



VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley
www.sv.ca.lwvnet.org

The League's purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ OUR VOTER ONLINE TODAY!!

REMEMBER to Register to Vote Before Sept. 22nd!

REMINDER!

FALL KICKOFF & BBQ

2003 FIRST GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, September 14, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Meurer's

A GREAT PROGRAM

Security in the 21st Century: The Role of Diplomacy & Education
Speakers

Congressman Sam Farr
Dr. Steven Baker, Pres., MIIS

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED - DEADLINE RSVP Sept 7
Contact Phyllis Meurer at 484-5640 or voice mail 757-5845

Board of Directors

President

Anne Herendeen
president@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
663-2452

VP Admin.

Kalah Bumba
vpadmin@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
424-7976

Secretary

Marilyn Dorman
secretary@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
757-2779

Treasurer

Linda Gin
treasurer@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
455-1474

Membership

Lenore Opalach
membership@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
424-6515

Program Coordinator

Phyllis Meurer
programs@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
484-5640

Voters Service

Stephanie Loose
voterservice@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
757-2871

Legislative Action

Mary Ellen Dick
legaction@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
786-9225

Publicity

Joanne Haag
publicity@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
624-3755

Voter Editor

Ginny Manassero
voter@sv.ca.lwvnet.org
757-5845

Program Notes - 2003-2004 League Year

The programs of the LWVSV this year will take a world view, a national look, a state perspective, and a local glance.

- ◆ Our fall kickoff on September 14 (see details above) will focus on national security in the 21st century world.
- ◆ In November, a Saturday morning meeting on the 15th will be a roundtable discussion with all of our state legislators on the 'state of the state.' Budget issues and recall election results should make this an interesting meeting!
- ◆ A lunch time meeting on Monday, January 12 from noon to 1:30 will feature a discussion with local media and journalists on how decisions are made on what to cover and how to cover it.
- ◆ Sunday evening potluck on March 21 will accompany a talk on the voting process -- how does it work and how does it not work.

If hot topics arise, we can plug in programs in February and April. Topic and speaker suggestions are always welcome.

Our Annual Meeting will be Saturday, May 15th from 9 a.m. to noon.

Details on all meetings will be in the Voter, but mark your calendars now. Come yourself, bring a friend, a prospective member -- and learn, discuss, and debate the topics of our time as only the League can! - *Phyllis Meurer, Program Coordinator*



President's Message . . .

One of the highlights of the LWVC Convention for me was the presentation by our National

President, Kay Maxwell. Her remarks centered on LWV-FIRST, the acronym that represents a set of goals that she and other members of the LWVUS Board have committed to and are focused on for their terms of office. Those goals are: Financial Sustainability, Impact on Issues, Revitalized Leagues, Strength in Diversity, and Teamwork and Tolerance.

On June 22nd, our Board met to plan for the coming year and to establish our priorities. With only a few variations, our goals for the year look remarkably similar to those of the LWVUS. We have decided to focus our efforts and energies on Membership, Advocacy, and Voters Service. While the loss of the county contract has reduced our revenues, we have sufficient reserves and decided that our priorities would not include fundraising, although we are certainly open to ideas and opportunities that come our way!

Membership: Our goal is a membership of 100 voters. We ended last year with 66 members, and want to expand our ranks so that we can be more active in our advocacy, voters service, and education efforts. We value the strength that comes with diversity of membership, and want to make this organization attractive to voters regardless of age, background, or gender. For those of you who may have friends, relatives, and co-workers who would like to know more about joining the League, contact Lenore Opalach for information. We hope to have several new/poten-

tial member events this year to provide an orientation to the League and are looking for more members to help us with planning these activities.

Advocacy: Advocacy is one of the things that attracted many of us to the League initially, and the Board has chosen to make this a priority. There are important environmental, social, and governmental issues facing us in the coming year and the League can be a visible presence. We hope to revive our Observer Corps and to increase our local and state advocacy. We want to make an impact on the issues.

