



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

VOTER

June - July 2011

Volume 51, Number 7

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Be an informed voter

SUMMER CALENDAR LWVSLO

June 30 Thursday	New Board/Old Board Luncheon Cafe Roma, Railroad Plaza SLO	12:00 – 2:00 PM
July 10 Sunday	ARROYO GRANDE CENTENNIAL PARADE March with 100 th Anniversary of Women Voting Celebration (Contact Trudy Jarratt for details)	
August Saturday	BOARD PLANNING RETREAT Date and place To Be Announced Later	9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Sept 6 Tuesday	Board Meeting Rabobank, Broad Street Branch, SLO Public Meeting Room	5:30 – 7:30
Sept 18 Sunday	OPENING MEETING, ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION(S) SLO Country Club, TrudyJarratt, Presenter Reservations requested, more info later	12:00 – 2:30 PM

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Message from the President

What a way to end the year as President of the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County, having lunch at State Convention with the President of the League of Women Voters of the United States! And just to prove it, here we are, Emily and Elizabeth.



It was an exciting year. You all should be very proud of your board. There is a motto in League, "Total Board Responsibility," and your 2010-11 board certainly lived up to that motto. Cindy Marie Absey set up a challenging program for the year and oversaw the planning and implementation. Marge Johnson started it all off with her creative Table Topics exercise at Opening Meeting. Then along came Sharon Whitney in October chairing the regional LWVC workshop. Ann Havlik and husband Neil sponsored a full-house panel discussion on the hot topic of the Carrizo Plain solar power proposals. Jan Potter opened her lovely home to us in December and Julie Rodewald entertained us all with election day vignettes. Colleen Ehrenberg and Sharon saw to it that we had a lively program planning session in January, with Marilee Hyman doing a brilliant job of Emcee. In February, Cindy Marie worked with Dr. Julian Crocker to create an excellent panel

on the Role of the Federal Government in Education, a great way to start off our national study. Tea with Trudy the first weekend in April gave us all a chance for a social get-together in Arlene's lovely home. Then we celebrated our annual Gathering of Green in SLO Botanic Garden, May found Pati Dale, Ann Havlik, Vera Wallen and Sharon Whitney in Ventura at state convention. Trudy Jarratt assumed responsibility for the entire affair, Arlene Powers was in charge of all the volunteers (including yours truly, Marilee Hyman and Dotty Connor), and our own Joan Rich presided as Parliamentarian. And that's not all! Consider Vera Wallen and those four elections, with Marilee Hyman setting up Adopt-A-Polls at all of them! .And behind the scenes, waving her magic wand, was our wonderful Public Relations professional, Galen Ricard. My thanks to all of you, it was an honor and a privilege to work with you.
As ever, Emily

DO YOU LOVE A PARADE?

Trudy Jarratt is looking for women and men to march in the July 10 Arroyo Grande Centennial Celebration Parade. She and a contingent of like-minded friends will be wearing yellow sashes proclaiming "Votes for Women" in red letters commemorating the 100th anniversary of a woman's right to vote in California. That historic vote took place on October 9, 1911. Can you imagine depending on men to vote to give you your civil rights? But they did and Arroyo Grande had the highest percentage of yes votes in the county – 72%! We can't march with the original Suffragettes, but we can march in the Arroyo Grande parade and honor both centennial celebrations.

ANNUAL MEETING A HIT! NEW OFFICERS ELECTED, 50-YEAR MEMBERS LISTED

A well attended gathering at San Luis Obispo Country Club concluded a successful year for LWVSLO. Our president, Emily Penfield, moved through the order of business quickly after Joan Rich, parliamentarian, explained the rules of parliamentary procedure for conducting the annual meeting to the group. Forty-two members were present, well over the quorum needed to carry on business.

Our treasurer, Maggie Higgins, submitted her report stating that we had \$4000 more than last year, but cautioned this was a one time increase as we had extra elections this year and had also received insurance rebates from LWVC, as well as generous contributions from several members during the year. In fact, we were told our Voter Service income will most likely decrease as the County intends to switch many of the minor elections to "vote by mail" in the future.

