



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

FEBRUARY 2010

All Members Invited to Participate in the Program Planning Meeting

Saturday February 27, 2010, 9 AM to Noon

Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Ave (west of Fulton Ave), Sacramento

A Joint Public Forum with the League of Women Voters of Placer County How the State Budget Affects Local Government

is scheduled for

Saturday, March 20, 2010, 9:00 AM to noon

Location: To Be Announced

Watch the LWW of Sacramento website and the March Voter for more information.

Lecture: Abolitionism in 19th-Century American Art

Thursday, February 18, 6:00 PM

CROCKER ART MUSEUM

216 O Street, Sacramento

SAVE THE DATE

Leadership Council 2010, scheduled for Sacramento Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16.
All interested Sacramento members are welcome to attend.

2009-2010

Lola Acosta, President
916-447-8683
lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

Catherine Troka, 1st Vice President
Outreach
916-447-8386
lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

Cheryll Moore, 2nd Vice President
Voters Service Director
916-483-5524
geroeducator@att.net

Kathleen Chovan, 3rd Vice President
916-337-8386
lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

Vivian Skintaury, Treasurer
916-991-5409
Vivian_Skintaury@comcast.net

Virginia Kaser, Secretary
916-442-6912
kaser@usc.edu

Jennifer Gibson, Director
916-714-8683
lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

Cynthia Hutchison, Director
916-395-2680
Hutchiso@comcast.net

Patricia Justice, Director
916-391-9439
p.c.justice@sbcglobal.net

Rick Bettis, Natural Resources
916-447-8683
naturalresources@lwvsacramento.org

Lanette Davies, Director
(916) 502-7677
lanettedavies@yahoo.com

LaVerne Ireland, Director
(916) 371-3480
Ireland@ix.netcom.com

Donna Chipps, Webmaster
webmaster@lwvsacramento.org

Nancy Lapp, Voter Editor
nlapp@csus.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Board members, past Presidents and I prepare for our Program Planning Meeting Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Arcade Public Library, we hope to see and listen to members participate in establishing an outline for both local issues for emphasis and input for the biennial LWVUS Convention. This important meeting provides the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County, a truly grassroots organization, with the opportunity to set a blueprint guiding activity for the next year.

Disheartened members, friends and relatives contacted us following last week's Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*. The same day, Mary Wilson, LWVUS President branded the decision "constitutionally irresponsible," and averred it "will surely bring about an anti-democratic revolution in how we finance elections in this country," and "elections should not be corrupted by vast corporate wealth and ... the voters should be at the center of our democratic system."

As Sacramento League members go about community volunteer work, consider the single hour of time donated on behalf of the League can help, in this, the 90th Anniversary year of our founding, to demonstrate by our role model, our firm belief that the individual voter can make a difference, that each vote counts.

This year more than ever, linking with like-minded civic organizations, we can make a difference. Share the Voter with friends, and look beyond your comfort zone to reach out to other concerned Sacramentans. You might find a new League member or a partner organization who shares the values of the League of Women Voters.

Consider signing on with our Speakers Bureau to take our non-partisan but political message to community groups. Contact Cheryll Moore, Voter Services Director, geroeducator@att.net, for information and dates of speaker training.

In a recent issue of the Voter, we mentioned exploring the conversion of the Voter to an electronic delivery format. Wise members cautioned us about this. Contact the League office at lwvs@lwvsacramento.org if you wish to receive the Voter electronically and save a tree. Otherwise, the Voter will remain a published hard copy newsletter, available in pdf. format on our website. See you Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Arcade Public Library!

VOTERS SERVICE BEGINS A BUSY SEASON

Cheryll M. Moore, Voters Service Director

On Wednesday, January 20, approximately 50 people attended a public candidate forum for Sacramento County Sheriff sponsored by the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Law Enforcement Managers Association. Access Sacramento, cable Channel 17 will periodically broadcast the forum while simultaneously providing streaming video on their website: www.accesssacramento.org

Thank you to all League volunteers that evening: Kathy Chovan, Lanette Davies, Jennifer Gibson, LaVerne Ireland, and Roseanna Torretto who made the forum possible.

Currently there is interest in four additional candidate forums in the community and Metro Cable will be asking the League to assist in taping an all day session candidate forum as we have done in the past. We have a busy few months ahead of us so look at your emails for training and volunteer opportunities.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES 49TH NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 11-15, 2010 Roseanna Torretto

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: A HISTORY OF CHANGE. A FUTURE OF HOPE.