Voters Service: Voters Service is the heart of our league. Several of our members helped to register new citizens to vote at the Citizenship Ceremony held in Gonzales on July 2nd. The Board has decided to continue to distribute voter registration materials for the Election Department, even if there are no longer the county resources to pay us, because we believe in the importance of the service. This year will be an exciting one as we approach the 2004 Presidential elections. We also want to help educate potential voters through the Mock Election program.

The Board is excited and energized about the year ahead. We invite each of you to think about the activities that interest you. Get involved!

Anne Herendeen

P.S. For those who would like to read Kay Maxwell's entire convention keynote address, it can be found at:

<http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/conv03/maxwell.htm>.

Questions about the City of Salinas Reorganization ...

On June 3rd, the League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley presented the following statement to the Salinas City Council. We believe the issues raised and the questions asked are of importance to the future of our community. As of June 23, we have not received answers to all of our questions. We will be following up with the City Council and city staff to obtain these answers. We encourage the community to take an interest in both the fiscal and planning impacts of these reorganization decisions.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
of the SALINAS VALLEY
P O Box 1302 Salinas, CA 93902

June 3, 2003

Mayor and Councilmembers,

The League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley has followed the recent reports and discussion on the City of Salinas budget and city reorganization. We have several questions we feel the public needs to have answered:

On May 20, the City Council asked for city staff to discuss the potential reorganization with the department directors, managers, city staff, and bargaining units. ***What other alternatives have been suggested in these discussions?***

The public needs to have complete and coherent organizational charts for the current structure and for the proposed reorganization. ***In the future, where will the various departments/divisions be located, and what will their functions be? What are the current functions of the departments and where are they located?***

What are the existing and proposed salary and total benefit packages for positions affected by this reorganization, from the city manager on down, for the positions proposed to be eliminated, changed, or added? The May 20th report does not include this information for some of the positions.

Our city is facing growth pressures both from inside and outside of our county. ***Doesn't a city of this size need a Planning or Community Development Department under the direction of a professional planner? Does the city charter require we have such a department? Why are you eliminating this department and separating advance from current planning? What is the rationale for this change? How will the development process change due to this reorganization?***

Do we need to develop and incur the costs of a new department for Maintenance Services?

These proposed changes create public confusion regarding who does what and where. Proposed title changes are not descriptive of functions to be carried out, e.g., deputy city manager.

All reports to the council should be available to the public promptly on the city website. We expect the City Manager and Council to provide answers to our questions prior to adoption of the city budget. The League will continue to follow these issues. The League promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Sincerely,

Anne Herendeen
President LWVSV

Response:

Salinas City Councilperson Janet Barnes contacted the League in response to the letter appearing July 31, 2003 in The Californian.

Barnes stated that she felt the process the Council undertook was very thorough, that she felt good about the decisions that were made, noting the fiscal considerations they were considering. Barnes further stated that the reorganization wasn't a secret and that it had been discussed for months, but that the written documents may not have been as available as they should have been. She acknowledged that they had not gotten back to the League in writing as promised, but assured that the Council is committed to doing so.

Mock Election Recipe

How do you cook up a Mock Election? Start early, have lots of ingredients in your cupboard (money and supplies) and many helpers. Mock Election in the schools will be held on two days, tentatively scheduled for the period of October 3-5.

Begin by gathering up your ingredients for workshops to be held for teachers in late September. Workshops are our chance to meet the contact people for schools. Check your pantry to be sure you have enough classroom materials and voting booths, and anything you might need to demonstrate computer voting, and answer questions about Mock Election.

Stir in a few flyers to alert teachers to the workshops. Blend in at least 200 teacher packets for the workshops.

Sprinkle the materials out to the schools -- voting booths, Easy Reading Voter Guides, and Pros & Cons. You may need an assistant chef or two to help you do this!

