

Valley Voter

League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley

May 2006

Join Us at the League Annual Meeting

All members are urged to attend the Livermore-Amador Valley League Annual Meeting to be held in the conference room at the Livermore Police Department, 1110 South Livermore Avenue, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with light refreshments and a chance for fellowship. The business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. We will be electing officers for the coming year, adopting the budget for 2006-07, possibly revising our Education position, and hearing reports. You will also have a chance to advise the Board about what you would like to see happen in 2006-07.

Following the business meeting, at 10:45 a.m. our guest speaker, Jack Colbourn from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, will talk about air quality in the Livermore-Amador Valley, past, present, and future. Mr. Colbourn was recently appointed Director of Outreach and Incentives for BAAQMD. Until his appointment, he was on assignment to the Air District from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX. During his tenure with USEPA, Mr. Colbourn addressed air issues throughout the Pacific Southwest and managed the daily operations of the Air Division. His EPA experience includes management of the Grant, Climate Change, Energy Star, and Tribal Programs.

Recently the LWVUS and other concerned organizations submitted a statement to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency urging strengthened air quality standards consistent with the Clean Air Act. The changes to air standards for fine and coarse particulate matter recently proposed by the EPA do not meet the requirements of the law and are insufficient to protect public health and welfare.

The Livermore-Amador Valley League recently sent a letter to the Pleasanton City Council urging that it pass a Wood Smoke Ordinance.

The League has long been interested in and concerned about air quality issues in our area. We are sure you will find his remarks interesting.

Barbara Hempill



President's Message

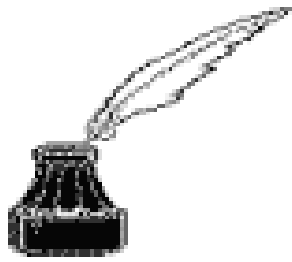
Julice Winter and I attended the League of Women Voters California Council on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, in Sacramento. The theme was *Effective Leaders – Effective Leagues*. While the official business of the Council was to adopt the LWVC budget for the coming fiscal year, there was an opportunity to attend workshops to learn League basics and to improve leadership skills, advocacy, and voters service. We were also privileged to hear LWVUS President Kay Maxwell.

A member of the Oakland League, Nikki Harris, will represent the Livermore-Amador Valley League at the LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis. She will be reporting back to us about what happened at the convention.

I would definitely encourage you to take advantage of future opportunities the League offers to attend such activities. You will not only learn more about the League, but you will meet some very interesting people.

Now, for something closer to home, be sure to attend our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 20, and hear our speaker from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Jack Colbourn. See the article about the meeting elsewhere in this newsletter.

Be sure to vote on Tuesday, June 6. Your League Board has distributed hundreds of copies of *Easy Voter* and *Pros and Cons* throughout the community. Look for them at libraries, senior centers and apartment complexes, Axis Health Care, the Livermore Multi-Service Center, etc. Since *Easy Voter* now comes in five languages, we hope to reach more people and encourage them to exercise their right to vote.



You will soon be receiving your invitation to rejoin the League. We encourage you to invite your friends and acquaintances to join too. And take advantage of the opportunity to participate in our various activities throughout the year. As you will note, there is no change in dues for the coming year.

Barbara Hempill

Clean Money Election Initiative

The California Nurses Association is sponsoring a Clean Money Election initiative for the November 2006 ballot. The initiative provides public financing for clean money candidates, as well as strict limits on contributions to non-clean money candidates, bans on contributions from lobbyists and state contractors, and limits on corporate donations to ballot measures.

The LWVC has not taken a position on this initiative; therefore, local Leagues may not participate in signature gathering for this measure. While League members often choose to participate in campaigns, they do so only as individuals and may not use the League name in any way or identify themselves as League members. However, the LWVC continues to work for public financing of elections and redistricting by an independent commission.

League representatives were present to voice their support when AB 583 (Hancock), the Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006, was heard in the Senate Elections Committee April 19. The committee heard extensive testimony but deferred a vote on the bill to some time in the future.

Last month the LWVUS and other national reform groups sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives urging members to support closing safe money loopholes and to vote for H.R. 513. This bill passed the House 218-209 April 5.

Voter Registration Database Problems

The Help America Vote Act requires that before a new or re-registering voter is added to the statewide CalVoter database, a search of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles database must be performed in an attempt to verify the information given on the registration form. This has resulted in approximately 25% of the registrations being rejected. The LWVC expressed its concern to the Secretary of State and stressed that failure to match is not evidence that a person is ineligible to vote.

The League has worked with the Secretary of State to resolve these problems, and changes are being instituted to resolve this problem. However, when registering or re-registering voters to change one's name, address, or party, local leagues should publicize the need to supply a California driver's license (or state ID) number. If the voter has no DL or ID, the last four digits of his or her Social Security number must be given. They should also be told to keep the stub from the registration form, so if there are any questions when they go to vote, they can present the stub at the polls.

Calendar

Saturday, May 20, Annual Meeting. 9 am – social; 9:30 am – Business Meeting; 10:45 am – speaker Jack Colbourn. See article on p. 2.



Monday, June 5, Old-New Board Meeting, 6-8 pm, Bengston residence.

Friday, June 23, "Transformation of the Bay Area Waterfront – Water-Linked Transit Oriented Development," 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., World Trade Center, Ferry Building, San Francisco. For information contact www.watertransit.org/TODC Conference.

"Time's a-Wastin'!"

Renewal time for Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters! This month you will receive a letter inviting you to renew your membership. Please respond right away, if you have not already renewed.

Pat Mann, Membership VP

Who's Who in the League

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Board Briefs

Gave *Pros and Cons* and *Easy Voters* to Board members to distribute.

Discussed letter sent to Pleasanton City Council encouraging the adoption of a Wood Smoke Ordinance.

Tabled discussion of materials received from LWVC relating to the court system.

Ann Rathjen



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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: _____