



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

MARCH 2014

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Mayors

- P. Isenberg
- H. Fargo
- A. Rudin
- R. B. Miller
- (L to R)

ANNE'S GALA EVENT

Anne Rudin's 90th Birthday Party on January 27 was a gala event attended by over 100 well-wishers and deVOTEes, including a band. Former Mayor Heather Fargo gave a moving historical tribute to her, highlighting 1971-1992 her 21 years on the Sacramento City Council, with 9 years as mayor. Anne's many accomplishments include: California's first anti-smoking city ordinance, bringing Shriner's Hospital to Sacramento, establishing the Sacramento River Parkway, starting Light Rail and establishing domestic partnerships for

Gays/Lesbians. In addition to these actions and developments, Anne set a tone for ethical governance, campaign finance reform, and treating others with respect, when hotly debating controversial issues and in labor negotiations i.e. The Sacramento Symphony. Former Mayor Phil Isenberg told some "inside" jokes and antics of days with Anne serving on Sacramento City Council. In those early days she was considered, at times, to be a "rebel" (with a cause). Anne built bridges of communication, understanding and respect.

Kathy Les, representing LWVSC, spoke of the over 60 years Anne has been a member and leader in League in Riverside and then in Sacramento. It is hard to believe with all of Anne's hard work, accomplishments and dedication that she did have time for fun and family and bocce ball at East Portal Park. By the way, signups for spring bocce ball leagues start in March. Will Anne be there?

Anne continues to be actively involved in civic affairs: working to gain more public access to Sacramento River Parkway, advising about Sacramento City governance, going to Sacramento Symphony and theater and coming to LWVSC events. Thank you dear Anne! Written with admiration by Alice Ginosar.

Events to Stimulate Minds

March 10-11, 2014, Monday-Tuesday, Unit Meetings. Pg. 6

March 8, Saturday, 1-3:30 p.m., Climate Change Forum, Hagan (Cordova) Community Center, **2197 Chase Dr., Rancho Cordova**

March 15, 2014, Saturday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. Voter Service Training, Arden Arcade Library. 2443 Marconi Ave.

March 15, Saturday, 1:00 – 5 00p.m. Covered California enrollment @ Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Blvd.. Pg. 7

March 15, Saturday, 1:00 p.m., "Don't Frack California" rally, State Capitol lawn, 10th and L Street

March 22, 2014, Saturday, 9:30-12:00 p.m. Agriculture Update CONSENSUS meeting @ USC, 18th & I Street. Pgs. 3-5

May 3, Saturday, 9:00-12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting: Speaker Dr. Chester Newland @ Casa Garden meeting rm. 2760 Sutterville Rd.

2013-2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Voter publisher— Eileen Heaser



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Claudia Bonsignore

LWVSC Board

Convener and leadership member

December 2013 —February 2014

Program Planning Meeting

Fifteen dedicated Sacramento League members came out in the rain on Saturday afternoon February 8 to the Colonial Heights Library to be active in grassroots democracy by planning LWVSC programs and priorities for 2014-15. Carol Moon Goldberg, member and skilled facilitator, began by reviewing all the LWVUS positions. Attendees voted to retain all positions as is. The LWVs uses positions vertically, that is state and local leagues can use national positions to educate and advocate in state and local politics. Carol recommended reading *Impact on Issues* covering current positions and history. This LWVUS publication can be found on line at www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues

Small discussion groups reviewed the positions of the LWVSC: Government, Human Resources/Social Policy and Natural Resources. The details are in the front of LWVSC *Handbook and Roster*. "Issues for Emphasis" were discussed. These issues will be voted on by all members attending the Annual Meeting on May 3, 2014. The approved Issues will guide the LWVSC's decisions and priorities for 2014-2015.