Glenn Silloway, Chair of the Budget Committee, presented the proposed budget as printed in the annual meeting packet. The annual dues increase of \$5 for both individual and household memberships was discussed. The need to increase the small amount of money per member that the League is left to work with after MPM is paid to state and national organizations was contrasted with the possible downside of deterring both new and old memberships. A fine example of the "Civil Discourse" voted to be encouraged in our programs and our city and county governments next year resulted as members discussed their budget views. Cindy Marie Absey related the difficulties in program planning with a 0 budget the past year. (The 2011-2012 budget includes \$500 for program planning.) Susan Devine stated her belief that

the LWVSLO needed to expand its outreach through these improved programs. Another member added that she opposed this increase because it would be one of several she was dealing with on a tight personal budget. Frank Jarratt offered an amendment to the motion to remove the \$5 increase in both categories. The amendment was defeated and the *budget was approved as presented.

Three of the four delegates sent to state convention in Ventura were present to report on their activities and observations. Vera Wallen, Pati Dale and Sharon Whitney gave brief accounts of their days at convention. They all agreed that the experience provided valuable insights into the League's function and influence and was a lot of fun as well. Sharon's diary of her experiences at Convention will be included later in the Voter.

The President's Report was next on the agenda. Emily reviewed our past year and stated that every month she continued to be amazed as the programs and activities grew in complexity and success. She felt a lot of the credit initially belonged to Cindy Marie Absey for such thorough planning, but that all the membership had pulled together and done their part every month. Perhaps the most gratifying aspect this year was the increased League visibility from the overflow attendance at the Carriso Plains Solar Power Forum and the greatly increased audience gained from taping the Education Forum for repeated viewing on cable TV. Emily reminisced about the good times too, the Holiday party at Jan Potter's honoring Julie Rodewald and our first authentic "Tea Party" celebrating Trudy Jarratt's success as LWVC 1st Vice President and her return to our local league.

Of course, you can not talk about successful League programs without putting Voter Service at the top of our Brag List, which is what we did when asked for three things to brag about at the

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opening ceremony at Convention. When a number totaling two-thirds of your membership collaborates in 17 Candidate and Pro & Con Forums and two complete Adopt-A-Polls, eight elections in all, that is outstanding participation! Thus, it was not a surprise to anyone except the honoree, when Vera Wallen was awarded the "Sara Award" for excellence in Voter Service. This year it was Vera's job to organize and staff the Forums in the fall before Nov. 6, as well as monitor and tabulate homeowner elections that take place throughout the year. Vera thanked the many members who had worked and helped over the past year and reminded everyone not to get complacent, she still had their e-addresses and phone numbers!

Sharon Whitney had the pleasure of presenting the next awards. It is not often that six people in the same league have been members for **Fifty Years!** But that is the case this year. 50 Year Membership Certificates were presented to Jan Clucas, (our 1st President), Arlene Chandler, Glennadeane Dovey, Priscilla Graham, Emily Penfield and Adele Stern.

The enthusiasm meter went off the scale as Trudy Jarratt and Marilee Hyman got up to speak about their efforts as co-chairs of the Countywide Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Women Having the Right to Vote. They talked about the varied membership of the committee, the strengths of the individual members and of the different activities being planned for throughout the summer and into the fall culminating October 10 on the anniversary of the California vote. (An historic note, that first day and on into the second it was assumed the measure has failed. Many big city newspaper headlines announced it had gone down to defeat, but it was the rural counties whose results came in much slower, such as San Luis Obispo, that carried the day for Suffrage and caused the measure to pass.)

Rolls and delicious chicken salads were making their appearance at each table as the Nominating Committee presented their slate of officers and directors. Dotty Conner moved to accept the nomination, it was seconded and passed along with the butter and salad dressing! New Officers will be Co-presidents- Emily Penfield (1 yr. Only) & Sharon Whitney (2 yrs), 1st vice president – Ann Havlik, Secretary – Colleen Ehrenberg. Board of Directors elected for 2-year terms Donna Damon and Elinor Kogan, a 3rd seat will be vacant until filled later. Officers remaining on the Board until 2012 are: 2nd vice president- Vera Wallen, Treasurer – Maggie Higgins, Directors remaining on the Board until 2012 are: Cindy Marie Absey and Pati Dale.

