



Valley Voter

League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley

April 2006

President's Message

I urge all our members to attend the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 20, in the conference room of the Livermore Police Department, 1110 South Livermore Avenue. Prior to the start of the business meeting at 9:30 a.m. there will be an opportunity to meet other League members over a cup of coffee or juice and a muffin. You will also be able to congratulate the incoming officers, express your appreciation to the outgoing officers, and meet the continuing officers. (Your Annual Meeting Kit is being sent separately by U. S. Mail. **Please bring the kit to the meeting.**)

As you will note from the agenda, our local study next year will be on local water issues. Mary Ann Hannon has accepted the responsibility for heading up this study, and will be scoping the study in the coming months. If you would like to participate on the Water Study Committee, please let Mary Ann know.

Our League has long been interested in both Air and Water Quality. You will want to hear what our Annual Meeting speaker, Jack M. Colbourn from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, will have to tell us about the quality of air in our Valley, not only currently, but also how it was back in the 1950's and what is anticipated for the future.

Julice Winter and I plan to attend the State League Council in Sacramento early in May, and at the Annual Meeting we will be reporting back to you with what we learned. We look forward to seeing you there.

Barbara Hempill

Board Briefs

- Mary Ann Hannon has agreed to Chair the proposed local study of Water for 2006-07.
- Elteen Stone reported that the winner of our \$500 scholarship was Las Positas student, Brittany Humrich.
- Approved sending Barbara Hempill and Julice Winter to the May LWVC Leadership Council in Sacramento.
- Approved a motion asking Barbara Hempill to contact the Oakland LWV about having their extra delegate represent us at the LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis.
- Approved the consensus report for the Local Education Financing Study.

Ann Rathjen



Meeting The Challenge

Bev King, Member Services Chair for the State League, sent the following message on March 30, 2006: "I am pleased to tell you that the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley has met the requirements for at least a 5% increase in its membership." This increase in membership from the previous year will be acknowledged financially by the State in that we will be awarded \$21 for each of the seven net new members.

Her message continued, "I have also reviewed the documentation you sent for your chosen goals. I am sure your League has a great sense of pride for all it has accomplished. Congratulations also on the League's 50 years of service to the Livermore-Amador Valley." As a result of this award, we have been asked to speak at the State Leadership Council about one of our goals.

Barbara Hempill

Clean Money

Advocates of Clean Money – public funding of campaigns for state office in California – were rewarded for their efforts when AB 583 (Hancock) was passed by the Assembly on a 47-31 vote on January 30. The bill has been referred to the Senate Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments Committee for a hearing, tentatively scheduled for April 19.



As it moves through the legislative process, the bill will continue to be amended to clarify policy and funding. Among the amendments that are likely to be included soon are provisions that mirror those in an initiative the California Nurses Association has submitted for signature gathering. These include:

- Raising the number of qualifying contributions required for Clean Money candidates
- Raising the base funding and maximum matching funds a Clean Money candidate can receive
- Providing \$50,000 in public financing for officeholder accounts for legislators elected Clean (\$100,000 for statewide candidates)
- Allowing the legislature to pass recommendations made by the Fair Political Practices Commission (after its 10-year review) with a 55% vote (instead of two-thirds).

At this time League advocacy is focused on Senate President pro Tempore Don Perata and on the Elections Committee members.

Redistricting Legislation

SCA 3 (Lowenthal), which would vest the power to redistrict in an independent redistricting commission, was passed out of the Senate Elections Committee on March 15. It contains a major amendment backed by the League; the independent redistricting commission would be eleven in number rather than the five originally proposed. The League, along with its partners, continues to work with Senator Lowenthal to improve the legislation and gather support from a broad constituency as it moves through the state Senate and into the Assembly.

Local Scholarship

Our Local Scholarship Committee (Elteen Stone, Jane Staehle, and Anne White) has chosen Brittany Humrich of Las Positas College as the recipient of the Livermore-Amador Valley League \$500 annual scholarship. The award will be presented at a ceremony at Las Positas.

