



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

MAY 2014

CONTENTS

- 1. S. Harrington
Events
- 2. Why I Joined LWV
Women's Equity
New Member
Chester Newland
- 3. Agriculture Update
Pesticides & GRAS
- 4. Voting Rights
Elections
District 3 Forum
- 5. Green Summit
Climate Panel
- 6. Unit Meetings
Ballot Measures
Easy Voter Guide
- 7. McKinley Village
ArtBeast
Cameron film— *Years of...*
- 8. June Election

Susan Harrington

Board Convener, March through May 2014

Thank-you for your hard work
and contributions to the LWVSC
and the Board.



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Events to Stimulate Minds

May 3, Saturday, 9:00-12:00 p.m. Annual Meeting: Speaker Dr. Chester Newland- "City Governance...Why the LWVSC Opposes the 'Strong Mayor' Proposal". @ Casa Garden mtg. room
2760 Sutterville Rd., Sacramento, Pg. 2

May 12-13, Monday-Tuesday. Unit Meetings. Pg. 6

May 13, Tuesday, evening. Candidate Forum for District Attorney, Contact Cheryl Moore for information

May 17, Saturday, 9:00 –4:00 p.m. Town Hall Meeting on Climate Change. Met High School 810 V Street,
Sacramento. \$10- \$20.00, sliding scale fees. 916-284-1627

May 17-18, Saturday-Sunday. Leadership Council LWVC, San Jose

June 3, Tuesday. 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Primary elections

June 7, Saturday. LWVUS Convention, Dallas, Texas

August 16, Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. Women's Equality, Wellspring Women's Ctr, 3414 4th Ave. Pg. 2

Sept 15-16, Unit Meetings Resume

September 23, Tuesday. Hold this date for National Voter Registration Day, Sacramento event

2013-2014

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**League of Women Voters
of Sacramento County**

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Alice Ginosar (September-November)
Claudia Bonsignore (December-Feb.)
Susan Harrington (March-May)

Voter editor- Alice Ginosar
Voter publisher- Eileen Heaser



www.facebook.com/LWVSacramento

Why I Joined the League

I have been an active League member in several communities from Tucson to Santa Ana to Reston, VA and back again to Santa Barbara since the mid-sixties. In all those years I have learned much about how my community and my state works and how I can become part of my community. Now that I am living in Sacramento, I am trying to learn how this area operates so that I can become an informed citizen and so that I can join League in solving local problems. On the personal level, I educate myself and become an informed voter. On the citizen level, I study an issue enough so that I can push for an informed solution.

By new member **Sheila Kamhi**

I have been a member of a partisan political club for several years. I became disenchanted with the partisanship and wanted to join a group that was more open to all opinions. I found out about the League of Women Voters and they are exactly what I'm looking for! I want to work for educating people about the process and about the issues. I'm very happy I joined!

By new member **Kathy Day**

Women's Equality Celebration

Plan on attending the League celebration of Women's Equality on Saturday, August 16 at Wellspring Women's Center, 3414 4th Avenue, 10:00 to 12 noon. We will look back at our history and look forward to the state of women's place in our democracy today. Learn how you can participate in the 2014 election and enjoy visiting with other League members. Rosters will be available. By C. Troka

Welcome New Member

Nancy Smith-Dramis

Annual Meeting, speaker, Saturday, May 3, 2014



Chester Newland, Ph.D.

Chester Newland, Ph.D., has expertise in Public administration, city management, international development, executive effectiveness, public law and taught at USC since 1966. His public administration research, practice, and teaching have focused on public executives, federal and local government management, the American presidency, public law, business and government, human resources, and labor management relations. He has authored many publications and is co-editor of the *Handbook of Public Law and Administration*, (1997). He worked internationally, including places such as Bahrain, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Greece, Hungary, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Moldova, and Poland. Professor Newland received many awards and served in many capacities in the United States and abroad.

Agriculture Update Consensus Meeting of March 22

Many thanks to everyone who participated in this LWVUS Agriculture Update Consensus Study. The original 1988 study [*LWVUS Impact on Issues: Guide to Public Policy Position Answers*](#) is available in paper or online. The LWVUS Board adopted a narrow focus for this update: current technology issues, i.e. genetically modified organisms (GMO's) and current financial issues, including consolidation in ag industries and federal regulatory processes that did not exist in 1988.

