



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

# VOTER

April - May 2011

Volume 51, Number 5

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*Be an informed voter*

## SPRING CALENDAR LWVSLO

April 30 Saturday	<p><b>"GATHERING OF GREEN" SUSTAINABILITY EVENT</b>            Hunter Francis, guest speaker, SLO Botanical Garden            Garden Tours, Music, and Refreshments provided            Guests Encouraged, "Family Friendly Environment"            HWY 1, Across from Cuesta College</p>	2:00 – 4:00 PM
May 3 Tuesday	<p><b>BOARD MEETING</b>            Rabobank, Broad Street Branch, SLO            Public Meeting Room</p>	5:30 – 7:00 PM
May 12-15 Thurs – Sun	<p><b>CALIFORNIA STATE LWV CONVENTION</b>            Crowne Point Ventura Beach Hotel, Ventura CA</p>	
Jun 11 Sat.	<p><b>ANNUAL MEETING</b>, Adam Hill, Chair, SLO County BOS, Speaker            SLO Country Club, Luncheon information in Packet            Reservations required by 6/8/11, Bring Annual Meeting Packet!</p>	10:30 – 1:30 PM (registration 10:00)

Mail to: LWVSLO P.O. Box 4210 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403 Phone 805-782-4040

Website: [www.LWVSLO.org](http://www.LWVSLO.org)

E-mail [info@LWVSLO.org](mailto:info@LWVSLO.org)



**Message from the President**



I would like to share a very special moment with all of you. April 11, 2011, I was visiting Boston for the very first time with my daughter and son-in-law. My daughter, Ann Havlik, was taking a class, so my son-in-law, Neil and I decided to tour

downtown Boston. As we followed the Freedom Trail, we passed by Fanueil Hall. A large crowd, carrying cameras and flags, were gathered in front of the Hall. Ever curious, I urged Neil to stop so we could see what was happening. The front door of the Hall opened and out came a tall, strapping young man in a beautifully tailored suit, shirt and tie. The crowd cheered, cameras flashed, flags waved and he gave all a high five and held up his own flag and a document. Immediately I said to Neil, "Oh look, they must be honoring the Boston Celtics !" But then a young woman came out, dressed in a bright blue suit, again to fanfare from the crowd. And as we watched, more people came out, all sizes, all dressed up, all waving flags and holding up documents as cheers rang out. Neil said, "I think they have all just received their citizenship!" I approached a family of three near us who were exchanging hugs, and asked them, "Have you just become United States' citizens?" Proudly, they nodded yes. Neil immediately shook hands all around, congratulating them, and I gave each of them a hug. With tears in my eyes, I said, "Welcome to our country. To your country now. God bless you. We need new blood. I am so proud of you!"

It's easy to forget how very lucky we all are to be citizens of the United States. Yes, we are going through hard times, and yes, we wish our elected officials would stop their arguing and just get on with it. But we elected them, and we can vote them out of office if we don't like their actions. And we can learn, and we can listen, and we can complain, out loud. We can make a difference, and we do. We vote. And you can be sure that all those new citizens of April 11, 2011 will never miss a chance to vote!

One thing I do regret that day. I didn't bring my League of Women Voters' membership brochures!

As Ever, **Emily**

**WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH HONORED BY BOS**



*Emily Penfield, President, accompanied by an enthusiastic contingent of LWVSLOCo members, accepts a Proclamation from the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors commemorating March as Woman's History Month.*

**Steering Committee for County's 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote Forging Ahead with Plans**

The SLO County LWV is spearheading coordination of activities across the county to commemorate 100 years of California women having the right to vote. Our League has established a 25-member steering committee chaired by past LWVSLO president and current LWVC/EF First Vice President Trudy Jarratt. Assemblyman Katcho Achjadian is the Honorary Chair.

The mission of the committee is:

- To celebrate 2011 as the 100 year anniversary of California women securing the right to vote and raise awareness of the role San Luis Obispo County played in this historical event.
- Through our leadership we will provide inspiration to civic leaders and organizations across our county to commemorate the anniversary collectively and in every community.

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In a meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>, reports were submitted from both the Exhibit and Events subcommittees. Plans were made for individual city/community Suffrage exhibits that would be prepared by those communities highlighting their local connection to the 1911 vote. Julie Rodewald has all the ballot information needed. Uniformity and portability of exhibits will be emphasized for use in schools and to transfer to central locations for anniversary week events. Also use of visual enhancements, like 3-D mounts for photographs, or colored twine linking names to photographs will be encouraged.