Sunshine Forum

Six members of our League attended the Sunshine Forum, sponsored by the seven Alameda County Leagues of Women Voters, in San Leandro last month. Panel speakers focused on the California Public Records Act and the Ralph M. Brown Act. The purpose of the forum was to encourage more public awareness about open government. State Attorney General Bill Lockyer was the keynote speaker.

The panels examined the laws from the perspective of citizens, public officials, and the media. The panelists and participants discussed elements of the two laws and some of the most consistently contested issues between citizens and government. If

you were unable to attend the forum, but would like more information, convenient websites are at: www.calaware.org, www.spj.org, www.thefirstamendment.org, and www.sunshineweek.org.

Bay Area Update: Convention May 13

The first call for the LWVBA Convention 2006, the biennial business meeting for our Inter-League Organization, has been sent to all Leagues. The Convention Kit will be sent in mid-April, including the recommended program priorities, proposed budget for 2006-07 and Board nominees. The cost is only \$10 per League. Please RSVP delegate names to TamHege@aol.com by May 10.

Our new website, at www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org contains the full listing of our Bay Area positions, action letters during the past year, and information from our most recent regional meetings. It will serve as an excellent resource; do check it out!

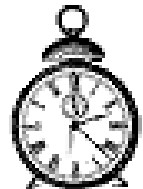
Linda Craig, President LWVBA. president@lwvba-ca.org

Calendar

May 1, Board Meeting, home of Dolores Bengston, 7 pm.

May 9, Forum on State Propositions 81 and 82, Livermore City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue, 7 pm.

May 13, Bay Area League Annual Convention, San Francisco Bay Model, 1600 Bridgeway, Sausalito, 9:30 am.




May 20, Local League Annual Meeting, Livermore Police Department Conference Room, 1110 S. Livermore Ave., 9-12 am.

Single Payer Health Care

In the coming year, Health Care will again be a League legislative priority.

Senator Sheila Kuhl's bill (SB 840), which the League supports, provides for single payer financed health care, administered by a single State Health Agency with local branches. Sen. Kuhl believes this is a cost-effective method for financing and administering a universal health care system. With such a system, California could establish a health insurance plan that covers all residents, replacing all other health insurance plans, both public and private. Such consolidation of administration and finance would save billions of dollars because the cost of administration would drop from 25%-35% to 2%-3%. The state becomes the single purchaser of pharmaceuticals and durable medical equipment. Such bulk purchasing power lowers costs up to 50% by purchasing from the Federal Supply Schedule.



League Forum on Propositions 81 and 82

Our League will host a forum on Propositions 81 and 82 that will be on the June ballot. The forum will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 9, in the Livermore City Council Chambers, 3575 Pacific Avenue, Livermore.

Prop. 81 is the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006 (Legislative Bond Act).

Prop. 82 is the Preschool Education Initiative. Provides for tax on incomes over \$400,000 for individuals and \$800,000 for couples (Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute).

Members interested in helping with this forum, please e-mail Vivian Thorson at sheldonviv@juno.com or call her at 846-5001 and leave a message.

State League Decisions

Regarding Propositions 82 and 81

The State League Board approved a recommendation from the Program Committee to remain neutral on Proposition 82, the Preschool for All Act initiative. The decision to remain neutral results from conflicting positions on the issues concerned. League State and Local Finances positions would provide a basis for opposition, but the League's position on Education Pre K-12 would recommend support. Proposition 82 is both a constitutional amendment and new statutory law.

However, the League of Women Voters California Board of Directors voted to support Proposition 81, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006 on the June 2006 ballot. The LWVC signed the ballot argument endorsing this proposition.



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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.

The League is open to all U.S. citizens, men and women, age 18 or older. Annual dues are \$55 for one person, \$80 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.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____