Finally, the icing on the cake: students vote. You will need plenty of helpers in the schools to be go-fers for the teachers, assist the students who are voting, etc.



Board Briefs ...

... Board Meetings are held 3rd Thursday of each month, 6pm at Villa Serra. You're welcome to attend.

... Member Dody Carvey-Stone is our observer to the Salinas City Council. Many thanks, Dody.

... **REMINDER:** Join the Monterey Peninsula League for their First General Meeting at Elks' Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey, on Wednesday, September 10, 2003, 12:00 noon. Topic: "Measure Q -- Natividad ½% Sales Tax" (How the LWVMP arrived at their position, health, and revenue) Speakers: Beverly G. Bean, President, LWV of the Monterey Peninsula; Dr. John Clark, Chief of Staff at Natividad; and Louis Solton, Monterey County Treasurer-Tax Collector.

On the Grapevine...

... Member Phyllis Meurer and her family have an AFS student, Otto Brandstetter, from Bamberg, Germany, who will be living with them for the school year.

... Member Lois Olsen, who is "healing way ahead of schedule," according to her doctor, would like to send a big "thank you" for all the cards, letters, and calls when she was first in the hospital.

.. Our Prez' daughter, Diana, is tying the knot in October.

...VP Admin Kalah is being appointed by Supervisor Johnsen to the Commission on Disabilities for Monterey County.

Our most effective tool

Trudy Schafer,
Program Director
League of Women Voters of California
801 12th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814
tschafer@lwvc.org, (916) 442-9210



To All California Leagues of Women Voters and League members:

The question of recalling Governor Gray Davis has been slated for a statewide special election to be held on October 7, 2003. Two ballot measures will also appear on that ballot: Proposition 53, a legislative constitutional amendment about infrastructure finance, and Proposition 54, an initiative constitutional amendment titled Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National Origin and called the Racial Privacy Initiative by its proponents.

The LWVCEF is gearing up to provide Californians with unbiased, non-partisan information about election issues. In addition, the LWVC's advocacy arm will participate in at least one ballot measure campaign.

The League has no position on the recall process itself and, of course, will not support any candidate or political party in the election. Our emphasis will be on educating voters on how the recall process works. An article about the process appears in the Post Convention California VOTER that is now arriving in members' mailboxes. We are updating that article (in bullet-point format) and will post it soon on the LWVC Website. We also hope to produce a cable television program that will be available across the state.

Voters service materials about the ballot measures will include In Depth for League speakers and camera-ready copies of the Pros and Cons and Easy Reading Voter Guide. We will also produce an Action Guide for local Leagues. Please watch for more information, including a schedule of when and how these voters service and advocacy materials will be available.



Make Smart Voter your resource for information about the October 7, 2003 special recall election! LWVCEF coverage on Smart Voter will include:

- ◆ Candidate list (once the certified list is released by the Secretary of State in mid-August)
- ◆ Propositions 53 and 54
- ◆ Polling places
- ◆ News articles
- ◆ As always, LWVCEF publications such as *Pros and Cons* and *Easy Voter Guide*.

Trudell Een, Project Director
Smart Voter
League of Women Voters California
Education Fund
www.SmartVoter.org
(408)323-9611
director@smartvoter.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

September 6, DEADLINE for LWV Regional Workshops. Any questions, call Ginny at 757-4845.

September 13, 9:30am-3pm, LWV Regional Workshops, Santa Clara, Agilent Technologies, 5301 Stevens Creek Blvd. Send registration check and info to: Crownie Billik, 360 Sunkist Ln, Los Altos, CA 94022; crownie@billik.com or (650) 948-0936

September 20, 9:30am-3pm, LWV Regional Workshops, Sacramento, UC School of Policy & Planning, 1800 I St. Send registration check and info to: Melinda Avey, 6712 Will Rogers Dr, Fair Oaks, 95628, (916) 961-8314.