Issues of Emphasis

- *Voter services outreach, how League can help overcome voter apathy and cynicism.
- *Educate members/public on mitigating the effects of climate change here in Sacramento; we are at risk for inadequate drinking/agriculture water and from sea water flooding
- *Educate public to retain governance structure for Sacramento City; advocate to stop Checks & Balances Act 2014 regarding executive mayor
- *Study on homelessness in Sacramento area By A. Ginosar

New Members Orientation

Orientation for new members was held on February 15 at Wellspring Women's Center in Oak Park. Board members talked about opportunities for new members to become involved in: fund raising activities, social media, and school outreach. Because of the upcoming elections, the Voter Service Director encouraged new members to take the training to help with candidate forums, pros and cons presentations and special election day activities. February 14 being the anniversary date of the founding of LWV, a birthday cake was enjoyed during the social hour honoring 94 years of League. By C. Troka

Agriculture Update Consensus Questions

[From LWVUS http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-consensus-questions](http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-consensus-questions)

Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

1. *Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:*

- a) Subsidized agricultural credit (loans) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Disaster assistance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Crop insurance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Farms that supply local and regional markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Subsidized implementation of best management practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Commodity livestock program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Commodity dairy program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- i) Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- j) Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

2. *What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?*

Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.

- a) *Eliminate* direct payments to farm operators (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) *Update* the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) *Broaden* the types of farms that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) *Broaden* the types of crops that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Effectively *enforce* existing rules (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

3. *What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?*

- a) Extend to more types of crops (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Link to the use of conservation practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

4. *Should government act on any of the following?*

- a) Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

Animal Management

5. *Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?*

- a) Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Apply and enforce existing clean air and clean water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

6. *Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?*

- a) Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

Research and Development

7. Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?

Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “developed using any new technology” or “new technologies” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.

- a) Basic research (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products *developed using any new technology* (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Research to assess the impacts of *new technologies* on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products **and** respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

Food Safety

8. Which of the following approaches to food safety should government perform or fund?

- a) Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for new foods and food additives *developed using any new technology* (see note below question 7) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Require developers to monitor all food products *developed using any new technology* after releasing to the market (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Withdraw marketing approval if products are shown to be unsafe (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Require post-market monitoring of approved pharmaceutical applications in animal production for human health and environmental impacts (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Require developers of new products to provide data and other materials to independent third-parties (such as academic institutions) for pre- and post-market safety assessment as appropriate (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to treat and control disease (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Fund independent third-party (such as academic institutions) risk assessment of long-term and multiple exposures from foods on human health and the environment (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- i) Fund, train and add personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

Food Labeling

9. How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?

- a) Nutrition Facts on food labels (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- b) Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- c) Common allergen labeling (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)
- d) Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

Comments:

10. Which of the following should government achieve regarding marketing and ingredient claims on food labels?

- a) Define (and approve for use) health and safety marketing terms (e.g. immunity support, humane, pasture-raised, natural, etc.) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Regulate the use of images or other sensory advertising (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Require that ingredient marketing claims accurately represent what is in the required ingredient list (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

11. Recognizing that each food developed using any new technology can be unique, and assuming that required food labeling should be useful to consumers, should the following generalized information relating to how products or components are developed be presented on food labels?

See note below question 7. All these questions also assume some percentage threshold of new technology ingredients, such as the 0.9% used in the European Union.

- a) Contains ingredients developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- b) Does **not** contain ingredients developed using any new technology (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)
- c) If meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products are from animals that have consumed feed developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)

Comments:

Agriculture Update

The LWVUS Agriculture Update gives Sacramento a voice in updating the Agriculture Position (1988). On March 22 the League of Women Voters Sacramento County will meet to respond to the 48 consensus questions considered by local Leagues throughout the country. As each local League reports its consensus (or lack thereof) the reports are consolidated. Based on this information a committee formulates the **position** which, when approved by the LWVUS Board, can be used for action and advocacy.

The Agriculture Update focuses on-1) current technology in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, water pollution, water technology, 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.

The consensus questions will be discussed in five topic areas: Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector, Animal Management, Research and Development, Food Safety and Food Labeling. Areas being studied are: sustainable farming, environmental protection, government subsidies, market-driven pricing, and investment in research. Other League positions and principles provide additional support for advocacy in other agricultural areas. Such issues that are already in the LWVUS positions are outside the scope of this study.

To prepare for our discussions, we recommend that you attend a Unit Meeting on March 11 or 12 and read some of the background papers provided by the LWVUS Study Committee at: <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-background-papers>.

LWVSC Study Committee: Barbara Hopkins, William Bill Lee, Rick Bettis, Louise Einspahr.
For more information contact barbhopkins2@yahoo.com

Women Lead the Way in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, By Eleanor Baker

Approximately 1/3 of total domestic farmers in this country are women, and seventy five percent of these women make less than \$25,000 per year. But most find the work very satisfying and lead the way in organic and sustainable farming on traditional, urban, community and centralized school farms, where they grow good clean healthy food for their families, neighbors, and the public.

