7:30p.m., Pannell Community Center, 2450 Meadowview Road.** All interested in this critical issue are urged to attend. by R. Bettis

February Units

For the February meetings, unit members are invited to examine and discuss Agriculture Update materials: articles, websites, multimedia resources, and consensus questions. This is preparatory to our local League's completion of a consensus report which could ultimately contribute to a new position statement, due late March.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday Feb. 10, 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday Feb. 11, 9:15 AM	Anne Berner Helen Shyroek 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday Feb. 11, 10:00 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday Feb. 11, 1:00 PM	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

[Contact Bill Lee](#) , Unit coordinator, 916-688-5360, units@lwvsacramento.org OR oogie2lee@comcast.net if you are unable to attend the Unit meetings but would like to receive emails of the Unit discussion materials,

AGRICULTURE UPDATE STUDY

The LWVSC is participating in a national league study to update the LWVUS Agriculture Position adopted in 1988. Sacramento will convene meetings about agriculture so members are prepared to respond to the consensus questions for the Update to be adopted by LWVUS Convention delegates in Dallas, Texas, in June.

A general meeting will be held at the University of Southern California, Sacramento Campus, 1800 I St. on **Saturday, February 22, 2014, 9:30– 12:00 p.m.** Charity Kenyon, Governor of Slow Food USA and Charlotte Mitchell, Executive Director of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau, will discuss agriculture topics.

Saturday, March 22 at 9:30 am the LWVSC Consensus Meeting will discuss the LWVUS Agriculture Update Study consensus questions: http://www.lwv.org/files/AgricultureUpdate-LeadersGuide_0.pdf

The five major areas in the Update are: 1. Economic Health of the Agriculture Sector 2. Animal Management 3. Research and Development 4. Food Safety 5. Labeling.

Handouts will be available at these meetings and at <http://www.lwv.org/memberresources/agriculture-update>.

On **Monday– Tuesday, February 10 & 11**, Units will discuss the Update materials.

All meetings are open to the public, handouts will be available.

Mark your calendar so you can participate in this national study and become informed about a topic that is a part of everyone's daily life. By B. Hopkins

Members are invited to contact LWVSC Agriculture Update Committee members for more information: William "Bill" Lee, oogie2lee@comcast.net; Rick Bettis rckbettis40@gmail.com; Louise Ensphar EWilli7021@aol.com; Barbara Hopkins, barbhopkins2@yahoo.com;



Advocacy

On Tuesday evening January 7, over 30 LWVSC members gathered at the Colonial Heights Library to meet Helen Hutchison, LWVC Director of Advocacy, and to learn more about advocacy and taking action in our local community. Following is a summary of the evening's exchange: From its beginning over 90 years ago, the League Women Voters has had the dual purposes of education **AND** advocacy. Advocacy involves educating League members and the public on issues such as public education and voting rights. Lobbying is a form of advocacy that is more specific, usually to legislation, often to a specific bill and often involves meeting with legislators and urging them to vote for or against that bill. Especially in local communities, Leagues can be more effective by working in coalitions with other local advocacy groups. The LWVC resource, *How To ...Take Action*, * provides helpful guidelines on working with coalitions. Helen strongly encourages local Leagues to be on any coalition steering committee in order to influence the message. Being on a steering committee makes clear the League's non-partisan and respectful-language requirements from the beginning. Because the LWVUS and its member Leagues

have earned a reputation of non-biased review of issues, our name and logo are trusted and command respect. Even after agreeing to join a coalition, if the coalition violates League principles or policies, we have the responsibility to withdraw and deny the use of the League's trusted logo.

Speak with ONE VOICE – The League goes through an arduous process to come to positions. Once decided upon, League speaks with a unanimous voice, and we cannot contradict League position or policy (although we can remain silent). Only the President or a designated speaker can represent League. When members write letters to the editor or speak at local governance meetings, they must speak only as a citizen, or constituent. Members should not use the League name unless they are the designated speaker. Helen handed out a list of League resources available to better understand advocacy and to answer the many questions that arise in the process. She also suggested that local Leagues annually review their position on “political but non-partisan” as it helps to clarify and strengthen this practice.