Events being considered to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration include community parades, musical and theatrical events, historical re-enactments, collaborations, with other centennial celebrations, mother/daughter teas, school essay contests with scholarships, voter registration events (targeted to young people, minority populations, etc) events featuring descendants of suffragettes, and "2012 Project" collaboration.

Events will be added upon approval of the Steering committee. The proposed events will be held throughout San Luis Obispo County and include the participation of public officials and agencies, commissions, community groups, schools and /or businesses. The schedule of events will be maintained on a master calendar by Marilee Hyman (Steering Committee Alternate Chair) and made available to all Steering Committee members.

Currently plans are underway for Vivian Krug to establish a 100 Year Celebration website which you can access by clicking on the hyperlink: [www.votes4women.org](http://www.votes4women.org). She has a wide variety of information available for the site that will include event calendar, photos, video and links to other sites.

A committee of local historians is being put together by Marilee Hyman and Howard S (Dick) Miller, Prof. Of History Emeritus, University of Missouri-St. Louis, founding President, Heritage Shared, Immediate Past President, California Council for the Promotion of History. Invitations to join have been accepted by several prominent historians in San Luis Obispo County including Dennis Judd, former guide, Hearst Castle, Instructor, Cuesta College, President, North County Historical Society; Paula Carr, Associate Environmental Planner (Architectural History),

California Dept. of Transportation; and Joseph Carotenuti, Independent Scholar, frequent historical contributor to *Plus Magazine*, Volunteer SLO City Archivist. Also on the Historian Committee is Julie Rodewald, SLO County Clerk-Recorder and Susan Devine, Board of Supervisors Representative, Adam Hill Legislative Assistant.

More exciting plans to be discussed at the next meeting April 28<sup>th</sup>.



Representative Capps  
Interviewed by LWV

Recently Emily Penfield, Colleen Ehrenberg and I volunteered for a LWV duty that turned out to be much more of a pleasure than a pain. On Monday, March 7, a beautiful spring day on the Central Coast, we set out for an early drive to Santa Barbara to interview our Congressional Representative, Lois Capps. The interview was slated to begin at 11:00, but knowing there could be problems with traffic or parking in Santa Barbara we gave ourselves plenty of time. Upon arrival at 10:45 we were ushered into a small conference room by staff, and within a couple of minutes a smiling Rep. Capps came in, greeted us all, and shook everyones hand. Having met Emily and Dr. Linda Phillips, President, Santa Barbara LWV before and she exchanged pleasantries with them. There were five interviewers, Dr. Phillips, from Santa Barbara, a gentleman from Ventura plus the three of us. Rep. Capps could not have been more

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personable or nicer to the group and several times expressed her admiration for the League and the work they do in the community.

We had questions prepared by the LWVUS which we took turns asking, plus a bonus question Emily wanted to ask. Those questions and answers are printed after this article. The interview was scheduled to last 15 minutes, but it carried over another 15 or 20 minutes with Rep. Capps giving us her person opinion about the “working atmosphere” in the House of Representatives. She regrets that she can no longer find colleagues across the aisle to co-sponsor bills, something that she has always made a practice of doing since her first days in Congress. She took time for group pictures and even suggested a place for us all to go to lunch. My personal reflection on the interview is of a “genuine” person, knowledgeable, thoughtful, a good listener yet able to think on her feet and answer any question a constituent might have. Forceful, when necessary, but never pushy. I was very impressed with our Representative and grateful to have had this opportunity. *Pati Dale, Editor, the LWVSLO Voter.*

**Congressional Interview Questions and Discussion with Congresswoman Lois Capps**

Monday, March 12, 2011

1. Do you support efforts to increase transparency and provide more information to the public through such steps as requiring disclosure and quick reporting of all election-related spending?

*Absolutely. However, with the change in media communications, tremendous expense involved in production, it has become increasingly more difficult than ever to provide unbiased and in-depth information to the electorate. Money controls the media except for public radio and television. Unfortunately, Government support for both is eroding in Congress, which will leave the nation with no unbiased news source. I am very concerned about this trend and strongly support public television and radio.*

2. What can you do to help improve civil discourse and reduce the level of rancor and partisan bickering in national politics?

