

Valley Voter



League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley

April 2005

President's Message

Mary Ann and I thank the Nominating Committee for its work in providing a full slate of officers and directors to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting. We also want to thank those who will be continuing to serve through 2005-06 as well as those members who have accepted the invitation of the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board during 2005-07. Your League can only continue to be vitally involved in local, county, state and national politics with your active involvement and support.

I will be representing our League this month at the Democracy Dinner in San Jose. The Silicon Valley Leagues are hosting this dinner to benefit the LWV of California Education Fund. The featured speaker will be Nancy Soderberg, Vice President for Multilateral Affairs for International Crisis Group, and author of the soon-to-be-released book, *The Superpower Myth*. She will be speaking about "Global Challenges, Global Realities." Our League will be contributing *A Taste of the Livermore Valley* to the silent auction, including wine donated by Retzlaff Winery and olive oil donated by the Purple Orchid Inn and Spa.

This month you will be receiving a separate mailing including the material you will need to bring to our League's Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 14, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Our speaker this year, Justine Burt, is a specialist on "Sustainability." She will begin her presentation at 11:00 a.m., and we encourage you to invite your family and friends to join us at that time in the Livermore Police Department Community Room to participate in this interesting program on a challenging topic. Please carefully read the material contained in the Annual Meeting packet. The review of our local positions is now complete, and we encourage your comments and questions.

Barbara Hempill, Co-President

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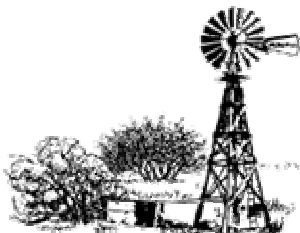
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Board Briefs

At its April meeting the Board of the Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters:

- Approved the Proposed 2005-06 budget, which includes a modest dues increase.
- Approved the printing of a new brochure for our local league.
- Decided the forum for the Pleasanton City Council would be held in early May.
- Recommended a Study of School Financing as our local study next year.
- Approved a Voter Content Policy, which prohibits informational items from other organizations or community groups from being included in The Voter.

Ann Rathjen



Livermore-Amador Valley Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 14th, 9:00 AM – Noon

Livermore Police Department Community Room

1110 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore

(Watch for your meeting packet sent by U. S. Mail)

11:00 AM – Justine Burt, speaking on Sustainability. Public invited.



50th Anniversary Celebration

Reservations are filling up the mailbox! Recollections of past League moments are filling up our memory book!

Be sure to join us on June 4 for our 50th birthday party, a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and share experiences from five decades of League. Return your reservation form to P. O. Box 702, Livermore CA 94551. Call Bernice Oakley at 846-4038 for more details.



Pleasanton City Council Candidates' Forum

The Pleasanton City Council Candidates' Forum will be held on Monday, May 16th at 7:00 PM.

The candidates are Brian Arkin, Dan Faustina and Jerry Thorne. There is one seat available, and the location is the Pleasanton City Council Chambers.

Vivian Thorson

KEEPING CALIFORNIA'S LIGHTS ON— The League and Energy

For one startling moment at LWVC convention 2003, the lights went out all over the auditorium. And for a long hot summer in 2001, the threat of rolling blackouts was part of the daily life of all Californians. And although the West Coast has not had a major multi-state transmission outage since August 1996, the August 2003 blackout of the eastern U.S. and Canada only serves to point up our vulnerability. All of these warnings point up the crucial need in this new century to find the best way to secure and deliver an adequate and reliable supply of electricity for our state. This needs to be done in a way that respects the social and natural environment. New decisions will be made in Sacramento and in our local communities; new sources of energy and new techniques of delivering it will continue to evolve. The League must be in a position to bring its principles to bear on public energy policy. Unfortunately, our Energy Position was last updated in 1980—a quarter of century ago! In its day it was a thoughtful position. Today we are critically aware of its limitations. Our 1980 Position permits us to speak only on:

- Conservation
- Public health and safety
- Environmental protection
- Renewable sources
- Siting of facilities
- Tax incentives for conservation and renewables

This leaves a number of areas that we have not studied in sufficient depth to be able to comment. Before 2001 there was little concern in California about a shortage of generation capacity and of transmission facilities. Then came a *“perfect storm”* which peaked in 2001—drought in the northwest, extreme heat in the southwest, excessive and unregulated prices of natural gas from out of state, bottlenecks in related markets, unexpectedly high business growth in the technology sector, and a flawed attempt at deregulation. Through this experience we gained a new perspective on energy questions. We now see many additional areas calling for an updated Energy Position. We need to be able to address:

- Integration of energy policy – from production to transmission to delivery
- Re-regulation or de-regulation – or something else
- State and federal regulatory conflicts
- Differing roles of investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and public utilities
- Issues of social equity
- Role of the public in planning
- Direct access for some users
- Distributed energy resources (DER)
- Emerging sources of energy—solar, wind, fuel cells and more

During the coming months we will be producing a series of articles expanding on all of these questions. We hope you will read them thoughtfully and bring your light to the League by joining in the Study to Update the LWVC Energy Position.

Calendar



Friday, April 22nd, 6:30 PM,
Democracy Dinner, San Jose,
Gala Benefit for the Education
Fund, with a Silent Auction and a
talk by Nancy Soderberg, former
Ambassador to the United
Nations.

Monday, May 2nd, LWV-LAV
Board Meeting at Barbara
Hempill's

Saturday, May 14th, 11 AM,
LWV-LAV Annual Meeting,
Livermore Police Department
Community Room., 1110 South
Livermore Avenue, Livermore.

Monday, May 16th, 7 PM
Pleasanton City Council
Candidates' Forum,
Pleasanton City Council
Chambers

Thursday, May 19th—Sunday,
May 22nd, Garden Grove,
California, League of Women
Voters California, Biennial
Convention.

Saturday, June 4th, 2005, 11:30,
Four Points Sheraton Hotel,
Pleasanton, 50th Anniversary
Celebration of our League.



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<http://www.geocities.com/lwvlav/newsletterindex.html>

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League is open to all U.S. citizens, men and women, age 18 or older. Annual dues are \$50 for one person, \$75 for two people in one household. By becoming a member of the Livermore-Amador Valley League, one also becomes a member of the Bay Area, California, and National Leagues.

Please mail this form with your check, payable to the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley, to LWV-LAV, P.O. Box 702, Livermore, CA 94551-0702

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____