Inspired by this task, the LWVSC Committee began in October 2013 quickly downloading and distributing study materials. They scheduled unit meeting discussions in preparation for the Consensus Meeting on March 22, 2014. The consensus meeting convened at the University of Southern California, Sacramento Campus and was facilitated by Dr. Suzanne Phinney. The completed consensus questions for the Update Study were emailed by April 1 to the LWVUS. In June, 2014 the LWVUS convention delegates in Dallas, Texas will have the Update and Position for the final discussion and adoption for use by all League members including LWVSC home of the "Farm to Fork Capital City." Overall the consensus of LWVSC was to support more federal government funding to smaller farms and to reduce funding to the large agribusinesses.

Thank-you to the volunteers who made the Agriculture Update a success. Kudos to the Committee for researching, distributing and presenting study materials to members so they could be informed for the Consensus Meeting: Bill Lee, Louise Einspahr, Rick Bettis, Roseanna Torretto, Eileen Heaser, and Barbara Hopkins. A special appreciation to Suzanne Phinney, facilitator extraordinaire and past president, for her expertise in translating the complex Update issues into a pleasant discussion of the 48 questions leading to consensus. A special thanks to John Wesley, Facilities Manager, University of Southern California, State Capital Campus, for his personal services in making USC available to the League. by Barbara Hopkins.

More on Agriculture

Pesticides

California's Salinas Valley is one of the most productive year round farming areas in the country. The land is very expensive, putting tremendous pressure on growers to continually grow more. These farms use a large chunk of the billion pounds of pesticides used in the U.S. each year. Pesticide use has quintupled since 1945. Many, if not most, of these chemicals are especially dangerous to children, farmworkers, and produce handlers. While scientists have linked heavy chronic exposure to cancer and birth defects, there has been little study of low dose and continued exposure, including that which is tracked in on the hands, shoes and clothes of farm workers and which drifts from farms, golf course, lawns, and bug sprays from offices, schools, and homes. The group, CHAMCOS, or Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas, has been collecting data on such effects since the year 2000, but they face a difficult job to get something done about it. In 1996 the EPA was charged to create standards for protecting children from pesticides by 2006. That deadline is long past. In January, the EPA allowed public testimony on pesticide drift, and last month they released a proposal to update safety laws as to the handling of pesticides. A trade group called CropLifeAmerica, comprised of such entities as Dow, Bayer, and Dupont, has been working with congressmen to block EPA's attempts at regulation, and they have called on the House Oversight Committee to investigate the Administration for pursuing agricultural regulations, citing, "Unnecessary costs to farmers' time, money, and liability," and impacting US agriculture and the economy. CropLifeAmerica is also encouraging legislators to exempt some types of pesticide pollution from enforcement under the Clean Water Act. The EPA did establish some new rules about informing farm workers about better safety standards regarding pesticides. The workers must ask for the information, as the requirement to post the information in a central area has been eliminated. By Elaine Lee.

GRAS

While we have been rightly concerned about the GMO controversy, another older problem is getting scant attention from the public – chemicals in our food. It is a problem because of poor legislation and an ineffective FDA (Food and Drug Administration). In 1958 a law was passed that had an exemption for such common food additives as vinegar and vegetable oil. This exemption allowed companies to avoid an extensive FDA approval process because scientists

Continued on pg. 6

CA Voting Rights Victory

Opportunities to Engage ACA Enrollees as Voters

“The League of Women Voters of California and partners celebrated a major legal victory last week when the California health exchange, Covered California, agreed to fully comply with its designation as an NVRA (National Voter Registration Act), voter registration agency. As a result, nearly 4 million Californians who have applied for health benefits will be retroactively mailed a voter registration card and the opportunity to register to vote will be integrated into future health insurance applications.” [Read more in the California League’s guest blog post.](#) See following report.

From: *League Update*, April 3, 2014

Voting Rights Victory in California

Reported by the *LWV Blog Round-up*: March 2014

written by **Trudy Schafer**, Director of Program of the [League of Women Voters of California](#)

“Although the enrollment period for health care coverage began last October, voter registration has **not** been part of the application process. Numerous attempts by the [League of Women Voters of California](#) and other voter advocates to prod Covered California into complying with the law were met with delay. ...a [settlement was finally reached](#) that includes mailing a voter registration card to every Californian who had previously applied for benefits and ensures that those who apply going forward are provided voter registration opportunities.”