Our guest speaker, Adam Hill, chair of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, took the microphone just as the first tray of chocolate mousse bobbed over our heads. Speaking eloquently of the challenges he faces on the Board, Supervisor Hill feels one of his jobs is to listen, many people appearing before the board just want to be heard. His biggest budget problem relates to taking care of others and keeping intact as much of the social safety network as possible. Often he says that a position, such as slow growth, can be seen as a contradiction, condemned by some and commended by others. As money grows scarce and politics becomes more polarized, progress is difficult and consensus almost impossible. But he feels that agreement is attainable in all disputes and that the starting point is for both sides to say "We love where we live". This confection of an idea entered our consciousness just as the last bite of chocolate mousse melted on our tongues. A fitting end to a lovely afternoon.

*See note in Membership Memo about new dues.



Central Coast Co-Hosts Celebrate Convention

More than 250 individuals attended the LWVC biennial Convention in Ventura the weekend of May 12-15. As one of the co-hosts, San Luis Obispo LWV was exceptionally well represented by 10 members, including four delegates. Serendipitously coinciding with the 100th anniversary of California women getting the right to vote on October 10, 2011, many of the attendees wore distinctive yellow sashes with red lettering that commemorated this important event. At that time in 1911, California was the sixth and largest state gaining suffrage in the national campaign. The first speaker at the Friday luncheon, held at the top of the Crowne Plaza Hotel Ventura Beach was Beverly Merrell Kelley, professor of Communication at California Lutheran University. She noted this anniversary and its importance to the history of women and the League and commented on the irony that Ventura County was one of only eight counties in the state in which the vote to allow women's suffrage did not pass.

This was the first time the California League has traveled away from the Northern or Southern population centers to hold its convention. Trudy Jarratt, LWVC 1st Vice President and in charge

of convention planning was effusive in her praise for the Central Coast coalition of Leagues- San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Santa Maria Valley lead by the Ventura County League. "They did an outstanding job of planning and implementing those plans. The host League, Ventura County, has done an especially wonderful job of welcoming everyone and presenting activities to showcase the diversity of their beautiful area."

The four-day conference allowed our group to make plans for the next two years. This is what Janis Hirohama of Manhattan Beach, outgoing League president, feels is so unique about our organization. "We are truly a grass-roots organization, driven by what the members want. Part of what gives us credibility as an organization is that our support or opposition for issues is based on a process. That's the process of the league. We believe in the value of study and discussion. Some may disagree, and everyone will have a voice", Hirohama asserted.

Incoming League president, Jennifer Waggoner of San Francisco, when asked what she felt would be the biggest problem for the League in the next two years replied that it would be the general lack of "civil discourse" in the population. She feels it is hindering open, honest discussion in many areas. Jenny also said the biggest issues facing California voters are redistricting and the budget. She said the League is working to coordinate workshops to give us all a better background in understanding what needs to be done.

Interestingly enough, on Saturday, the Luncheon speaker was Katcho Achadjian, 33rd District Assemblyman from San Luis Obispo who spoke on "Civility In Politics". Newly elected to the state assembly, he told how he had taken his life long commitment to civility and good manners from the local level where he was on the Board of Supervisors to Sacramento. Evidently with

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some success, as he and Fiona Ma, Assembly Speaker Pro Tem, a democrat and LWVC convention speaker as well, joined together to sponsor the "Cordial Caucus". His message was well received by the group and there were several follow up questions.

Following an afternoon of workshops of your own choosing (See Sharon's Convention Diary), we again assembled at the top of the Crowne Plaza, its ring of picture windows taking full advantage of the view as the sun was dropping into the ocean behind us. In this setting it was easy to enjoy our keynote speaker, Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the LWVUS as well as the steak and salmon served at our banquet. She spoke about her life as a wife, mother, lawyer, juvenile court judge, League member and now National President. We could all relate when she talked about her son and his school problems and will he find a job, then she turned to her hopes for our country and the importance of securing equal voting rights and effective representation for all. When considering the future of the League, she feels our efforts in Voter Service are our most important job. People still need meet their candidates and be familiar with the issues in order for our democratic form of government to work.

Believe it or not, more caucus meetings were scheduled after the banquet as well as a Social Hour celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women Voting at 9:00 hosted by Trudy Jarratt, and well attended by all the local members.

