



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

VOTER

September 2011

Volume 52, Number 1

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Be an informed voter

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR LWVSLO

September 18 Sunday	Opening Meeting Luncheon SLO Country Club, Speakers: Jarratt & Hyman Call Emily for reservations: 927-1448	12:00 – 3:00 PM
October 4 Tuesday	Board Meeting Rabobank, Broad Street Branch, SLO Public Meeting Room	5:30 – 7:00
October 10 Monday	100 th Anniversary Celebration, CA Votes 4 Women Dallidet Adobet & Gardens, 1185 Pacific St., SLO Open to Public/Free Admission	4:00 – 7:00 PM
November 1 Tuesday	Board Meeting Rabobank, Broad Street Branch, SLO Public Meeting Room	5:30 – 7:00

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Co-Presidents' Message



Greetings from Emily and Sharon,

It's hard for us to believe that it is almost time for Opening Meeting. Seems it was only yesterday that we were together for 2010-11 Annual Meeting! We hope you all had an enjoyable summer. We know a lot of our members were busy participating in various League and Centennial activities.

Your board held its annual retreat Saturday, July 16, at Dottie Conner's and Sharon's home in San Luis Obsipo. Bev King, our Management Training Advisor, joined us along with Marguerite Bader and Marilee Hyman from our Nominating Committee. It was a productive meeting and we came away with good ideas and renewed enthusiasm.

The Centennial Committee has made its presence felt throughout the County with a booth in Mitchell Park in the City of San Luis Obispo on July 4th, and a float in both the Pismo Beach vintage car parade and the Arroyo Grande celebration of its 100 anniversary, and in August at the Day of Creative Women. League members were front and center, registering voters and encouraging folks to exercise their right to vote, pointing out the struggle women endured for this right. .

We will be continuing the celebrations at our Opening Meeting on Sunday, September 18, from noon to 3pm, when Trudy Jarratt will share with us the story of the women's movement here in San Luis Obispo County.

In the meantime, Voter Service Director, Vera Wallen, has not only been lining up members to register voters at the various Centennial events, but she put together an excellent panel on the City of San Luis Obispos's special election on Measures A & B, and also conducted a special homeowners' election.

We have developed an ambitious and exciting program schedule for the coming year, including continuing the national study on the role of the federal government in public education. Sharon is in touch with the state committee on the Initiative and Referendum study and is looking forward to helping to lead this study on the local level in 2012. And because all work and no play should not be the League way, Jan Potter has once again graciously agreed to open her home to us for our holiday party on Sunday, December 4. And there is more to reveal at the Opening Meeting! So join us Sunday, September 18, as we unfold our plans for 2011 -12 and learn about another, more contemporary group of determined SLO county women and what they hope to achieve.



LWVSLC members Sharon Whitney, Trudy Jarratt and Marilee Hyman happily share the news about their upcoming celebration with the Board of Supervisors.

**FOLLOW US TO THE LWVSLO
OPENING MEETING**



Join your **League friends** at the **San Luis Obispo County Club** on **Sunday, September 18, 12:00 noon** to celebrate the start of our 51st year of service to our city, county, state and country. Our **Opening Meeting** featured **speakers**, Trudy **Jarratt** and Marilee **Hyman**, will regale us with the history surrounding the **100 year anniversary** of California women gaining the right to vote on October 10, 1911. What part did San Luis Obispo County play? Were SLO women involved in the Suffragette movement? If so, do they have descendants in the area at present? They will answer all these questions and more as they tell us about the “Historic” celebration planned at the Dallidet Adobe & Gardens in San Luis Obispo on October 10, 2011. Mark your calendars, the public is invited and admission is free.

We are breaking with LWV tradition and **eating first and doing business later**. There will be a choice of a **chicken salad plate or an Asian vegetable wrap for an entree**. Lunch will also include a beverage and an always delicious SLOCC dessert for the reasonable price of **\$20**. Just think, no cooking, no dishes, good friends

to talk to and interesting stories to hear. **What a deal!**

Make your reservations by calling Emily Penfield 927-1448 (emilypenfield@yahoo.com) Sharon Whitney 543- 8182 (sharon@sharonwhitney.com) or colleen Ehrenberg 773-5009(cehrenberg@sbcglobal.net) You may email in your reservation, but ask for a reply to make sure they received your name and got it on the list. Our final number is due by **Wed. (14th) at 5 pm**. So be sure to make your reservations right away. If you would rather skip lunch, but want to come and enjoy the program and the company, let us know also. We will have a place set up for you.