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local, state and ILO Leagues appoint their allotted delegates. Non-voting members can be part of the excitement as the Convention delegate body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

Convention 2010 site, the Marriott Atlanta Marquis, is located in the downtown area known as Atlanta's heartbeat. It's where you can experience the world's largest aquarium, relax in Centennial Olympic Park, tour CNN Worldwide, and enjoy myriad dining, cultural and shopping experiences. Nearby are the President Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and Visitors Center. For detailed information on this fabulous metropolis, visit the website www.Atlanta.net and click on 50 Things to do in Atlanta. Do plan to arrive early or stay a few extra days to explore the many attractions the Atlanta area has to offer.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER QUALITY

By Rick Bettis

The potential effects of “global warming” on our health, economy and environment are numerous and potentially devastating. There has been much discussion regarding the potential of sea level rise, loss of natural snow pack water storage, and increased risk of flooding. In addition there may be significant effects on water quality that could seriously impact aquatic or marine life and other natural systems and increase public health risks.

Higher temperatures will “bubble off” the dissolved oxygen in our waters. Reduced oxygen will shorten the life spans of aquatic species. Warming will accelerate the chemical and biological reactions that result in eutrofication, or nutrient richness, causing an increase growth of algae or other aquatic plants. The resulting bacteria absorb will most of the remaining oxygen causing greater mortality in aquatic species and degraded water quality.

Higher intensity storms will result in increases in sediments and pollutants from streets and yards such as pesticides, herbicides, and oils, further degrade water quality. The degraded water quality can be a health threat, and also result in higher costs and energy demands for water treatment.

Higher ocean water temperatures and carbon absorption will cause chemical reactions producing carbonic acid, and reducing calcium carbonic, which is used by marine life. The increased acidity will also undermine the skeletal structure of coral. The loss of coral will result in substantial loss of habit for marine life.

These impacts will be difficult to reverse. We must reduce the global warming potential. The January Voter included excellent ideas on how we can adjust our lives. We also must influence our elected officials to pass legislation and adopt policies in the areas of energy generation and conservation, land use and transportation that will reduce the emissions of Greenhouse Gases such as carbon dioxide.

EXTRACTS FROM STATE CLIMATE CHANGE DOCUMENT

By Cathy Adams Minicucci, Climate Change Committee

The greenhouse effect compares the earth and the atmosphere surrounding it to a greenhouse with glass panes. . . .the glass panes keep the air inside at a fairly even temperature day and night, and throughout the four seasons of the year. Just as the glass lets heat from sunlight in and reduces the heat escaping, greenhouse gases and some particles in the atmosphere keep the Earth at a relatively even temperature. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in our atmosphere keep the Earth's average surface temperature close to a hospitable 60 degrees Fahrenheit. . . .*Without*

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the greenhouse effect, the Earth would be a frozen globe, with an average temperature of 5 degrees Fahrenheit An overall warming trend has been recorded since the late 19th century, with the most rapid warming occurring over the past two decades.

One area of concern is the effect of climate change on California's water supply. During the winter, high in the Sierra Nevada, snow accumulates in a deep pack, preserving much of California's water supply in "cold storage" for the hot, dry summer. If winter temperatures are warmer however, more precipitation will fall as rain, decreasing the size of the snowpack. Heavier rainfall in the winter could bring increased flooding. Less spring runoff from a smaller snowpack will reduce the amount of water available for hydroelectric power production and agricultural irrigation.

Throughout the 20th century, annual April to July spring runoff in the Sierra Nevada has been decreasing, with water runoff declining by about ten percent over the last 100 years

Another predicted outcome of climate change, a rise in sea level, is already being seen in California, with a 3 - 8 inch rise in the last century. Sea level rise and storm surges can lead to flooding of low-lying property, loss of coastal wetlands, erosion of cliffs and beaches, saltwater contamination of drinking water, and damage to roads and bridges.

Source: California Air Resources Board, "Backgrounder, The Greenhouse Effect and California" See: www.arb.ca.gov emphasis added

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).