It hasn't been easy breaking what is being called "The Grass Ceiling." They are discriminated against and/or ignored by male large farm owners and the regular farmers' associations because of custom and differences in agricultural philosophy. The women are often isolated and must make do by connecting with each other over the internet and by taking advantage of small organizations such as: National Women In Agriculture Association, National Young Farmer's Coalition, and the Women Food And Agriculture Network.

It is expected that over 70% of our farmland will change hands over the next 20 years, and hopefully, more women will continue to become involved and be able to more effectively advocate for better farm policies. Submitted by. E. Lee

March Units

For our March Unit Meetings members are invited to undertake a preliminary run-through of the LWVUS Agriculture Update Consensus Questions. This is being done preparatory to the Sacramento League's Consensus Meeting, to be convened on Saturday, March 22, 2014. 9:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m., USC Sacramento Campus, 1800 I Street, Sacramento CA.

SEE change of venue for the Greenhaven/Land Park meeting.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday March 10, 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday March 11, 9:15 AM	Anne Berner Helen Shyroch 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday March 11, 10:00 AM	Mary Williams 447-4984	4804 Crestwood Way, Sac 95822.
Elk Grove	Tuesday March 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,

Voter ID Laws

“Voter photo ID laws are [particularly costly and burdensome for women](#) in part because [roughly 90 percent of women](#) change their legal name upon marriage or divorce. According to the Brennan Center, [11 percent of eligible voters do not have a government-issued photo ID](#), and [only 48 percent of voting-age women](#) have a birth certificate that accurately reflects their current name. “ By Renee Davidson Posted: 01/02/2014, [Voices of the League](#) Blog. Submitted by E. Heaser

Illa Collin Honored at Time of Remembrance

On February 5, 2014 Illa Collin, a longtime member and former President of the LWVSC, was honored at the annual Northern California Time of Remembrance ceremony at the California Secretary of State Auditorium. A standing room only audience including many Sacramento leaders attended. This event is organized and conducted each year by the Japanese American Citizens League in order to commemorate the internment of 120,000 Japanese immigrants and their children during World War II.

Illa, the longest serving member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors with a tenure of 28 years, along with her longtime colleague on the Board of Supervisors, Toby Johnson, received the Mary TsurkoTsukomoto Daruma Award. They were honored for their dedicated support of the Japanese American community in the Sacramento region. Illa's efforts included obtaining some compensation for the families of Japanese American County employees who lost their jobs due to the internment. Illa also honored the Japanese Americans with a major work of art on display in the County Administration Building and with her continued positive cooperation with the Japanese community.

The award is named for Mary Tsukomoto, a widely honored Elk Grove educator. Ms Tsukomoto and her family were incarcerated in a remote Arkansas camp during the War. She later led the effort that resulted in Congressional Resolution 442 in 1988. The Resolution included an apology by the U.S. government and partial compensation for the interned families. By Rick Bettis

Voter Affidavits Delivered 2013

A well deserved thanks to all the volunteers who delivered approximately **12,157** voter forms to post offices and other establishments in 2013. Volunteers are: L. Acosta, S. Bakker, D. Chipps, P. Cody, N. Compton, M. Futrill, A. Jones, C. Moore, C. Troka and yours truly. Thanks in advance to Paula Lee who will assume the volunteer effort in place of D. Chipps.

By E. Heaser

High School Registration Project

This spring LWVSC will conduct a voter registration drive in high schools in the Twin Rivers and Elk Grove school districts. As part of a national program, the League is focusing its efforts on high schools in low income areas because these areas traditionally have low voter registration rates. Scheduled for the weeks between April 7 and May 9, LWVSC volunteers will talk to high school seniors in their American government classes or any other venue the schools desire. The goal is not only to register students, but also to follow up with email reminders to vote in the June primary elections.