Since **everyone will be paying at the door**, it is suggested you have your check made out before you arrive or your cash counted and ready to go. Let's start the new year off right and **Party Like it's 1911**

**PLANNING & TRAINING
HIGHLIGHT 2011-2012
BOARD RETREAT**

Sharon Whitney, Co-President for the coming year, welcomed the new board to her home for a planning retreat and training session on July 16, 2011. Bev King, our LWVC Management Training Advisor led off with a discussion of the duties of the Board of Directors. The eleven attendees learned Board responsibilities are (1) Financial Health of the organization and 2) Membership. The previous week she had e-mailed a highly recommended LWV National publication, “*ABC’S for a Streamlined League,*” which provided an organizational guide for effective leadership. Following a lively discussion, Mrs. King then conducted a practice exercise on “How to Plan for an Event” using the upcoming 40th anniversary of passage of Title IX as an event topic. Ideas were suggested and

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categorized for possible use in our community later in the year.

After a refill of coffee or juice, the group heard Emily Penfield, also Co-President for the next year, review the 2010-2011 year for our League. She felt the League had been most successful in increasing our visibility in the community through our Voter Service activities and Adopt-A-Poll efforts. All of these things were done in a timely manner, utilizing a large percentage of our total membership. Another goal was to complete the needed corrections for "Know Your County", which has been accomplished. It is now on our website as well as the County's. We still need to complete the Spanish translation and get it on line with some hard copies available for distribution to appropriate venues. Emily stated that she feels we also need to work on increasing publicity for our events. We had several excellent programs and the only one well attended was the one with donated publicity funds. In addition to publicity, Emily feels we need to develop a consistent process for thanking members who donate money beyond their dues. The board decided to discuss this at an upcoming board meeting.

Program planning for 2011-2012 will center on our participation in the LWVC Study on Education. Vera Wallen and Pati Dale will provide background and resource information for the education study meetings, Joanne Milborn will serve as recorder and Sharon Whitney will be the discussion leader. We are also planning a panel on local groundwater problems as well as continuing our celebration of living a "greener" life on the Central Coast.

After a break for lunch, the Board convened to hear a report from our treasurer, Maggie Higgins. She distributed forms she would like board members to use when asking to be reimbursed for League expenses. The problem of proper contribution acknowledgments, especially in the form of extra money at dues

time, was brought up and it was decided that the President, or Co-Presidents this year, as opposed to the treasurer or membership chairman, were the appropriate ones to write the thank you letter. Our secretary, Colleen Ehrenberg, agreed to write a sample letter to cover donations made with dues renewal and another for separate donations taking place during the year. It was decided that Glen Silloway and Boyd Horne will be asked to serve on the Budget Committee. The Board's representatives will be Maggie Higgins, Treasurer and Pati Dale. Reports from various officers and directors followed. Of special interest, was Cindy Marie Absey's report about the plans and events scheduled by the Celebration for 100 Years of Women Voting in California proceeding smoothly. She is encouraged by the enthusiasm of the committee, the participation of groups and individuals throughout the county and the donations they have received for their big celebration at the Dallidet Adobe on October 10.

A final announcement was made about Opening Meeting to be held Sunday, September 18th from 12 to 3 pm at the SLO Country Club. We will be starting with lunch and continuing on with the business meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30

Democracy is not a spectator sport

LWVUS CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR EPA

*In the following August letter sent to all LWV leaders, Elizabeth MacNamara outlined the strategy that National will use to defend The Clean Air Act. Our voice in favor of this public health issue has assumed greater importance since Sept. 2, when President Obama announced that the **Clean Air Regulations will remain the same until 2013** when they are scheduled for a review. However, other components of the Clean Air Act, such as increased fuel usage standards and lower standards for mercury discharge from power plants have been enacted.*

Dear League Leader,

I am writing you today to bring news of the next steps in our work on clean air. As you know, the League has been a leader in enacting, improving and protecting the Clean Air Act for decades. With your help as a League leader, our organization can continue our special role in protecting public health through this historic law.

This message is being sent to you as a follow up to the webinar we conducted on clean air efforts with state League leaders this past Wednesday. We were pleased to have had about 40 leaders participate on that call.

This email and the materials in the link below explain the next phase of our work to defend the Clean Air Act and the EPA's role in enforcing it. You can watch the webinar in its entirety if you wish at <http://lww.adobeconnect.com/p167s8eixeo/>. This message is going to all state and local presidents and all webinar participants, with the exception of those where state League presidents requested that they be the ones to communicate with their local leaders.

