



Welcome to Convention 2007

"Rally in the Valley," LWVC Convention 2007, May 18-20 in Bakersfield, offers delegates not only a voice toward the League's future, but a glimpse into Central California's riches.

Executive Order S-5-05 may say it best: "Whereas, the San Joaquin Valley is a region rich in resources and important to California's heritage, economy, environment, and identity. It is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world—home to farmlands that feed the nation and the world. It encompasses three world class national parks that preserve the natural beauty of the Valley and mountains that bound it. The San Joaquin Valley is intersected by a transportation corridor that is critical to the state's interstate commerce. Its people are hardworking and representative of many cultures, races and nationalities."—Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, June 2005.

Bakersfield is located in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley along Highway 99 and north of its junction with Interstate 5, just a short drive from Los Angeles. Regular Amtrak service is available directly into Bakersfield on a daily basis from both San Francisco and Sacramento. Meadows Field airport is just minutes north of downtown Bakersfield. Airlines serving the Bakersfield area include America West and United Express. Meadows Field offers 24 flights daily with direct flights to Los Angeles and San Francisco. ILOs may also consider chartering a bus for delegates and observers to travel together to Bakersfield

Delegates will have a pre-convention opportunity to explore the Kern County Water Agency's underground storage facilities (known as "2800 Acres") that store much of Los Angeles County's drinking water. The three-hour tour includes a snack. Pre-registration fee of \$20 is required.

Delegates arriving early with shopping on their minds may be interested in downtown Bakersfield's antique stores.

On Friday night, May 18, come out for some down-home cooking and a chance to hear authentic country music at another famous Bakersfield institution, the Buck Owens Crystal Palace. A select buffet dinner with homemade chocolate cake and entertainment is only \$45. Carpools and the Doubletree Hotel van will make the short drive to the restaurant. We hope you can join us for this opportunity to meet Leaguers from around the state and have some fun together.

If country music is not your thing, we can suggest other local venues for a taste of culture, including Basque food, a lively theatre arts district in downtown or a quick shopping trip for antiques.

At the convention itself the marketplace will include a farmers' market replete with the valley's agricultural products and a raft of books related to the Central Valley.

The LWV of Bakersfield looks forward to meeting you.

Renee Nelson, Committee Chair
LWV Bakersfield