Up bright and early and in their place by 9 am., everyone listened to the preliminary reports and Voter Service and Communication awards given to local leagues before "the work", program debate and adoption, began. The board had recommended 1. That all existing LWVC program positions be retained 2. No new state study or concurrence begin, and because so many were concerned it was recommended that 3. We update the study for the Initiative and

Referendum Process. Also 4. Proposed Issues for Education and Advocacy were (a) Redistricting Implementation (b) State and Local Finances, including education about the financing of education and (c) Initiative and Referendum: Community Education. After a spirited debate concerning some of the non-recommended items, during which Joan Rich was called upon several times to render decisions as Parliamentarian, it was time to vote. Often the voice vote was very close and three times we had to get out our red and green yea and nay ballots and pass the baskets for a ballot count. These are exciting times in a delegate's day! In the end, only one non-recommended item passed. Later, the budget was passed without fanfare before we broke for lunch. The new local league presidents, including Sharon Whitney, met for a President's Luncheon, while the rest of us happily walked down the beach for sea food.

The final business of the convention was electing officers for the next two years. After a few remarks by the new president and technology advocate, Jennifer Waggoner, who has been Communication Director during the last term, and the mandatory announcements by the new secretary, the convention was adjourned. All ten attendees from San Luis Obispo felt this was an outstanding convention, held at a most accommodating hotel in a beautiful setting. If you have doubts, you can ask Trudy Jarratt, 1st Vice Pres. LWVC, Joan Rich, Parliamentarian, Arlene Powers, Volunteer Coordinator, Pati Dale, Delegate, Ann Havlik, Delegate, Vera Wallen, Delegate, Sharon Whitney, Delegate, Emily Penfield, Volunteer, Dotty Connor, Volunteer, Marilee Hyman, Volunteer. Maggie Higgins also attended a pre-convention treasurer's workshop on May 12.

[Check out this excellent article in the Ventura Star about the convention Sun. May 15, www.vcstar.com/news/2011/may/14/league-of-women-voters-staying-relevant-in-its...]

Diary of a Delegate by Sharon G. Whitney

Day 1, Thursday:

Mom and I arrived to the Crown Hotel about 3pm, the same time Maggie Higgins did. Arlene Powers and Marilee Hyman were already “womaning” the registration desk.

Maggie and I attended the Treasurer’s meeting together. I learned our local league is a 501(c) 4 organization rather than a 501 (c) 3 one, what the difference means, and why we are what we are. Maggie knew all this before, of course. A 501 (c) 4 organization is allowed unlimited lobbying, and our dues are not tax-deductible. A 501 (c) 3 can use only 20% of its revenue for lobbying, and dues are tax deductible. While we could switch to a 501 (c) 3, there is a one-time filing cost associated with it, and the book-keeping is more complicated. Some leagues are seeing an advantage of switching because the average expenditures that goes to lobbying is about 5%.

I also learned that “advocacy” is a broader term than “action.” Essentially, “action” is lobbying, but “advocacy” need not be lobbying. We can do advocacy on our positions when we do programs, above and beyond “pros and cons.” And, we would also be crossing the line is if we said “vote for/against Candidate X” on the issue.

Day 2, Friday

I was up bright and early this morning to attend a Parliamentary Procedure workshop, given by Trudy Jarrett and JoAn Rich. It was mostly for people who want to propose a non-recommended program item. But, they also had to overcome something in the rules. JoAn guided them through that procedural matter. The overall impact is that non-recommended items were moved ahead of recommended items in the schedule of debate.

Outgoing President Janis R. Hirohima gave a speech that explained the Japanese origins of her middle initial R, and the Japanese name it stands for that she was given by her grandfather. He was an inspiration for her participation in the League’s pro-democracy work, despite his own difficulties in becoming a citizen in the early part of the 20th century.

Our luncheon speaker was a historian who spoke about women’s suffrage in California.

In the afternoon, Emily Penfield and I attended a workshop titled “**The Federal Role in Education: Making it Local.**” It is a new study at the national level and very informative.

My detailed notes on this workshop are as follows: Barbara , Joanne, and Dr. Picus were presenters

Public Education is big business, like WalMart
Issues: Funding, Performance, Reallocating
resources to best uses for learning, The Future
Funding:

State funding of K-8 has decreased 5% since 2008
Federal funding has increased from 9% in 2008 to 13% in 2010

Local funding is holding steady

States are running deficits to fund education but they are supposed to have a balanced budget. California is different; 60% of education is funded by property taxes, other state funds for education are 21%. About 62% goes for “instruction” (about 50 billion)

Performance Approach to learning: Use tests to understand needs

Set high goals

Establish new curriculum and new texts

Invest in professional development, Teachers should collaborate

Strategies for struggling kids are needed

Empower teachers in multiple institutional roles

Use research-based best practices

Teachers and administration should collaborate.

