



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

VOTER

October 2010

Volume 51, Number 2

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Be an informed voter

FALL CALENDAR LWVSLO

October 5 Tuesday	BOARD MEETING Rabobank, Broad Street Branch, SLO Public Meeting Room	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM
October 11 Monday	Ballot Propositions: Pros & Cons First Presbyterian Church Marsh & Morro, SLO	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM
October 30 Saturday	LWV CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, SLO	9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
November 2	TUESDAY- ELECTION DAY	7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
November 8 Monday	Land Use and Planning: Panel Discussion - Solar Plans for Carrizo Plain: Boom or Bust? SLO City-County Library Community Room	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
November 9 Tuesday	BOARD MEETING Rabobank, Broad Street Branch, SLO Public Meeting Room	5:30- 7:00 PM

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



Emily Penfield

Hello Everyone!

One more month to go and this election season will be behind us. It certainly is a busy one! Thanks to Vera Wallen and Galen Ricard, the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County is right in the forefront of the action. I am amazed and proud of all that our members are doing this election to keep the voters of our county informed and aware. That is our mission, and we certainly are fulfilling it this year.

It was gratifying to see so many of you at our Opening Meeting. Jeanette Trompeter inspired us all to increase our participation in county government—ask more questions, write more letters and yes, watch more news! Thanks to Cindy Marie Absey for arranging an excellent beginning to our 50th year.

I want to give special thanks in this issue to the members of our Observer Corps, and to Board member, Marge Johnson, for volunteering to head up this very important function of our League. The observers are our eyes and ears, keeping us informed of important issues and decisions that governing bodies throughout the county are discussing and making, so that we can take a stand when League positions are involved. And at this time, I want to thank a very special member, Joanne Milburn. Joanne has been a faithful observer of the San Luis Obispo County School Board since the fall of 2007. Joanne has regrettably resigned and we will miss her insightful reports reprinted in the Voter .

Finally, have you read any good books lately? You might want to delve into Numbers Rule: The vexing Mathematics of Democracy from Plato to the

Present, by George Szpiro, a journalist and mathematician. It's an eye-opening analysis of methods used throughout the ages in attempts to create a fair and representative way of determining the popular vote. Even if you only read how the Doge of Venice was selected, you will come a long way in appreciating how our officials are elected.

I hope to see you at one of our many presentations and forums. Bring a friend and learn about your local and state issues. Also, don't forget about the leadership workshop on October 30th, where we'll learn about implementing a new kind activism in the League.

As Always,

Emily

emilypenfield@yahoo.com

League-ally 2010-11

OPENING MEETING – SEPTEMBER 11, 2010
League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County



OPENING DAY MEETING

As evidenced by our pictorial essay, Opening Day meeting of our 50th Anniversary Year was a remarkable success. A convergence of beautiful fall weather, lovely surroundings, congenial colleagues, and a most interesting and topical presentation by our newest local anchorperson, Jeanette Trompeter rewarded our League attendees.

Emily Penfield, President 2010-2011, opened the meeting with a special dedication and a bouquet of roses for Jan Clucas, the first President of the San Luis Obispo League of Women Voters in 1961. The proposed program for 2010-2011 was introduced by Cindy Marie Absey with the note that a couple of the dates or titles were subject to change. We were all given draft copies to put in our new League notebooks. Copies will be available to download on line.

The meeting proceeded with a presentation of the revised budget by Glenn Silloway. This became necessary because of extra monies being generated by League volunteers at the special and regular elections during 2011.

Next came the introduction of an special honor, a well guarded secret from Sara Horne. As detailed in another Voter article "The Sara Award" was initiated this year with Sara herself as the first recipient. Boyd Horne had been charged with making sure that she was kept in the dark, and a fine job he did. We all enjoyed seeing her surprise as she realized what was happening. Sara accepted the recognition and praise for 10 years of hard work and "creative opportunism" with humility and humor. Later, she nodded with understanding as Vera Wallen, current 2nd Vice President and Voter Service Director detailed being overwhelmed with requests for Pro & Con Presentations and Candidate Forums and then just as surely being supported by dozens of League volunteers who came through when necessary to provide the needed services.