On Wednesday, we discussed the exciting new way we'll be working for clean air -- through

what we're calling the "**Clean Air Promise.**" The Clean Air Promise is designed to allow the public, elected officials and community leaders at all levels to send a strong message that clean air and the EPA have overwhelming public support. The EPA is not a budget item but rather is vital to the health of future generations who, without it, will be just as endangered as polar bears and penguins. It is time for our elected officials to respond to people, not polluters. We are working on this effort with a broad coalition of environmental and public health organizations.

The Clean Air Promise effort will have three components. The first is the launch of the campaign through a **League-sponsored television ad** which will appear on network stations in Washington, DC and on selected cable outlets starting next week. The ad will feature real children suffering from asthma, a condition aggravated by dirty air, and a request by the mother of such a child that everyone make the promise. The second component will be a grassroots effort by the League, as well as our partners in the public health and environmental communities, **to raise awareness of the public health effects of pollution and the importance of the EPA** by asking elected officials, community leaders and citizens to make the promise. The third component is **collecting personal stories of those impacted by air pollution.** The public will be directed to peoplenotpolluters.org (which currently is under development) to make the promise and share their stories. Just like the personal stories that draw members to the League, personal experience makes this issue real.

In terms of the funding, we are not alone in this effort. We have received a grant from **NRDC**, member of the Partnership Project, for the launching our effort and we continue to fundraise for our work on the Clean Air Promise. You may see television ads by the **American**

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Lung Association and by other groups which drive home the message that pollution is a public health issue.

As leaders in your communities and in League, I would like to thank you for your commitment to protecting the public health and environment and for all of your hard grassroots work to advance those protections. Your feedback on what you need from LWVUS to be successful in this work has been invaluable as we are moving this important work forward.

Together with our coalition friends, we are **resetting the debate from the false issue of lost jobs and over-regulation to the real issue -- public health.** As we expected, **efforts to eviscerate the EPA are continuing.** The August recess is approaching and the League, in partnership with environmental and public health organizations, will ask members of Congress, other elected officials, key community leaders and the public to make the Clean Air Promise.

The materials that will explain and help you get started on the "Clean Air Promise" are linked below and can always be found at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=17789>.

In League,
Elisabeth

[The Clean Air Promise](#) - An Overview

[Talking Points for the Clean Air Promise](#) - For Internal Use Only

[League of Women Voters Launches Clean Air Promise Campaign – This link opens PDF file](#)

[EPA Proposes Stronger Ozone Air Quality Standard – Fact Sheet \(This link opens PDF file\)](#)

[Power Plant Mercury and other Toxics Standards – Fact Sheet \(This link opens PDF file\)](#) (These links are not "hot" due to PDF process for publishing Voter)

League of Women Voters
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Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-429-1965

** Bold Font added by Editor as Comprehension Aide.*

WE'RE MARKING OUR CALENDARS!



We don't want to forget the "Votes for Women" celebration at the Dallidet Adobe & Gardens Oct. 10.

Open to the public, free admission, free food, complimentary wine-tasting and lemonade

Honoring SLO County's elected women...
Past and Present

Music by the Sweet Adelines &
The Crustacea Jazz Band

Come in Period Costume or Not!

Observer Corps

What: SLO County Redistricting Meeting
When: July 19, 2011

At Vera's request, I attended the county's hearing on county redistricting today. Staff did their Power Point presentation discussing federal primary and secondary criteria for redistricting. Primary criteria include roughly equal population in each district and no discrimination against language or ethnic representation. These primary criteria were deemed met by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for each option the staff presented. Secondary criteria include such things as respecting topographical and geographical boundaries, cohesiveness, contiguity and integrity of communities of interest. It is here that staff's options faced challenges in public comments, particularly in Templeton, both today and in their prior presentation to the north county area. No other major issues arose, but several minor ones were mentioned: the city of San Luis Obispo cannot be in one district because of its population size and location in the center of the county; the most growth has been in north and south counties; Cal Poly has added some additional housing on-campus that must be factored in; variance in district need not be as low as 2% and can approach 10%, but 3-6% variance is ideal [according to an opinion by the Attorney General].

The presentation omitted putting up the website address for the public to access the maps; at my request (during recess), it was subsequently posted:
http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Redistricting_2011.htm.