*I wish I could do more. I have a history of working with my congressional colleagues in both parties on issues. Of course we have had our disagreements, but we were able to work together in an atmosphere of cooperation to achieve goals acceptable to both sides for the good of the country. In this congress, that atmosphere no longer exists. There is no spirit of cooperation. It is very disheartening.*

3. What are your major priorities for the 112<sup>h</sup> Congress?

*First and foremost, we have to address the economy. We have to get our country out of this recession and back on track financially, provide jobs and reduce the debt.*

*We need to reduce our dependence on oil and protect our environment, two goals which go hand in hand.*

*I will continue strongly to support affordable health care for all Americans, and defend the continuation of Medicare and Social Security.*

**Additional Questions:**

1. Do you believe that Congress should delay or curtail enforcement of the Clean Air Act?

*Certainly not. Continued enforcement of the Clean Air Act is essential for the health of our citizens. Delaying or curtailing its enforcement would be a major mistake.*

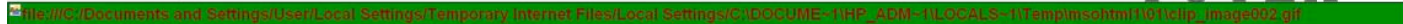
2. Do you support repealing or limiting the newly enacted national health care legislation, the Affordable Care Act?

*I have always been in favor of affordable health care for all of our citizens and I will continue to support the Affordable Care Act. I feel it is a major step forward.*

Bonus Question in Connection with the Economy



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Botanical Garden is the Central Coast's largest showcase of plant life and ecosystems of all five Mediterranean climate zones of the world. The regional center actively promotes sustainability through a variety of ongoing community education, recreation, conservation and research programs.

Hunter Francis, special guest, will speak on "Agriculture's Role in a Green Future" and the role of Cal Poly's new Center for Sustainability in that vision. Dr. Francis is director of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Center for Sustainability, which was established last spring.

Garden tours will follow the talk, complemented by a presentation on "Sustainability in Your Garden" by Libbie Agran, development director for the Botanical Garden. The family-friendly occasion is free; donations welcome. In the event of rain, the program will be held inside the Botanical Garden's nearby Oak Glen Pavilion.

For more information, call 805-782-4040 or visit [www.LWVSLO.org](http://www.LWVSLO.org).

planned from Thursday, May 12 through Sunday that highlight the area's rich cultural and agricultural heritage. In fact the theme, Grow the Future, was chosen because of this common Central Coast background.

All aspects of convention are discussed on <http://lwvc.wordpress.com> Hotel reservations are still available at the online site or you may call the hotel group reservations desk at 888-233-9527. Be sure to identify yourself as a member of the League to get the special rates available. Members are encouraged to attend the convention for all three days, one day or for one event. Wi-Fi is free in all sleeping and meeting rooms and **parking** at the public parking structure next door **is free**. Of interest to all SLO county members is the proximity of the Amtrak station, only 2 blocks away. A train leaves San Luis Obispo Friday morning at 6:45 that goes right to Ventura!

As in the past the LWVC Convention will offer top notch guest speakers, exciting events, instructive workshops, caucus discussions on all the "hot" topics, shopping in the Convention Marketplace and networking opportunities for everyone. In addition to a wonder speaker at lunch Friday on the 100 year anniversary of California women securing the vote there will be an "After Glow Party" following the banquet on Saturday night where colleagues can network and continue to celebrate this historic event. Also scheduled for Saturday at noon is someone familiar to SLO residents, Assemblyman Katcho Achjadian. He will speak on "Civility in Politics" and what role the League might play. Our special keynote speaker for the Saturday night banquet will be Elisabeth MacNamara the 18<sup>th</sup> president of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). Ms. MacNamara an attorney, recently retired as deputy chief assistant district attorney in charge of the office's juvenile court division in DeKalb County, GA. Prior to this promotion, she had served as assistant district attorney since 1986. She brings a wealth of experience as an attorney, a public servant, a civic volunteer, a wife and a mother of two sons.

Are you convinced yet? As a valued member of this grassroots organization, attendees and delegates have the opportunity and responsibility to evaluate

**What Are Your Convention Plans?**



Its not too late, You can still make plans to attend the first convention held in the "middle" of the state. The LWVC Convention, held every two years, is being hosted by four south central coast California

Leagues - Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, Santa Maria Valley, and San Luis Obispo County- in Ventura. It will be the weekend of May 13, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach Hotel. As co-hosts we have been involved in the planning from the beginning especially in the area of volunteers, which is being headed up by Arlene Powers, LWVSLO Membership Chair. Excursions and events are being

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and vote (delegates only) on the issues on which they believe the state League and all local Leagues in California should focus their time, talent, money and yes, reputation for the next two years. This is a wonderful opportunity to have fun, keep up to date on the latest issues and volunteer for a wonderful organization.