Pressures on Costs:

Smaller classes

More electives (but core courses are more important)

Automatic pay increases

Growing benefit costs, such as health care and pensions

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Reallocating Resources:

Smaller core classes are better (15 kids, if possible); but not enough research to use this as a model—it's anecdotal for now.

Support for art, music, and PE (using coaches for struggling kids gives schools more bang for the buck)

Resources for struggling kids: tutors, extended days and summer school, special ed

Counselors for pupil support, Administrators, librarians, subs, clerical staff

Supervisory aids (not in the classroom, but in halls, getting on buses, etc)

Technology for skills assessment

Central administration

Strategies:

See www.picus.com; lpicus@usc.edu

Be flexible about class size

Allow time for teacher collaboration

Professional Development and resources for struggling students may be more important than class size.

Do We Have Enough Money?

In California, NO

20 states spend more

20 states spend less

10 spend about the same

Does Federal Money Help? YES.

62 billion spent in 2010-2011; Am Recovery Act spent 100 billion in 2 years

Race to the top got only \$5 billion, but it had a big impact on public policy.

Q and A: "Common Core Standards" helps CA look better

Gates and other foundations help

MAKING IT LOCAL:

Form a local study committee (Vera, Pati, others)

Start studies now

Look on line for reading material on history, standards/assessment/funding & equity

NOV 30: Consensus Report is Due

Each local league does one report on-line

Consensus questions being developed

Some terms:

National = nationwide

Federal = government mandated & funded

National standards are not written by the

government, but "race to top" required a national program

Curriculum and standards are not the same thing.

There is resource book called "Education Source Resource Cards"—should be able to get at LWVC/LWVUS

Consensus questions must be turned in by the end of November 2012.

Emily, Ann Havlik, Pati Dale, Mom, and I met for dinner in the hotel's dining room. We had excellent food, good ambiance and very enjoyable conversations.

Day 3, Saturday

I was up at 6 am. to attend a 7.am. meeting with several state board members, including Trudy and Janis. The subject was "**A Conversation About Our Future.**" The state board was there to listen to whatever anyone wanted to bring up. One subject of interest was how to find our brand niche in the new and crowded marketplace of politics and the media, and to participate in issue advocacy without losing sight of our principles. Some issue ads in Massachusetts and Missouri were brought up as presenting image problems for the League.

Other interesting points were:

1. We need to brand our information for those seeking information.
2. We need to update our outreach methods and message without compromising our principles.
3. We need to balance between "sound-bites" and "lengthy nuanced" messages.
4. We need to fact-check and not repeat false statements just because we want to present balance.
5. We need to forward Smart Voter and Easy Voter Guide to friends and family.
6. We need to recruit interns to help us interface with new social network media.
7. We need to recognize that many of our members may be "virtual."
8. Locals need to share their positive and negative experiences with State.

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9. We need to get "Advocacy Post-Cards" to hand out to people.

10. We should partner with other groups when possible.

11. We should use community access TV, and public service announcements.

In the afternoon we debated non-recommended program items; 3 were key: a) single payer health; b) a concurrence on prisons and criminal justice; and c) using League principles to evaluate election systems, including proportional representation.

Katcho was our lunch-time speaker. He inspired the audience with his biography and belief in the importance of civil discourse.

This afternoon I attended a workshop on "Watching Our Cities." Ann attended one on sustainable communities. Vera Wallen attended one on Voter Service. And Pati attended one on Membership.

My detailed notes about this workshop are as follows:

Everyone is thinking about the City of Bell and whether or not their own city is similarly hiding money. Do an investigation that compares similar cities with respect to the following items:

Budgets--% administration, public safety, parks, compensation, tenure, benefits, e.g., for City Managers, District Attorneys, and Chief Execs (Police, Fire, etc)

How much is being privatized, using outside contracts and vendors?