At the conclusion of League business Emily turned the meeting over to Marge Johnson, who introduced individual table discussion topics concealed in envelopes under the centerpieces, the result of a suggestion at a Past Presidents' Luncheon. Lively local topics accompanied the bread, butter and salad

dressing being passed around the tables as the luncheon began. Later, after Ms. Trompeter's energizing account of the shrinking world and her experience in journalism in this period of being asked to do more with less, our table reporters gave our member's reactions to local matters and concerns, coincidentally often dealing with having to do more with less in city and county government.

League members left feeling upbeat about our second 50 years and the work ahead of us.



Left to right, standing: Ann Havlik, land use and planning; Pati Dale, communications; Colleen Ehrenberg, secretary; Emily Penfield, president; Cindy Marie Absey, programs; Marge Johnson, Observer Corps and historian; Seated: Arlene Powers, member services; Galen Ricard, public relations; Vera Wallen, 2nd vice president/voter services; Sharon Whitney, 1st vice president/advocacy.

Election Season Brings Voter Service Rush

The upcoming November 2 statewide election has caused a rush of requests to the LWV for presentations, forums and speakers. Numerous League volunteers responded to the call put out by Vera Wallin, 2nd Vice President in charge of Voter Service. To date, things have been going well and Vera is in the process of plugging names into dates throughout October. The September events- a speaker for the Retired Public Employees Association, a Pro/Con Presentation on the Propositions for the Morro Bay Business Community Forum, the SLO City Council and Mayoral Forum, the State Assembly Forum, the Sheriff's Forum and the SLO Democracy TV presentation were all well received.

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Based on turnout, the race for "top cop" may be the most hotly contested in the county. More than 100 people were on hand for the sheriff candidates forum held at Embassy Suites on Sept. 29, and both questions and answers were rapid fire – 35 questions within 90 minutes, which may be a League record. And it matched the energy of the room. Moderator Janet Karoukis, with 20 years facilitating events like this, described it as "the best forum I've seen." This forum, among others, will be replayed on countywide Charter Channel 21 up through the election. In addition, a podcast of the event is available at the KVEC website at 920kvec.com.

The forum will feature representatives from each side of the issue: Andy Caldwell, interim director of the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture and Business (COLAB) and Ed Waage, Pismo Beach City Councilman, will speak on voting yes for Prop 23.

Ken Smokoska, program coordinator for green technology at Cuesta College, and Bruce Gibson, District 2 supervisor, will take the opposing view.

If Proposition 23 passes, it will suspend Assembly Bill 32, also known as the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020. Proposition 23 would suspend AB 32 until California's unemployment rate drops to 5.5 percent for four consecutive quarters.

The forum will be moderated by the **League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County**. The event will be held in the community room at the San Luis Obispo County Library from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. on October 14. *Press release by SEA Change Oct. 5, 2010*



Pleased League Volunteers at the conclusion of the SLO Mayoral and City Council Forum.

League members assisting Voter Service programs thus far are Marilee Hyman, Tony Hyman, Emily Penfield, Trudy Jarrett, Adele Stern, Dawn Williams, Arlene Powers, Colleen Erhenberg, Carey Marsh, Beverly Cox, Pati Dale, Sara Horne, Boyd Horne, Janet Kourakis, Donna Damon, Randy Allen, Alice Yamada, Vallerie Steenson, Lee Chivens, Joan Rich and Pat Shutt.

50th Anniversary Series:

OUR HISTORY OF ACTIVISM
An Interview with Sharon Winslow

As a student journalist, **Sharon Winslow's** eighth grade interview with her hometown Barstow congressman ignited a life long interest in public affairs. She has always favored women's groups that focused on actions, not social affairs, and therefore read with interest about the formation of the San Luis Obispo League of Women Voters in 1961. However, she was at home with an infant daughter, and waited until 1962 to join, about the same time as **Joan Rich** who also had a new daughter. Child care was an important part of the League program in those formative years.



News Flash!

SEA Change Hosts Community Forum on Prop. 23

The San Luis Obispo Strategic Energy Alliance for Change (SEA Change) is sponsoring a community forum about **Proposition 23** on Thursday, October 14th.

The first job of the League was developing *Know Your City* and their Voter Service Program. Sharon's first job in 1962 was developing the Observer Corps Program. Later, calling on her background as a former school teacher, she chaired the first League local school study from which the membership took the position on unifying the San Luis Obispo city schools with those of Morro Bay, Los Osos and Bellevue-Santa Fe. The effort ultimately resulted in the successful formation of the San Luis Coastal Unified School District in 1966. During this period, Sharon with **Jacque Streeter**, the League's fourth president, developed pros and cons on establishing a countrywide community college for distribution to the electorate. The voters approved the formation and Cuesta College became a reality.