Arlene Powers is still looking for volunteers, even if you are signed up for a workshop, she needs people working at those workshops.

Special Note: This time we have invited an outside group, Project 2012, to present a pre-convention workshop on Thursday, May 12 which is meant to help women interested in running for office. Members of the public can attend.



**New Member Featured in LWVUS Storybank!**

Some of you may remember **Clint Weirck**, the young man who attended our Tea on April 2. We have been notified by National that his story will be featured in the online **LWVUS Storybook**. Writing about what motivated him to join the League of Women Voters this year, his paragraph is entitled "The Difference a Public Forum Makes!" Continuing on he writes, "Many times local issues in my community don't get the focus and attention to them that genuinely educates and engages the public...including me! Public forums my local league conducts makes me feel a true personal connection to local issues and candidates. Joining was only natural to support!"

So congratulations to Vera and all those hard working League members who did such an outstanding job in Voter Service this past year. Your hard work is paying off. We are all proud of you! We are all proud of Clint!

**Membership Memo**

Hello!

Our membership is holding steady at 105 members! The 100 Year Anniversary of Women Voting in California Celebration has generated some interest in membership as well as the Education Forum in February. We are expecting added attention after our Sustainability Program this Saturday as well. We are indeed a multifaceted organization and welcome new members from all those facets.

Just because we have reached 105 we can't rest on our laurels. We plan on being as active as ever-recruiting new members and contacting previous members. **You** can be one of our our best recruitment tools by **talking to your friends** and neighbors about the League. Let's keep on growing, our 2<sup>nd</sup> 50 years can be just as productive as the first!

We continue to make every effort to keep information coming your way, regular mail when necessary. Remember to visit our website: [www.lwvslo.org](http://www.lwvslo.org), where we try to keep you up to date posting added information as it happens.

Changes to your e-mail, phone number, or address should be sent to Arlene Powers, LWVSLO, and PO BOX 4210, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93403. Or you can email her at [aaupowers@charter.net](mailto:aaupowers@charter.net), or call 805-534-1139.

Arlene Powers, Membership Director,  
[aaupowers@charter.net](mailto:aaupowers@charter.net),



**Democracy is not a spectator sport**

## Observer Corps

### Nacimiento Project Commission

**Date:** February 24, 2011 4:00 PM

**Location:** Templeton Community Services District Offices

**Members Present:** Judith Dietch, Templeton CSD, Andrew Carter, City of San Luis Obispo, Grigger Jones, Chair, Atascadero MWC, John Hamon, Vice-Chair, City of El Paso de Robles

**Members Absent:** Frank Mecham, SLO County Flood Control

Dean Benedix, Division Manager for the Utilities Division of the County's Public Works Dept., is taking on the leadership role for the Commission meetings beginning with this meeting.

The first order of business was an introduction of the two new commission members, Judith Dietch and Andrew Carter. Grigger Jones was then elected as the new chair and John Hamon, the Vice-Chair.

**Project Status:** All of the construction is substantially complete as of mid-November, 2010. The District completed the 30-day start-up test on January 7, 2011. The Participant's Delivery Entitlement is now available for delivery. Transfer to the Operation and Maintenance Phase of the project occurred on February 1, 2011.

**Construction Phase:** The Design and Construction Phase of the project is nearing completion, estimated to be 96-percent complete as of December 31, 2010. It is estimated to be totally complete by May 1, 2011. There should be a savings at the conclusion of this phase.

**Design Activities:** The design engineering firm has assumed responsibility for correcting damage to the stainless steel intake pipe located

at the lake. The damage is the consequence of a design calculation error and omission. The design engineering firm is designing the repair. The repair will begin in mid-2011.

**Project Administration:** The county Public Works Department has taken over the administration of the project now.

There was a "Savings by Design" with PG&E, resulting in a check for \$387,962 given back to the project.

It has been declared that water in the amount of 10,095 acre-feet is available for the water year 2011, but to date, there have been no requests for that water. Currently, only San Luis Obispo is actually getting any of the water.