Level of satisfaction among residents

Ease of Getting information

Look at Contracts of City Managers and Settlement Agreements they make

North Coast San Diego Observer Corp used as a Model

2 reports/year as a general meeting—"Action"

2 times a year summarize in the Voter—it's good way to recruit new members

Go out in teams of two, one experienced, one not

Information Audits—keep it simple; do an audit of records management; how much is being made public?

Engage existing members

Use student interns

Train community members, including high school students

Trudy hosted the SLO group for wine and goodies in her room before the banquet!

LWVUS President McNamara was our banquet keynote speaker. She talked about the League's brand being Voter Service, education and advocacy, and democracy.

There was an opportunity to party after the dinner, but I decided to call it a day.

Sunday, Day 4

This is the day we did most of our voting on program and the new board.

Also, I attended the President's Luncheon as an in-coming "co-president." I got to sit at the table with LWVUS President McNamara, and LWVC Janis Hirohima, and Bonnie Hamlin, the state Membership Director. I shared that honor with two other newbies, a co-president from Santa Barbara and someone else I did not get much of a chance to talk with. We did an exercise where we reflected on what leadership means, our own strengths and weaknesses as a leader. I thought my strengths were an ability to think outside the box and be innovative. I thought my weakness was not giving enough positive feedback to people. I was also asked to name a model for each. I named Jenny Waggoner for the "outside the box" quality, and Trudy Jarrett and Emily Penfield for being fantastic at giving people positive feedback.

Dues Change

As of July 1 there will be an individual dues change from \$60 to \$65. The household dues will also increase by \$5 to \$90. Scholarship money is available for anyone who is having difficulty paying for all or part of their dues this year. Contact Emily Penfield or Maggie Higgins if you would like to apply for scholarship monies.

Editor's Note: Even though this is not the usual Observer Corps Report, I feel there is such interest for these few months, we'll reprint the summary.

100 Year Celebration Steering Committee Meeting Summary

May 26, 2011,

County Clerk-Recorder Offices

Call to Order: 5:30 pm by Marilee Hyman

Members Present:

Marilee Hyman, LWVSLOC Rep.; Alt. Chair, Emily Penfield, LWVSLOC president, Cindy Marie Absey, LWVSLO Board Director, Vicki Janssen, CA 33rd Assembly District Director, Susan Devine, County Board of Supervisors Legislative Aide, Jan Marx, San Luis Obispo Mayor, Nancy Johnson, Morro Bay Councilwoman, Shelly Higginbotham, Pismo Beach Mayor, Angie King, immediate past president SLO County Women's Center; community activist, Vivian Krug, South County Historical Society, Nancy Castle, Morro Bay Historical Society Board Director and AGP Founding Partner, Gerry Johnson, President, SLO Republican Women Federated, Dodie Williams, SLO Republican Women Federated, Lynn Janeway, AAUW IBC SLO Branch, Margaret Esther, Asst. Director, San Luis Obispo County Library, Ellen Sheffer, SLCUSD Trustee, Christina Kaviani, Coordinator, Gender Equity Center, Cal Poly

Members Absent:

Trudy Jarratt, Chair, LWVC First Vice President and SLOCO member, Julie Rodewald, SLO County Clerk-Recorder, Dr. Julian Crocker, SLO County Superintendent of Education, Duane Picanco, Paso Robles Mayor, Marcia Torgerson, Atascadero City Clerk, Caren Ray, Arroyo Grande Mayor Pro-Tem, Tom O'Malley, Atascadero Mayor, Charlotte Alexander, Cuesta College Board Trustee, Susan Updegrave

AAUW, Roger Castle, Treasurer, Morro Bay Historical Society, Karen Bright, Grover Beach Councilwoman, Jacqueline Frederick, Esq., Nipomo representative

Subcommittee Members and Guests:

Dick Miller, Historical Committee chair
Chandra Corley, Event Committee chair
Kathleen Cairns, Cal Poly History/WGS professor.

Committee Reports as follows:

Website: Vivian Krug demonstrated the Celebration website.

<http://www.votes4women.org/> Vivian explained that the site is designed to be a permanent resource. The site currently contains history of the women's suffrage movement, a vintage and current photo gallery, a continuous calendar of events, and will provide links to exhibits, California Women's Suffrage Centennial 1911 – 2011, YouTube, Facebook, the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County, and other organizations as desired. Vivian urged Committee members to contribute information and photos of upcoming events and past events, and any other material deemed appropriate and of interest.