Amid a national mood of civil unrest, Sharon became the fifth president of the SLO League of Women Voters in 1967. She was the first president who had not been a member in a previous city. She remembers that during her term, San Luis Obispo passed their first sign ordinance with LWV input. Also, a low income housing study for the city was adopted with **Ruth Wirshup**, our 3rd president, playing an active role. Sharon recalls being at the 1968 National LWV Convention in Chicago, and going on a "field trip" to newly completed public housing complexes. The Chicago members seemed very proud, but she was not impressed. Tall, huge, impersonal buildings clustered on acres and acres of city property seemed, in her mind, to create more problems than solutions. Returning home, she shared her concerns with Ruth, and distribution and size became a part of the study. At its conclusion, the LWV took action by working with many business and community organizations to educate the electorate. After the votes were counted, low income housing became a reality. Later, the City Council incorporated the League's position of integrating the housing throughout the community with structures no taller than two stories. Another satisfactory outcome was our own Ruth Wirshup becoming the first chair of the Housing Authority and continued on in this role for many years.

It is not surprising considering Sharon's interest in education that after her term of office was concluded, she was talked into running for the County Board of Education in 1972. She was pitted against a "good

ole boy", and using the skills developed in LWV she held a series of meetings in local homes to talk issues. Her favorite story about that period occurred late election night when results were not forthcoming on the TV. She called her local radio station KPRL about the outcome. A young man quickly responded, "The chick won". She is justly proud that while serving, she oversaw the beginnings of Rancho El Chorro's environmental campus, the building of the new County Office on Hwy 1 (paid for completely), encouraged the growth of Special Education Programs including the first mainstreaming, plus as president, negotiating employee contracts. However, she happily turned that responsibility over to a hired negotiator when collective bargaining was instituted.

In 1980, Sharon left the CBOE and returned to teaching serving as k-3 Title One teacher in Templeton USD. Even then her participation in League and public affairs continued. While reading the LWV National Voter magazine in 1987, she noticed a small ad about Citizen Diplomacy opportunities for League members and spouses. She signed up and joined other Leaguers from around the country for a three week tour of the USSR. A year later, she and some of her local league friends made the commitment to completely sponsor four Soviets for four days while they toured San Luis Obispo under the nationwide "Soviets Meet Middle America" project. Sharon attributes its huge success to the talents and abilities of the league members involved.

Sharon feels the League of Women Voters opened up the world to her and made her a more concerned and well rounded person. She does miss actively participating in local league activities. However, she remains involved in political issues at all levels, hunched over her computer, firing off letters to her representatives.

Her advice for the future would be for the League to continue what it does best: non partisanship, voters service, and local action on League positions.

Interview and article by Pati Dale and Margery Johnson, fact checking by Sharon Winslow.

“The Sara”

Awarded to Sara Horne at League’s Opening Meeting

At their opening meeting, Sept. 11, the local League of Women Voters presented its first Sara Award to Sara Horne, a veteran League leader. “It’s only fitting that the woman who’s name, locally, is nearly synonymous with voter services and voter education should be the first recipient of this eponymous award,” said Emily Penfield, president of the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County.

Penfield said that the Sara Award was created to recognize outstanding service to the voters of San Luis Obispo County by a member of the local League of Women Voters. “It’s our goal to empower people to engage fully in the political process,” she said “and no one has been more empowering than Sara.”



Unique to the award is its “pay it forward” clause: In addition to the honor itself, Horne and future recipients are entitled to award a year’s membership in the local League to anyone who is eligible – which includes men and women of all ages.

Among the accolades heaped on Horne, were remarks made by long-time League colleague Trudy Jarratt, vice president of the League of Women Voters of California and past president of the local League. “For more than 10 years I had the privilege of learning what it means to be a League member from Sara,” said Jarratt, “She has been tireless in her mission to educate the voters and has set the standard to which we should all strive.”

The League of Women Voters, observing its 90th year, is the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country. The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County, celebrating its 50th year, is a nonpartisan group of women and men who seek to organize and foster open conversation,

education, and voter registration.