By A. Ginosar * *LWVC Action Resources. How To....Take Action: Guidelines for Local Leagues.* Updated 2006
<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/action.html>

Global Warming

Numerous scientific studies indicate that we are already suffering in California and globally from global warming impacts that will continue and accelerate. Some of these impacts are erratic rains, minimal snow storage, increasing desertification, higher temperatures leading to higher demands for shrinking water supplies, loss of productive lands and lower food production. Also sea level rise will displace millions from low lying regions. The Earth already passed 400 ppm of CO₂ and globally we continue to emit it at the immense levels of over 30 billion tons a year! Even if we stopped all global CO₂ emissions today, in 100 years, it will still be at 70% of current levels, and in a thousand year at 40% of current level. We are on an irreversible path, the glaciers and North Sea polar ice have shrunk drastically and cannot serve as efficient reflectors of sun energy as it used to be to stabilize the global temperatures. Greenland's massive ice coverage, a critical store of global ice, is showing some unstable phenomena already. The oceans, which have been the major sink of CO₂ for a million years, are now warmer and thus less able to absorb CO₂. With additional heating, the oceans could be net emitters of their stored CO₂ and face drastic reduction in seafood production. In addition, the oceans are the key absorbers of the additional energy generated by GW (“global warming”) and moderated the rise in global air temperature in the process. As the ocean temperature rises by this energy absorption, it will reduce the effectiveness of this crucial heat sink and the global air temperatures could rise faster. Switching to natural gas (methane) would not improve the situation since on a 20-year timescale unburned methane is 75 times more damaging to the atmosphere than coal, and 35 times at a 100-year scale. Any leaks above 1% would overshadow any advantage of using natural gas compared to coal. And it is impossible to keep the unburned leaks so low on a vast worldwide industrial scale.

Sacramento is one of the most likely areas in the US to be flooded by rising seas. Since GW will continue to increase rapidly, California must concentrate on saving the life and livelihood of our population by developing effective mitigations across the state. By Dr. Matania Ginosar

In Memory

Emma Gunterman

December 26, 1916—January 8, 2014

Emma Gunterman needed every one of her 98 years to accomplish all she did. She was born and grew up in Amsterdam with a Dutch father and an American mother who marched for women's rights. After college in the US she embarked on a long career doing what we consider good works. She and her husband, Joe, moved to Sacramento in the 60's where both were legislative advocates. Emma founded *On the Capitol Doorstep*, a newsletter providing information on California and federal legislation affecting young children. Years later she worked for California Rural Legal Assistance, focusing on senior issues. She wrote the legislation creating in home supportive services for California. In retirement she taught math at the Fremont Adult School, Loaves and Fishes and then at the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Despite a decline in her energy, her passion for learning and life continued until her death on January 8, 2014. Lovingly written by Kay Knepprath

Australian Fracking Alliance

Why is LNG Limited, a small Perth based Australian company, planning to develop a \$2 billion plus industry in Louisiana and not in California or Florida? According to *The Australian*, 12/10/2013, the Magnolia Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Development in Louisiana has less resistance than in California and Florida to the "shale gas boom".

Only since about 2000 has the gas industry developed the technology of hydrofracking (F) and horizontal drilling used to extract natural gas, according to Scott Peters & Arjen Wals in "Grounding Scenario: The Marcellus Shale" chapter 4, In: Krasny & Dillon, *Trading Zones in Environmental Education*. In the United States (US) the Marcellus Shale covers a large area in the northeastern states: PA, NY, OH and WV. This geological formation contains a massive store of natural gas of over 360 trillion cubic feet, which potentially could supply gas for the US for 15 yrs. In New York there is a temporary moratorium on permits for wells that use hydrofracking technologies until a state environmental review is completed. Meanwhile there is vigorous lobbying and protesting both for and against the new gas drilling technologies. Looking at a map of Ohio reveals hydrofracking wells all over the state. It is big business.

BHP Billiton, based in Melbourne Australia, the world's biggest mining company, is expanding its reserves in the US with a \$4.75 billion cash purchase of Chesapeake Energy Corporation in Arkansas, *Bloomberg News* 2/2/2011, and is expanding into the Marcellus Shale in Ohio in 2013. www.ohio.com/blogs/drilling.

There is so much information so much happening and big business making profits; it is easy to get distracted. Focus on reducing greenhouse gases. Advocate to legislators to tax greenhouse gas emissions, the most effective way to REDUCE global warming. By A. Ginosar, in Canberra Australia Dec 2013.

Resources: *Factiva* – Dow Jones, *Bloomberg News* www.bloomberg.com



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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FEBRUARY 2014

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Nominating Committee

Want to help lead the League into the Future?

The nominating committee is seeking candidates for the 2014-2015 Board of Directors. Please let us know of your interest today. Cheryll Moore, Nominating Committee Chair

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,