Historian Committee: Susan Devine cited The Bank of Wisdom, PO Box 926, Louisville, Kentucky, 40201, as an excellent source of historic material.

Dick Miller showed a copy of the only surviving poster of Susan B. Anthony's visit to San Luis Obispo October 12, 1896. He offered to help Vivian flesh out historical facts and photos for the web site. He also suggested contacting the Monday Club for information as its founding overlapped the time of the suffragists. Miller said that historical stories in the first person are the best to have but not many exist, most of the material is in the third person. Additional pieces of significant information that Dick Miller mentioned include the fact that Susan B. Anthony hired Harriet Mills as an outside agitator

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for Kern, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties and she was instructed to file weekly reports to Boston; suffragists demonstrated in every outlying village in SLO County in the summer of 1911, including the beaches in Moro Bay and the hot tubs at Sycamore Springs. Arroyo Grande was the hot bed of suffragist activity in SLO County. The Arroyo Grande Herald editorial pages of 1896 and 1911 by Steven Clevenger are excellent sources of material. The Historical Committee will continue to gather material for the tri-fold that the Committee is designing.

A steering committee of Susan Devine, Julian Crocker and Marilee Hyman was suggested to meet with Dick and review his material and determine what to use.

Events Committee: Chandra Corley and Cindy Marie Absey submitted three proposals for the county-wide signature event: Diamond Celebration Reception, Madonna Inn: Afternoon Ranch Celebration, Santa Margarita Ranch; Garden party at the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens. After discussion on the merits of each site, the Centennial members present voted unanimously to pursue the third option, a garden party at the Dallidet Adobe and Gardens, 4 to 7 pm. The venue is central and historical.

The Events Committee will explore and report back on expenses including venue rental with PA system, AV equipment, insurance, ABC license, security, catering, music, decorating, signage, anniversary-related visual displays, charge for event, possibilities of having the event underwritten.

Suffrage Exhibit: No report

Sashes: Susan Devine reported that the Board of Supervisors has agreed to donate \$500 to the Committee to purchase the sashes.

Budget: Emily Penfield reported that the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County will include a line-item for the 100

Centennial Committee in the 2011-12 budget under the 501C3 Education Fund.

Sponsorship Brochure: Angie King submitted a sample tri-fold for review and comment. Marilee Hyman recommended that pictures be in color but cautioned they not be too slick because of cost of reproduction. Lynn Janeway and Ellen Sheffer will serve with Angie as editing committee.

PG&E Grant: Shelley hopes to get \$1000. Waiting for sponsorship brochure.

Calendar: Marilee distributed the current calendar of 23 events and reminded the committee to continue to submit their events. Two events were added: Cambria University Women will participate in the annual Pinedorado Parade Saturday, September 3 as suffragists, and will devote their Opening Meeting and Luncheon on Monday, September 19 to the commemoratJuneion of 100 celebration, hopefully featuring Dick Miller. The event will be open to the public and will be held at the historic Santa Rosa Chapel.

Public Relations: Dick Miller suggested that radio and TV stations be contacted. He will work with Vivian. Charlotte Alexander requested that the Centennial exhibit travel to the schools throughout the county.

Other Business: Jan Marx reported that the SLO City sub-committee was hosting a hat and costume workshop May30.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 23, 5:30 pm, County Clerk-Recorder Offices.

Observer Corps:

Local Redistricting Under Consideration

In our last report, we presented information about the Statewide Redistricting in process through the new California Redistricting Commission. This work has now gone to a second phase, in which the Commission has prepared drafts of re-drawn boundaries and is holding additional hearings. These drafts are available on the website www.RedistrictingCA.org and you can see more at www.wedrawthelines.gov. We encourage all of you to look, because there are some major changes in the works for our county—and input from the public is wanted now as the Commission continues toward their deadline of completion by July 26. (Remember: your input will be individual, we cannot speak as League.)

The completion of the 2010 census also requires the lines for local districts to be adjusted, since the same rule of equal representation applies. However, local redistricting operates under the previous system, as there was not a proposition to change that system. Our Board of Supervisors is the first of the local groups to announce its work to adjust the boundary lines for the five supervisors' areas. We expect to hear of others as well (a couple of our school districts have area representation and some other local districts do also).