Press release by Galen Ricards, Public Relations LWV/SLO

Just in time for your absentee ballot!
NOVEMBER 2 PROPOSITIONS
THE LEAGUE RECOMMENDS:

PROP 20 **OPPOSE**
 Redistricting of Congressional Districts

PROP 23 **OPPOSE**
 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollutions Standards

PROP 24 **SUPPORT**
 Tax Fairness Act

PROP 25 **SUPPORT**
 Simple Majority Vote for Budget

PROP 26 **OPPOSE**
 “Pollution Protection”

PROP 27 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting

PROP 18 **Removed**
 Water Bond Measure

PROP 19 **No Position**
 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana

PROP 21 **Neutral**
 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs

PROP 22 **Neutral**
 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds



Advocacy Report

Sharon G. Whitney, VP, Advocacy

September 19, 2010

Emily Penfield, LWV President, and I visited our county Board of Supervisors on Monday, September 13 and Friday, September 17. Our purpose was to introduce ourselves to each of the current board members, to remind or inform them of the Advocacy functions of League, as distinct from Voter Service and Education, and to discuss our views regarding current ballot propositions and measures.

One question posed to each board member was "How can the League help what you want to do?" Here are the responses:

- Frank Mecham: He is interested in "redevelopment" as a tool for developing infrastructure, e.g., for San Miguel.
- Adam Hill: He is working on folding the county's "economic element" into the General Plan, which has not been done before, and it could boost local businesses.
- Bruce Gibson: He is interested in organizing a moderate alliance between environmental and agricultural interests.
- Katcho Achadjian : He wants to promote civil discourse among polarized interests.
- Jim Patterson: He wants to promote green businesses and economy.

Each of the above items may be good items for inclusion in our local programming unit, or for local studies next year.

I am grateful for the opportunity to discuss such things with our board of supervisors, and for their perceptions of how we can be effective advocates for our concerns.

Observer Corps

Report

Water Resources Advisory Board
Meeting 9/01/10 (WRAC)

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 P.M. I did not attend the morning session from 9:00-12:00 A.M. A quorum was counted and the meeting proceeded with introductions of each attendee.

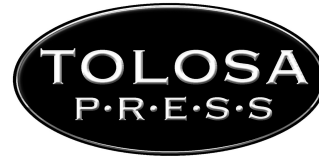
- Report on Water Diversion and Use from the State Water Resources Board . The report is available on line at www.WRCSB@ca.gov.us
- James Caruso and Courtney Howard presented the 2009 Water Resources Management System update.
- Steve Sinton explained the terms riparian, ground water, underlying (as defined by court decision), underflow and underlying basin.
- Eric Greening asked for a map of water resources in San Luis Obispo County.
- Discussion of use of flow meters on private land: if a single owner has 5 or more connections, she/he must report the amount of usage .
- Courtney Howard gave an update on the State Water Project.
- Courtney also reported on the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, funded first with Prop. 50 funds and currently by Prop. 84 funds, in the amount of \$52,000,000 to be distributed among the 5 statewide Water Districts. The district boards are cooperating to decide which projects should be funded and the size of grants to be requested.
- Sue Luft reported back from the WRAC subcommittee that reviewed the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity report.
- Steve Sinton suggested that the county pay for flow meters on all new wells dug and, on a voluntary basis, on existing wells.
- There was extended discussion of the report submitted by the WRAC subcommittee that

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read court rulings pertaining to the Los Osos Waste Water Project. The report was eventually accepted, with minor revisions.

- It was proposed to amend the WRAC Bylaws to add a representative from the development industry. The proposal was rejected on the grounds that developers are not ongoing water consumers.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:50.

Report submitted by Dawn Williams



THE BAY NEWS COAST NEWS SLO CITY NEWS

Special thanks to Tolosa Press for supporting the League's voter education efforts!

Bay News
Coast News
SLO City News

Observer Corps Needs You!

Marge Johnson is looking for volunteers who have one day a month to attend a city or county board meeting. She will find something nearby that interests you: water, parks, fire district business the important thing is that the board members know that they are being held accountable by the public. We have all learned so much the past few years about the Nacimiento Water Project, the SLO County School Board and others.

Give it a try, you'll like it!