“...nearly 3.8 million [as of 3/31, 4.1 million] people had completed applications through the end of February. Giving all of them the opportunity to register or update their registration is an excellent way to help them become more civically engaged. And that’s exactly what Congress intended when it passed the NVRA!” Excerpted from T. Schafer’s report by E. Heaser

Elections

[Pew Elections Performance Index](#) : *The State of Election Administration and Prospects for the Future*

The Pew Elections Performance Index, published since 2008, reports that California is 49th out of 50 states in election administration. Access to online registration, rate of return of absentee ballots, ease of locating voter information, e.g., online polling places and post-election audits of the vote are some of the measures assessed. More research is needed to determine why absentee ballot return is so low. [Stephanie Bosh](#) April 7, 2014 and posted by Joel. B. Pollak 4/9/14. Summarized by E. Heaser

District 3 Forum

East Sacramento Improvement Association (ESIA) hosted a forum (Wednesday 4/16) for the seven (six attended) candidates running for district three city council seat on the June primary ballot. Steve Cohn (after 20 years) is stepping down and running for assemblyman. Candidates were asked to address the following: McKinley Village, Design Reviews and Strong Mayor. All candidates expressed the need for design reviews and were opposed to the strong mayor concept. All but one candidate (who emphasized the possibility of job creation) spoke against the McKinley Village as it is now proposed. As before, the main objection is the lack of an adequate street in and out of the project that does not go through the residential area.. Concerns included: the need to improve South Natomas, at present there is a building moratorium for the South Natomas area thus making it difficult to proceed with any building and other sorely needed improvements (hospitals, transit), homeless people occupying vacant buildings and lots, parks needing maintenance (other than relying on volunteers), and the expense of establishing a business in the City due to many onerous fees, were some of the issues posed by the audience . By E. Heaser

Climate Change Solutions - California Green Summit

This writer attended the recent “California Green Summit” showcasing the latest technical advances to help mitigate climate change and facilitate environmental sustainability. Approximately 90 exhibitors, including state and local government agencies, utilities, manufacturers, etc., provided information and demonstrated their products .

One of the three Keynote Speakers, the Secretary of California Government Operations Agency, summarized efforts in energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, recycling, water conservation, etc., for state facilities. Others related how CalPERS is leveraging their huge \$250 billion pension fund to influence major corporations such as Exxon and Apple to consider climate change mitigation, sustainability, diversity, and equity in their business operations. The Governor's Deputy Cabinet Secretary reported on clean renewable energy generation such as solar and wind. He spoke of the electrification of our transportation system, such as the implementation of the High Speed Rail system and other public transit improvements, partially to be funded by AB 32 Cap and Trade revenues.

The summit concluded with presentation of Leadership Awards for innovative and successful projects throughout the State. Locally the Yolo County-Grasslands and Cottonwood Solar Project was honored. This project will result in avoiding 12,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, the equivalent of removing over 2500 cars from the road, and result in \$4,438,000 annual revenue to the County. By Rick Bettis

Climate Change Panel

Scientists from the United Nations, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), meeting in Yokohama Japan, reported on March 31, 2014 that climate change is having sweeping effects on every continent and throughout the world's oceans. It is “likely to grow substantially worse unless greenhouse emissions are brought under control” according to Justin Gillis, *New York Times*, as reported in the *Sacramento Bee*. “Ice caps are melting, sea ice in the Arctic is collapsing, water supplies are coming under stress, heat waves and heavy rains are intensifying, coral reefs are dying and fish and many other creatures are migrating toward the poles or in some cases going extinct.”

“**And the worst is yet to come...** the world's food supply is at considerable risk – a threat that could have serious consequences for the poorest nations.” There is “risk of death or injury on a massive scale, probable damage to public health, displacement of people and potential mass migrations. As a result of these natural effects, the report also cites the “possibility of violent conflict over land or other resources brought on indirectly by climate change by exacerbating well-established drivers of these conflicts such as poverty and economic shocks.” Poor countries who are effected most and who have NOT added to greenhouse gases (GHG) are expected to “renew their demand for aid this September in New York at a summit meeting of world leaders, who will attempt to make headway on a new treaty to limit greenhouse gases.” *Sacramento Bee*, 3/31/14.

We are late, perhaps too late to reduce emissions. It is outrageous to many of us who have followed 20 plus years of international efforts yielding few results. Are we earthlings like the proverbial frog in a gradually warming to boil pot that we will be unable to hop out before it is too late? I pray that we are not. By Alice Ginosar

Follow and monitor **SB 4*** as it is now the law and there will be public input sought during this year. Read [LWV positions pertaining to hydraulic fracturing](#)

Continued on page 7

May Unit Meetings

In May the Units will continue their investigation of water in California – including its management, conservation, the drought, and the effects of climate change. Members are asked to consider what needs to be done and what they can do to mitigate against the negative effects. Ballot measures 41 & 42 will be discussed.