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) decided to have their staff do the preparation work, hold information meetings, receive input from the public and supervisors, and propose changes to the district lines, with the BOS approving the final lines at their meeting in late September. Part of the County web site is now dedicated to the redistricting process and has information, guides, FAQs, and draft options at http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Redistricting_2011.htm.

The County staff held 3 information meetings in late May/early June- in Atascadero, SLO, and Arroyo Grande. Joan Rich of our group attended in Atascadero, Vera Wallen attended in SLO, while Sharon Whitney and Vera were present for the

meeting in Arroyo Grande. Staff announced they will hold meetings with revised information at Board of Supervisors meetings July 19 and September 13 and 27.

The meetings began with a review of the process the BOS and staff have followed so far. They collected the population counts from the census to use for detailed analysis. Notably the Hispanic population in our county has increased from 16% in 2000 to 21.3% in 2010. Presently 73.1% of the population is Caucasian, and 5.5% other. Other considerations the staff worked to balance are geography/topography, city boundaries, and communities of interest, including location of Cal Poly students. The guidelines for number of people represented in each district are similar to those discussed for state-wide positions, with a +/- of 10% allowed between districts. The staff told the audiences they were working to get a much smaller variance and showed us drafts that averaged a little more than 2% difference between districts.

Later a "cutting edge" computer program was demonstrated that allowed staff to show the current county districts outlined on the screen and then "morph" the lines into different configurations, projecting the new population totals for each area (this same program is being used by the state Commission). This actually allowed audience members later in the meeting to suggest different boundaries and for staff to show what the changes would look like in terms of population numbers and communities and lines.

Staff presented 5 different scenarios for the supervisorial districts for discussion. A key piece of information is that the town of Templeton is now represented by one supervisor, while Cal Poly student residence areas are now split between two supervisors, and the city of SLO is split among four. Population changes in the past 10 years have caused shifts throughout the county, thus the BOS is required to redraw the lines. Staff decided to present several ideas for consideration to the board and to the public, rather than to make just one recommendation.

Option A- Splits Templeton along the highway into two districts, but puts all of Cal Poly into one district.

Option B- Splits Templeton on an east/west angle

into two districts and Cal Poly continues to be split into two districts.

Option C- Templeton remains mostly in one district, and Cal Poly keeps most of its existing split.

Option D- Templeton moves to one district to the south and Cal Poly is moved into one district.

Option E- Splits Templeton on a north/south angle and Cal Poly is moved into one district.

After the introduction and presentation of the various options, staff opened the meeting to questions and discussion. The meeting in SLO and the meeting in Arroyo Grande both had low attendance—about 10 to 15 people besides staff. In each case there were 2 or 3 people from Templeton who also spoke at the meetings. The audience members asked questions about Cal Poly student populations and looked at various possible alternatives to the presented options through the computer program.

The Atascadero location had at least 60 people in attendance and was observed to be considerably more contentious. Key issues were the splitting of Templeton (opposed by many Templeton residents), a perceived separate community of interest for North County and a wish to have this more represented in a separate supervisorial district, plus a perceived separate and different set of interests in the coastal communities as well.

Additional input sessions may be held in June and early July (watch for announcements in the news). The public is encouraged to provide input to staff and the BOS through their website's "Contact Us" section. July 16 is the date the Board of Supervisors will officially receive staff options and a summary of public input to date at their meeting in SLO. They will at that time give further direction to staff for refinement of the proposal. September 13 and 27, the BOS will hold public hearings to review and approve a redistricting plan. The legal deadline for completing the project is November 1.

Submitted by Vera Wallen

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/admin/Redistricting_2011.htm

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 all our varied programs throughout the year. 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 2nd 50 years can be just as productive as the first!

July 1 marks the beginning of our new fiscal year and our new dues structure. Individual dues are now \$65 and household dues will be \$90 and are currently payable. If this is causing difficulty for you, there is a dues scholarship program. You may apply for help with all or part of your dues.

We continue to make every effort to keep information coming your way, regular mail when necessary. Remember to visit our website: 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 LWVSLO at PO BOX 4210, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93403.

Arlene Powers, Outgoing Membership Director,
aapowers@charter.net,

Democracy is not a spectator sport

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

_____ \$25.00 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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2010-2011

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