

Valley Voter



League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley

June 2005

President's Message

Thank you all very much for providing me with the opportunity to attend the LWV of California Convention last month in Garden Grove. The theme, "It's a New World," was well chosen, and the energetic, enthusiastic women I met are ready to step up to the challenge. Elsewhere in this issue of The Voter you will find my summary of the actions taken at the convention which will determine the League's program for the coming year.

It seemed as though I had hardly returned from Southern California when our League held its 50th Anniversary Celebration. What a great occasion that was! And what a marvelous opportunity to meet so many women who have played a role in making our League the effective organization it is today. Bernice Oakley and Jane Staehle have been working on this event for the past year. Their dedication to making it a memorable celebration is greatly appreciated, as are the efforts of all those members who helped them.

I encourage you to actively participate in the events we have planned for 2005-06. In the fall we will hold our Annual Kick-Off Event. Come and meet your new officers and bring a friend. Shortly thereafter we will begin holding unit meetings to work on the State Energy Study. Watch your Voter for details. We need you to be involved. Bring your questions and ideas to the unit meetings. And if there is a special election this November, we will keep you informed about the pros and cons of the propositions. Let us know if you belong to another organization that would like to have one of our members come and make a Pro and Con Presentation.

With best wishes for a great summer,

Barbara Hempill

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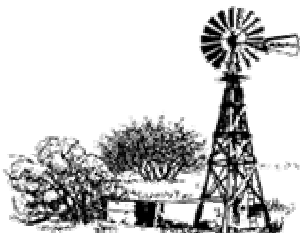
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June Board Briefs

- Barbara Hempill welcomed Mary Beth Acuff, Pat Mann, Robin Morgan and Vivian Thorson, new Board members for 2005-2006.
- The New Board Orientation will be held on June 25th at 9 AM.
- At the National Convention, student members were added as a new membership category.
- Commended Bernice Oakley and Jane Staehle for the successful 50th Anniversary Luncheon and Memory Books.
- Eileen Barr has put all of the Annual Meeting local position revisions on our web site.
- Bay Area League Day will be Sept. 24th.

Ann Rathjen



50 Years of Making a Difference!

On June 4th, the local League celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gala luncheon at the Four Seasons Hotel in Pleasanton. Sixty-eight League members and friends gathered for lunch to hear reminiscences from presidents from each of the five past decades and to renew old friendships.

Many, many thanks to Bernice Oakley for a splendid celebration! A few memory books are still available for \$5 apiece; call 443-VOTE if you wish to buy one.

And if you have any League memorabilia stashed in the attic (or know a former member who does), please notify Barbara Hempill, barbehem@comcast.net or 846-9739, or Eileen Barr, eibarr@comcast.net or 828-8978. We are trying to consolidate historical materials with an eye to turning them over to a local preservation society for safekeeping.

Jane Staehle



Voters at the Farmer's Market

Once again the League has a table at Livermore's Farmers Market. Our opening afternoon was May 26th and, like last year, we're at the corner of 3rd and J Streets — one of the best locations on the block!

As the November election comes closer, we expect more activity for first-time registrants, voters who have changed their address or wish to change their party affiliation, and those who have changed their name. All need to register and the League is there to serve them. Come on over some Thursday afternoon after 4:00 PM — pick up some strawberries and vegetables and join us for a few moments at the League's booth.

Fred and Audrey Lovell

LWV-LAV 2005-06 Budget

Our budget for 2005 projects 82 members – 8 new members, or a 10% increase from 2004-05. To meet this challenge, we have increased our budget for both membership and program, but we need your help. Please invite a friend, perhaps someone who has expressed an interest in government and its policies to you, to one of our meetings this year.

By now you have received your membership renewal application from Pat Mann and noticed that the dues have been increased to \$55 for an individual member and \$80 for a household. This increase will help defray the State dues increase of \$2 and the US dues increase of nearly \$1, plus increased local expenses.

One of the Budget Committee's recommendations was to add money from our checking account (approximately \$1,850) to our Scholarship Fund CD when it matures this October. This will bring the principal up to \$15,000, which, if interest rates rise, will be adequate to fully fund our scholarships without taking money from the general fund. On the advice of our Management Training Advisor, we also increased Delegate and Travel to \$3,250. This should be adequate to cover the cost of next year's president's attending the National Convention in Minneapolis, plus sending one or two representatives to the State Council in Sacramento.

State Convention Highlights

"It's a New World" was the Convention theme. President Jacobberger outlined steps that the State League has taken to restore financial stability. She urged us to focus our efforts on public policy where we can make a unique contribution and where we can be effective.

Since the League at various levels has been criticized for not including in its forums all the candidates running for an office, a straw vote was taken to see what the delegates thought the League's Candidate Forum Criteria should be. The majority at the convention agreed that the League should establish criteria only when there are more than four candidates for a statewide office.

LWVC PROGRAM 2005-2007

- All current LWVC positions were reaffirmed under the headings of Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.
- No state study or position update was recommended by the majority of Leagues. The Energy Update Study will be available in August with results due later this year
- LWVC Issues for Education and Advocacy (for concerted local- and state-level action and community education) are Redistricting, State and Local Finances, and Health Care. These issues are also the Legislative Priorities for 2005.

Barbara Hempill

Calendar



**Saturday, June 25th, 9 AM,
New Board Retreat, United
Church of Christ, Livermore**

July 25th, Board Meeting

July 29th, VOTER deadline

August 29th, Board Meeting

September 2nd, VOTER deadline

**September 10th, LWVC Regional
Training Sessions**

**September 24th, Know Your Bay
Area Day: "Protecting/Reforming
CEQA"**

**TBA, Fall Membership Kickoff
Event**



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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 \$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 94551-0702

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____