September 20, 9:30am-3pm, LWV Regional Workshops, Orange, Sisters of St. Joseph, 480 S. Batavia. Send registration check and info to: Joanne Leavitt, 2920 Kansas Ave, Santa Monica, 90404, (310) 828-7925.

September 20, 9:30am-3pm, LWV Regional Workshops, Fresno, Sarah McCardle Rm, Fresno County Library, 2420 Mariposa St.

October 3-5, Tentative - Mock Elections

October 7, Tentative - Recall Election (not a mail-in ballot)

November 3, 12-1:30pm, General Meeting & Lunch, Community Center, tentative speakers Senator Bruce McPherson and Assemblyman Jeff Denham

November 4, Election Day

November 15, 9am-12 noon, Legislators' Roundtable. Invited: Senator Denham, Senator McPherson, Assemblymember Laird, and Assemblymember Salinas.



HELP WANTED ... HELP WANTED ... HELP WANTED ... HELP WANTED ...

LWV Regional Workshops: Tools for the 21st Century

(all presented twice at each location)

Santa Clara, Sacramento, and Orange

League 101-Everything You wanted to Know about League and more;
Membership-League growth and Renewal; Fundraising-Fund development in
your community; Voter Service-Elections and Beyond.

Fresno

League 101; Your Membership-Rich Resources for Yourself and Others;
Coalitions-How to Profit from Numbers & Avoid the Pitfalls; Action Now!-When
and How to Take Action without a Local League Study.

Reg. & lunch \$20; \$5 for brown-baggers. \$25 same day registration.

Make checks payable to LWVC and mail to the Workshop Coordinator at your
Workshop Site.

See Calendar of Events on Page 6 for dates, locations, and registration details.

Wanted: People willing to make phone calls to the November candidates who haven't posted their info at www.smartvoter.org. Call S. Loose, 757-2871, Voter Services.

Wanted: One Moderator, two Timekeepers, two Question Sorters, and one General Helper needed for candidates forum for Santa Rita School District. Call S. Loose, 757-2871, Voter Services.

Wanted: Helpers for a "stickem & lickem" party for November candidates mailing. Call S. Loose, 757-2871, Voter Services.

Special Notice to ALL Members

We would like to send your Voter via E-mail. It would be a savings for our League.
Please fill in form below with your choice. (Questions? 757-5845)



TO ALL MEMBERS! IMPORTANT!
Fill in - Use SASE enclosed and mail. Thanks!

I'm already a member. Please:

- E-mail The Voter
- Send The Voter by U.S. Mail

I want to join the LWVSV:

- Individual \$50/yr
- Household \$75/yr (two people at same address)
- Contribution to LWVSV (not tax deductible)
- Contribution to LWVSV Education Fund (tax deductible, requires separate check)
- Address Correction Only

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

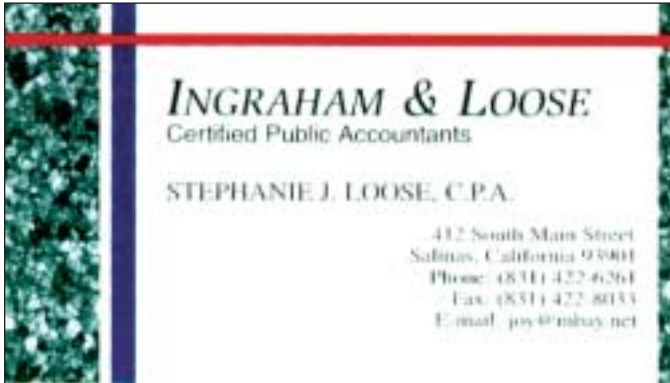
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

Please make your check(s) payable to: "The League of Women Voters" and mail with this form to: P.O. Box 1302, Salinas, CA 93902

VOTER SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: 15th of each month
(The Voter will appear on the website or be mailed the 30th of each month)



The League of Women Voters
of the Salinas Valley
P.O. Box 1302
Salinas, CA 93902