Public comment today focused on Templeton. Residents define themselves as much by the

school district lines as by the Community Services District boundaries and similar boundaries. One resident also objected to being in the same district as any Cal Poly student, suggesting that, whereas in the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, students were not rioting [he seriously said that!] today's students are not welcome in his district [I kid you not!]. The same guy or maybe a different one suggested that the inland area does not want to be represented by anyone who also represents the coast.

Supervisors responded to Templeton folk that every supervisor represents the whole county, and that despite differences in communities of interest, cohesiveness of the whole county is important, that Cal Poly is a respected part of the county, and that permanent residents and tourists are all important contributors to the well-being of the county.

With that said, a consensus emerged that Options A and D were not viable, and that staff should go forward focusing on Options B and C. Moreover between B and C, B seemed preferred over C as involving a more incremental, and therefore, superior change option. So, staff now has this direction from the Board: A and D are out; B and C are acceptable; B is superior to C.

There was also discussion about when the first hearing on this direction would occur. Originally staff had set the next hearing for September 13. But, with this direction received, they decided the next hearing could be sooner--either on August 16 or 23. There will be a second hearing when the BOS is likely to pass an ordinance as to the Option to implement. That hearing is currently scheduled for Sept 27. The absolute deadline for implementation is October 27, so the plan will be in effect for the November elections. Any questions? Check out the maps at the website above, or give me or Vera a call or email. *Submitted by Sharon Whitney*

A Message From MEMBERSHIP

And now we begin another year. To paraphrase, **"Another year another start, another chance to do our part"**; I don't remember where I learned that, but it applies to how our League works.....each of us participating as we are able to further the good works already in place.

Many members value the friendships of the organization. Perhaps it is because **"Birds of a feather flock together"**. But it's nice to have a support group with whom we feel at home.

Over the years it has seemed that new members have lacked a proper introduction. so this year I intend to place the biographies of new members in the Voter so that when you meet them in person, you can start a meaningful conversation and they will feel more welcome. We will begin with Maureen Fosberg and Dawn Ortiz Legg, both of San Luis Obispo.

As you think of people who might enjoy doing what we do, tell them about the League and ask if they might join us. Some people do not realize that we are **non-partisan**, so be sure to mention that.

Elinor Kogan, Membership Director 544-1215
ikek@sbcglobal.net

"New Birds in Our Flock"

Maureen Fosberg

A native Californian, Maureen grew up in Burbank, CA., but has lived in San Luis Obispo since 1979. She went back to college as an adult and graduated from Cal Poly in 2003 with a Political Science degree. Presently, she works a few days a month at a local winery's tasting room pouring wine. A second part-time job for the SLO Chamber of Commerce takes up more of her time every month. She is justifiably proud of her 22 year old daughter,

Kirsten, who just graduated from Yale with an archeology degree. Kirsten is working on her Masters through Rice University and is digging in Mali, Africa at this time. Of course, Maureen misses her daughter, but it helps that she is newly engaged. Her fiance runs an insurance agency in downtown San Luis. She is also a member of the Central Coast Women's League, a service club that raises funds for non-profits in the community. She states, "I joined LWV because I wanted to get more involved in all aspects of our community." She knew Cindy Marie Absey was part of the League and asked her to come to a meeting. She says she has really enjoyed meeting the other members and joined the committee to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of California Women Gaining the Right to Vote. At present, she is looking forward to attending the celebration at the Dallidet Adobe in October.

Dawn Ortiz Legg

Born and raised in Illinois, Dawn Legg has been a resident of SLO County for nearly 20 years. A community activist and engaged citizen, Dawn's professional role is to communicate all aspects of First Solar's Topaz Solar Farm, a 550 megawatt renewable energy project located in eastern San Luis Obispo County.

As the construction of Topaz commences, Dawn's role has evolved into Construction Liaison, again communicating project development and insuring that all concerns from the local community and SLO County in general are heard and addressed.

Prior to Topaz, Dawn's career was primarily involved in the field of electronics and manufacturing in U.S. and international markets. Her work involved regulatory compliance, sales, marketing and logistics.

At mid-career in 2007, Dawn and daughter Georgia, moved to Bologna, Italy where she earned a Master in International Public Policy at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, with a focus on climate change and science and technology policy.

We welcome both Maureen and Dawn to the League and are excited to see the enthusiasm and expertise they are bringing to our membership.



2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
League of Women Voters of SLO County
Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

*E-mail _____
(*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:

_____ \$65.00 Individual annual membership

_____ \$90.00 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.

LWVSLO BOARD MEMBERS

2011-2012

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