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday March 12, 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Ave. Sacramento 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday March 13, 9:15 AM	Anne Berner Helen Shyroch 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven Land Park	Tuesday March 13, 10:00 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday March 13, 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,

Positions on June Ballot Measures: Support 41 and 42

“The LWVC supports both measures on the June ballot. Our support for Prop 41 is based on our [position on housing](#), and the need for more affordable housing in California. Prop 42 will guarantee the [public’s right to know](#) and make it clear that adherence to both the Brown Act and California Public Records Act is a basic cost of doing business for governments.” From LWVC Board *Updates*, April 2014.

League of Women Voters of California Education Fund [Pros & Cons](#)

Easy Voter Guide

You can view or download the June Primary Election [Easy Voter Guide](#) here. Two propositions are on the ballot. Other voter information is located @ www.cavotes.org

Continued from pg. 3

felt that such additives were generally recognized as safe (GRAS). Since that time, companies have used the GRAS exemption rule to self-approve hundreds, possibly thousands, of new chemicals to put in our food. Companies hire their own scientists to test products, testify at hearings, and promote the use of a chemical as safe. When the FDA does hear of a chemical proposed for use it can ask tough questions, but, because of GRAS, a company is not bound to answer and cannot be kept from continuing to use it in our food. Chemicals now present in many foods are known to cause leukemia in fetuses and problems with the thyroid, testes, spleen, pituitary, liver, and gastrointestinal tract. Severe allergies are common and other medical problems are suspected to be linked to chemicals in food. Congress should close the GRAS loophole now. By Elaine Lee

Climate continued from page 5

*SB 4 passed both houses with a two-thirds vote and was signed Sept. 20. SB 4 will impose the strongest regulations and disclosure requirements on the oil industry of any state in the nation. On January 1, 2014, SB 4 ends unregulated fracking and acidizing and imposes immediate safeguards. Oil companies seeking to “stimulate” wells after January 1, 2014 must file satisfactory certifications under penalty of law (violations trigger fines of up to \$25,000 per day) of compliance with key safeguards: Groundwater testing (before/after), neighbor notification (1,500 ft.), public disclosure of chemicals, well history, locations online. Throughout 2014 the public will have numerous opportunities to comment on proposed regulations and comprehensive review and mitigation requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). By A. Ginosar

McKinley Village Redux

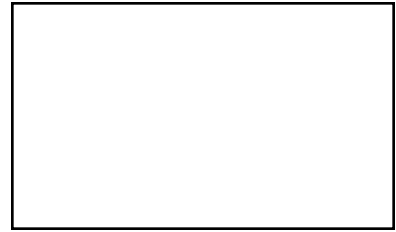
Steve Cohn, City Council, District three, convened a short meeting for residents of East Sacramento and Mid-Town in order to discuss the McKinley Development. Eight of the local interest groups spoke against the project due to the lack of a vehicle tunnel that would open onto Alhambra Blvd. ESIA presented a modified recommendation regarding the size of the requested tunnel (not well received by the audience). The third access had been requested of the developer for more than a year. It is estimated that the neighborhood will have an increase of more than 230 car trips per hour if this project is built. S. Cohn explained that even though the City’s Planning and Design Commission determined that the traffic increase would be insignificant, traffic studies only assess the impact on a car waiting at an intersection NOT the impact on the people in the neighborhoods. He suggested that attendees ask council members in other districts if they would approve a project of this size if there were no DIRECT access to main streets or a freeway. The example used was the Curtis Park Village project. The “direct” access there is to Sutterville Road. Attendees were encouraged to sign petitions and write letters to council members asking them to compel the developer to provide a third access at Alhambra Blvd. Cohn reminded the group that, in accordance with the Brown Act, he can only confer privately with three council members on this issue’s eventual decision unless a public notice is posted before said meeting. Neighbors need to do their part and convince council members about their concerns. The deciding vote is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/29/14, 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers. By E. Heaser

Art

ArtBeast :Introduce your children/grandchildren to the fun of art and teach them about donating to important social causes. They can (you can too) dress up as princess, police or fire chief, super-hero and then paint on easel or pour bird seed as water in cups in a trough. Climb up to the top floor of wooden house to put babies to bed or cook below in the kitchen. As the “piece de la resistance” and at the end, play in the water out in the back yard, pouring, watering plants, digging for treasure...fun! ArtBeast helps support the Tubman House a transitional residence for homeless and parenting youth. By A. Ginosar

Years of Living Dangerously

Years of Living Dangerously a powerful Showtime film series produced by James Cameron about international the climate crises; the first showing was on 4/13/14. See segments on You Tube . Watch an abridged version of the first show on the League of Conservation Voters website.



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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