**Invasive Species Prevention:** Commission members Mecham and Dietch met with members of the Monterey Board on January 28, 2011. It was a very heartening meeting and much progress was made to attack the mussel prevention problem. Monterey County now understands the necessity of public education and inspection of boats entering the 2 lakes. Plans are underway to have inspections and training sessions for lake dwellers during the 2011 boating season, which is from Memorial Day in May until Labor Day in September. Budgeting the costs is being worked out as to how much each county will pay.

**Nacimiento Reserve Status:** Reservoir status is 59% full as of February 18, 2011, or 222,988 acre-feet of storage. After the recent rains, it is now 70% full. (Editor's note: As of end of March the lake is 100% full.)

**Budget Issues:** The preliminary budget was handed out to the commissioners for their review. It will be discussed at the next commission meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2011 at the Templeton Community Services District Offices.

Meeting was dismissed at 5:15PM. Report filed by Barbara Weymann and Dorothy Byles

## CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING

Each 10 years, after the census, new district lines are drawn for each electoral district for the federal congress, state senate, state assembly, and the boards of equalization districts, to balance out or equalize the districts based on population. The **California Redistricting Commission** was established as a result of ballot measures passed in 2009 and 2010 to have this redistricting done by members of the public rather than by legislators. Initial members for the Commission were selected randomly after a process of application & review by the auditors of the Bureau of State Audits for conflict of interest and qualification, and then the final members were chosen by the initial members. Under the law, the Commission must include 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 from neither of the two major political parties. The Commission began its work in January 2011 and held a public hearing for input in **San Luis Obispo on April 13, 2011**. There will be 39 other public hearings held around the state during this spring and summer.

At the hearing in SLO, there were about **100** people in the audience, including myself and two League representatives from Santa Barbara County. After listening, it was clear that people drove from Ventura County and Santa Barbara County, as well as from our own county for this hearing. The Commission had people who wanted to speak to them sign up in order of their arrival for a 3 minute presentation each. The Commission had maps of the state & counties, as well as population numbers for the various areas. They noted at the beginning that their charge is to draw districts that include 702,905 persons per federal congress person, 931,349 (+or- 5%) per state senator, and 465,674 (+or- 5%) per state assembly person. There are several other requirements for the various

districts' population criteria that the Commission described and included in handouts at the meeting.

At least **60 people spoke** to the Commission (I left after 3 hours of the hearing), several each **from SLO, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties**, and others where location was not clear to me. The Commission asked people to focus on Community of Interest. People talked about current district lines and their opinion about where lines should be drawn for the new districts. Several of the SLO County people talked about the Cuesta Grade as a dividing line for our county. Others pointed out that they believe SLO County has more in common with Monterey County and Santa Barbara & Ventura Counties than they do with Kern County (you may know that some of the current districts connect parts of SLO County with Kern County). There was some criticism and some support for the existing Congressional district that includes population from a narrow part of coastal land in Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey Counties. There were some former candidates for various political positions in the audience and some spoke to the Commission (although they had to very carefully explain that, based on the Commission's rules).

The Commission maintains a web-site at [www.RedistrictingCA.org](http://www.RedistrictingCA.org). The testimony at this hearing was recorded and videotaped and live-streamed so that it can be viewed at the website. Input can also be sent via email to the commission at [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov) or mailed to the Commission at 1130 K Street, Suite 101, Sacramento CA 95814. The handouts from the meeting are at their website, above, along with other information.

*Submitted by Vera Wallen*

**It's Tea Time!**



Twenty-six people joined us for tea, sandwiches, fruit and scones on April 2.



We're ready. This looks yummy!



Classic tea settings of china, silver and linens for all.



Good times with League friends.





LWVSLO BOARD MEMBERS 2010-2011

2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION League of Women Voters of SLO County

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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(\*Very Important)

Do not include this information in League Directory

Please select your class of Membership:

A voting member is at least 18 and a citizen.

Annual dues:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 Individual annual membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$85.00 Two Member Household

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Associate member (under 18 or not a citizen)

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me. I need to apply for assistance to pay for membership.

I've included an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make payment to:

League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County (LWVSLOCo) P.O. Box 4210, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

Thank you for your support!

Membership in the LWVSLOCo entitles you to national, state, and local membership in the league. Membership extends from July 1 of any calendar year through June 30 of the next year.

The League is nonpartisan. We do not support or oppose candidates. Join us. Add your voice to the work of the most respected and effective grassroots organization in this country.

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Training Advisor: Beverly King