PASSINGS

League member Helen Haynes Bradfield died at The Chateau at River's Edge in Sacramento on November 6, 2009 . Helen was born in Belton, Texas on August 2, 1917. Her father's career with the U.S. Immigration Service, took her to many different places, including Denmark, which she recalled as her favorite. She met and married Jim Bradfield at the University of Chicago prior to World War II. They settled in Sacramento with their family, where her husband Jim was a founding member of Sacramento State University. Jim passed away in 2002. Helen resided in Sacramento for 60 years, and grew to love everything California. **Her many interests included the League of Women Voters, where she served as secretary, the Sierra Club, the Renaissance Society, to name a few.**

Helen is survived by her five children, Kathy Norton, Chris Bradfield, Robin Bradfield, Polly Washington, all residing in California, Susan Fuller in Kansas City, 13 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, and many friends and associates. Remembrances may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Society, Sacramento Hospice or organization of your choice. Acknowledgements to Roseanna Torretto and the Sacramento Bee.

HEALTH CARE REFORM UPDATE

By Cynthia L. Hutchison, MPA

The National Health Reform efforts were dealt a serious blow on January 17 when the Democrats lost their filibuster-proof majority in the Senate with the election of Republican Scott Brown in Massachusetts. Congressional leaders and the White House continue to assess the situation, but the general reaction seems to be one of caution. Right now Speaker Pelosi states she does not have the votes to pass the Senate bill, but there is no good alternative. Talk of a scaled down reform effort - enacting some reform - seems to predominate. However, some suggest that the Democrats may now shift the focus of their legislative efforts to other issues, such as job creation.

Meanwhile in California, SB810 passed out of the Senate Appropriations committee on January 21 and now goes to the Senate floor to be voted on by the end of January. Once it passes the Senate it goes to the Assembly Rules committee. It is expected the bill will be heard again in May. Advocates must continue their work obtaining organizational endorsements, lobbying their legislators, and conducting public forums.

Also locally, The California Health Professional Students Alliance along with other supporters of SB 810 held a very successful rally on January 11 at the state Capitol. Activists delivered passionate speeches and later moved inside the capitol to visit with their legislators. As in the two prior legislative sessions, supporters expect Governor Schwarzenegger to veto SB 810, but the long term campaign strategy includes electing a governor that is friendly to the legislation, and an eventual ballot measure to lock in the reform. With the anticipated triumph of California reaching its goal of single payer health care, we can look to the future for other states and ultimately the nation to follow.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Leslie A. Marria

Alyson Murphy

Evelyn Parker

CONGRATULATIONS TO 50-YEAR MEMBER

Sacramentan Maryevelyn Bryden, among the 'founders' of an "Extra-Governmental Unit" of LWV Santa Ana, which 'grew into LWV of Orange Coast (Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Laguna Beach). Maryevelyn was a member and President of the LWV Fullerton, California around 1964. She served on the State Board of LWV Calif. about 1965, and was President of LWV Orange County/ILO about 2005.

FEBRUARY UNIT MEETINGS

February Unit meetings will discuss issues of interest to League members for both our 2010-2011 Local Program and national League Program Planning conducted every two years. After each Unit discussion, one representative, at the minimum, is asked to attend and speak for your Unit at the Sacramento Program Planning meeting scheduled for February 27, 2010 9 AM to Noon, at the Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Ave/west of Fulton Avenue. Results from the Sacramento Program Planning meeting will be presented for adoption at the Annual Meeting May 2010 and enable us to provide input to the national League.

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, February 8 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, February 9 9:15 AM	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, February 9 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, February 9 1 PM	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or eheser@csus.edu



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

FEBRUARY 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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LEAGUE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

By Barbara Hopkins

The LWVSC Nominating Committee invites members interested in developing new League leadership skills as a member of the Board of Directors to contact off board nominating committee members. Serving as a LWVSC board member is a unique opportunity to guide the LWV of Sacramento County as you learn about the League and the community, the decision making process, functions and programs as well as develop new friendships. The Nominating Committee is responsible for submitting a new slate of board members for 2011-2013 to the LWVSC Annual Meeting May election. Please feel free to contact Barbara Hopkins, Nominating Committee Chair, at barbhopkins2@yahoo.com or 916-388-0785; Roseanna Torretto at torretto@pacbell.net or Judy Hoefling at judith-hoefling@comcast.net.

Join Us On-Line at lwvsacramento.org