Contact Marge at 544-1051 or e-mail at [sломom@hotmail.com](mailto:slomom@hotmail.com)

LWVSLO BOARD MEMBERS 2010-11

OFFICERS:

President:	Emily Penfield	president@lwvslo.org
1 st Vice President/Advocacy:	Sharon Whitney	info@lwvslo.org
2 nd Vice President/Voter Service	Vera Wallen	info@lwvslo.org
Treasurer:	Maggie Higgins	info@lwvslo.org
Secretary:	Colleen Ehrenberg	info@lwvslo.org

DIRECTORS:

Membership:	Arlene Powers	info@lwvslo.org
Communications:	Pati Dale	info@lwvslo.org
Program:	Cindy Marie Absey	info@lwvslo.org
Government:	<i>Open</i>	info@lwvslo.org
Social Policy:	<i>Open</i>	info@lwvslo.org
Natural Resources:	<i>Open</i>	info@lwvslo.org
Planning & Land Use:	Ann Havlik	
Development:	<i>Open</i>	
Observer Corps:	Margery Johnson	
Public Relations:	Galen Ricards	



COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Budget:	Glenn Silloway
Website:	Carey Marsh
Nominating:	Dotty Connor
LWVC Management Training Advisor:	Beverly King

Relevant Websites

LWVSLOCO	www.lwvslo.org
LWVUS	www.lwv.org (Click on "members" and create your own password)
LWVC – members	www.lwvc.org/lwvonly
Guide to Government	www.guidetogov.org
Secretary of State	www.ss.ca.gov
Senate	www.senate.ca.gov
Assembly	www.assembly.ca.gov
Easy Voter Guide	www.easylvoter.org
League Easy Web	www.lwvnet.org
Smart Voter	www.smartvoter.org

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Membership Memo

Thanks to all who sent in their renewal checks along with updated information. I am proud to announce that as of October 5 we have 93 members! We are well on our way to my personal goal of 100! For a few of you, this will be the last Voter you receive. The League needs your support! Send in the form on this page. We have exciting plans for our 50th year.

We are making every effort to reach all of our members quickly and efficiently. Be looking for an e-mail with an attachment from me soon with updated memberships and current revised By-Laws for your handbooks. The shift to electronic communication continues at every level of League, so having your correct e-mail is crucial. Locally, everything coming from LWVUS is in digital format, and LWVC sends most materials the same way. We will make every effort to keep the information coming your way, regular mail if necessary, but you are urged to learn how to access our website: www.lwvslo.org at your local Library if you do not have a computer in your home. Please remember that changes to your e-mail, phone number, or address should be sent to Arlene Powers, LWVSLO, PO Box 4210, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

New Members will be receiving their new handbooks soon. Any renewing member who did not receive a new handbook should contact Arlene at 805-534-1139.

If you have any questions about when your dues are up for renewal please call me.

Arlene Powers, Membership Director

aaupowers@charter.net, 534-1139

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS... and make an INFORMED difference!
BECOME A LEAGUE MEMBER OR GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP!!

Invite a Friend to JOIN UP!

Membership is open to all citizens of voting age. Associate membership is offered to students, non citizens and individuals wishing to receive the VOTER only.

Membership is for one year, July 1 to June 30

\$60 individual [] \$85 household membership (2 persons same address) [] \$25 associate membership []

I wish to make an additional CONTRIBUTION in the amount of: \$ []

I am unable to join at this time, but here is a CONTRIBUTION in the amount of: \$ []

Contributions to LWVSLOCO are not tax deductible.
Contributions to LWVSLOCO Education fund are tax deductible

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to LWVSLOCO and mail to: LWVSLOCO
PO Box 4210
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY Invites You to Attend an LWV California Regional Workshop

Saturday, October 30 from 9:30 to 2:30pm Ludwick Community Center 864 Santa Rosa Street, San Luis Obispo CA 93401

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Advocacy—When, Where & How does the League do it? Using as Examples, Measures on 11/02/10 Ballot
Redistricting—Tracking and Mapping What League and the Public Can Do to Help the New Process Succeed
Being Visible in Your Community
Political, Yes; Partisan, NO! Walking the Fine Line.

Please register and pay by credit card at the LWVC website www.lwvc.org by October 22 or write check payable to LWVC and mail form to: LWVSLOCO P.O.Box 4210, San Luis Obispo CA 93403. Attn: Regional Training

Questions?? Contact Margery Johnson slomom@hotmail.com or (805) 544-1051

Cut here and return reservation form

I will attend & buy lunch \$25 (\$30 after 10/22) I will attend & bring lunch \$15

Name League

Phone and/or Email

Name League

Phone and/or Email

Enclosed is my check to LWVC for \$; Reservations held at door.