The need to reach newly eligible voters is great. In November 2012, approximately half of all eligible young people did not vote. Overall, young Americans remain severely underrepresented in the electorate. Voter registration is the key to creating lifelong informed and active citizens. From the economy to the future of education and to the safety of our neighborhoods, young people have a critical role to play in shaping important issues in our community and across the nation. The League hopes to reach these students to show them that they start playing that role by participating in elections. Contact Carol Moon Goldberg at Moonberg@msn.com if you are interested in working on this project. By C M Goldberg

Health Care Enrollment Fair

How can you help the uninsured get their health care coverage before the closing of 2014 open enrollment for Covered CA (CC)? Volunteer at the "Covered CA Health Care Fair" 3/15/14--1:00-5:00pm Colonial Heights Library. League members will schedule the public for interviews with a certified enrollment counselor and assist with hand-outs and voter registration. The enrollment counsellors and educators are qualified to answer questions and assist in completing the CC application for an affordable health care plan. Deadline for the CC open enrollment is March 31, 2014. Voter registration is also part of the Covered CA program and help of League members is appreciated. Contact Barbara Hopkins/barbhopkins2@yahoo.com to volunteer or if you have questions.

501(c) (4)

The IRS has proposed very significant changes in the regulations that govern what kind of political activity and how much of that activity a Section 501(c)(4) organization can carry out. For 94 years the League has played a unique role in our elections by providing truly nonpartisan voter services and information to voters across the country. Unfortunately, the IRS proposal as it stands would jeopardize our work because it does not provide any exception for truly nonpartisan voter service activities like those carried out by the League. This is a terrible mistake, both for voters and for our democracy. [Please contact the IRS and urge them to keep pushing to stop the dark money unleashed by Citizens United and to make sure that Leagues can continue our truly nonpartisan voter service work.](#) Abstracted from *The League Update* 2/20/14. By Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS.

http://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/t/0/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=159419

Climate Change, Health and Housing

Scientific studies have shown that Climate Change will seriously impact public health and safety. Among other effects higher temperatures will result in the formation of higher levels of ozone in the air which is a known cause of lung and cardiovascular disease. The risk of stroke and heart attack will increase especially for the elderly and disadvantaged.

In California 40% of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are the result of transportation using fossil fuels. The LWVSC has positions supporting compact mixed use and mixed income development that is oriented to the use of public transit that will result in lower vehicle miles traveled and decreased emissions. Analyses by the California Air Resources Board and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments indicates that GHG emissions can be reduced by 15% per capita as a result of good planning.

Updates of the General Plan Housing Elements and Housing Ordinances are now underway in the Sacramento Region. The LWVSC has been working with social justice organizations, the Sacramento Housing Alliance and Area Congregation Together, in an effort to achieve environmentally just housing.

Unfortunately the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors' vote weakens the County Housing Ordinance. However, there is room for proactive advocacy on case-by-case basis and possible strengthening of the ordinances following a mandated period for review.

The City of Sacramento is continuing its' public involvement process with final decisions scheduled for this summer. Advocates are hopeful the City will adopt an "Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance" requiring that all new developments include a minimum of 10 to 15 percent of the units be affordable to low income residents.

Senator Mark DeSanier has introduced SB 391, the Homes and Jobs Act, that would provide for a fee of \$75 for each new real estate transaction to be used to create a local government administered fund for affordable housing. By R. Bettis



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MARCH 2014

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McKinley Village Update

On Monday, February 3, 2014, a standing room only crowd met at the Clunie Club House in McKinley Park for an update on the proposed McKinley Village development. The number of interested neighborhood groups grew to ten since the last meeting. Most of these groups spoke against the proposal, especially in regard to ingress/egress problems, as well as, flooding, storm drainage and the impact on the schools in East Sacramento & Mid-Town. Phil Angelides, developer, pointed out the changes made after more than seventy meetings with interested groups. The project was scaled back from over 390 single-dwelling two level homes to 312 (15% reduction). Twenty-four single-level homes and some condominium units were added. Cost was not indicated for the added homes, the two level home costs started at \$300,000 plus to over \$600,000. Tall sound walls, parks, 2000 trees, a recreation center, pool and public art are included. Several speakers strongly emphasized the desire to have an undercrossing at Alhambra Boulevard for vehicles as well as the planned pedestrian/bicycle tunnel. The proposal calls for a new street from the development to enter at C Street and cut in at either Tivoli or 40th Street, resulting in a much more intrusive traffic pattern for East Sacramento. The cost would be approximately \$20 million for the Alhambra tunnel, a price the developer did not want to incur. The City Planning Commission tentatively plans to review the proposal mid-March and a vote by the Council may occur in April.

By E. Heaser

Important Dates for the June Election

May 19, 2014, Monday— Last day to register to vote

May 27, 2014, Tuesday— Last day to vote by mail

June 3, 2014 Tuesday — Primary Election Day

