

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA

Post Convention Voter 2003

Dear League members,

In August 2002 the League stood alone. But by election day in November, the League stood proudly as the leader of a broadbased coalition opposing Proposition 49, which would permanently earmark up to \$550 million annually to fund a single program. Higher visibility, greater credibility, increased strength of voice, and the ability to more fully support the work of our primarily volunteer, grassroots-based organization—these are four benefits to the League of having highly-skilled advocacy staff in our state office.

I'm writing to you today to ask for your help in making sure that those benefits continue.

Delegates at our recent state convention spoke to the value of League advocacy and action loudly and clearly when they adopted three issues for focused education and advocacy, two position update studies, and a budget that assumed this member appeal “directed exclusively toward support of the LWVC legislative office.”

The Issues for Emphasis adopted by convention delegates reflect the major issues facing Californians today: programs of advocacy and member/public education on health care, state and local finances, and community colleges, as well as work to update and improve our positions on education and energy. The League of Women Voters of California is one of the few statewide organizations that has strong positions on state and local finances and a history of advocating for reforms in the public interest. This year, with the state mired in an extraordinary budget crisis, we are speaking out strongly for solutions that can preserve the most vital services without plunging the state deeply into debt for years to come.

You, our members, understand the importance of these issues. We are known as an organization that does not simply protect its own turf. Our members are not people who consider only their own personal interests and turn a blind eye to the broader needs of the whole community. Policy-makers and advocates from other organizations listen to us and solicit our support.

Our voice will be especially important at a time when issues related to budget and finance are headed for the ballot. We are already gearing up for these fights, and, with your support, will be leaders in these battles. It is well-known that the League's support or opposition can be crucial to a ballot measure or legislative proposal. But again, this will require staff support in Sacramento.

Like many other nonprofit organizations in the post-9/11 era of economic downturn, we are having difficulty raising the money we need to retain our staff and to keep our advocacy work at the high levels you, our members, have come to expect. Much of the money we do raise must go to the Education Fund and cannot be used for the advocacy part of our program. If we are to keep our legislative office functioning at even the level we have now, much less rise to current statewide challenges, we need your support. We call on all of you who value these services to donate to our General Fund. Our specific goal is to raise \$50,000 to provide the resources that are needed.

We do not want to miss this opportunity to be the forceful voice the League of Women Voters of California should be in the public debates over how to keep California strong and solvent.

And so I'm asking you to join me in doing two things. First, write a check for \$50 or more and send it to the LWVC in the enclosed return envelope. Then, on the envelope itself, add a note to tell us what issue(s) you are particularly interested in so we can connect you with other members throughout the state. I have already mailed in my check . . .

With appreciation,
Barbara Inatsugu
LWVC President 7/01-6/03

POST-CONVENTION WRAP-UP

The 60th Convention of the League of Women Voters is now behind us. It was a wonderful experience, from the opening Lion Dance to the lone piper on Sunday; from our welcoming remarks from Supervisor Gail Steele through speakers Kay Maxwell and Liz Hill, to comedian Will Durst at the Saturday Banquet.

I feel fortunate to have been involved in the planning and execution of this event, and on behalf of the LWVC I want to thank the many League members from Alameda County whose volunteer efforts made our Convention both possible and successful.

- Jo Ann Price, who coordinated and motivated the Convention Committee throughout the two-year process
- Sherry Smith, LWV Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville, who coordinated the Marketplace and the Silent Auction.
- Joyce Jackson who helped organize the Banquet.
- Bill Campbell who constructed the Convention Web site, and
- Marilyn Coons who designed the Logo, the Commemorative Program and saw to all other graphic needs.
- Judy Cox and her helpers from LWV Oakland who helped with hotel arrangements, audio-visual needs and fundraising efforts.
- Sue Veit, who coordinated the ad campaign for the Commemorative Program.
- Peggy Lowndes, who organized A/V request
- Bev Solo, LWV Oakland Treasurer, who served as Convention Treasurer
- Bonnie Hamlin who coordinated the Dine-Around, and found interesting and unusual restaurants.
- Members of the Piedmont League Shelagh Udovch and Sue Jordan who were responsible for the Gala Reception and the entertainment at Convention events; Trisha Gorman who provided invaluable assistance to the A/V team during plenary sessions; and Steffi Mooers who generously opened her home to incoming and current Board members and to steering committee members for a lovely dinner and chance to unwind after the close of Convention.
- Kate Quick from the LWV of Alameda for registration, the registration area, and for the daily credential reports; and Lena Tam, who helped on the Banquet, fundraising and other areas.
- Alex Starr, Bunny Robinson and Miriam Keller of LWV Fremont/Newark/Union City, the team responsible for coordinating volunteers.

- Karol Ruppenthal and Larry Bakken of Livermore/Amador who coordinated tours and transportation logistics.

- Suzanne Barba's of LWV Eden area who coordinated the workroom and daily publications on the events of the Convention, scheduled caucuses and oversaw our Yahoo group.

Many others contributed to the success of the Convention, including responsive and caring hotel staff, and our own office staff (thanks, Peggi, Marni, Trudy, and Eric, and to Daniel Triano, who is no longer on our staff, but came and helped out any way). I cannot mention them all, but they all have earned our heart-felt thanks.

Carole Levenson, Executive Vice President
carolesl@jps.net

Where Will They Be?

Council 2004 & Convention 2005

Presidents Council 2004 will be hosted by the LWV Sacramento working together with the LWVC office staff; LWVC Convention 2005 will be hosted by the Orange County Inter-League Organization (ILO). We will inform you as soon as we have dates for each. We thank and appreciate these Leagues for their offers to host these events.

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THE LEAGUE: NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT

Dear League members and friends,

We hope you will enjoy this special edition of the California VOTER. It has been substantively expanded to share with all League members in California not only a post-convention wrap-up, but end-of-term reports, and an initial look at some of the upcoming issues identified as areas of major importance by our membership. We are also pleased to report that we are able to do this for a number of cost efficiency and cost effective reasons as well. We have: (1) moved to a method of production that costs approximately one-third our previous production costs, even at 24 pages; and (2) included a major member appeal in the text. A stand-alone member appeal would normally cost in excess of \$5,000 in production expenses, more than the cost of this combined edition of the VOTER and mail appeal.

We invite you to enjoy, read, learn and share the information. As always, your feedback is welcomed and encouraged.



(The following are excerpts from the LWVC President's State of the League Remarks, delivered at Convention 2003.)

We started this term with the reverberating and energizing sound of taiko drums and my little grandchildren at the dais with me. Los Angeles Convention delegates had the opportunity to step forward and do something most had never done before—to experience being taiko drummers themselves.

We also began this biennium with a commitment to starting a process of change in our state structure. Most notably, we began our term with a newly created position that would have direct oversight of our Education Fund operations and would, therefore, make the role and responsibilities of the president more manageable. Judy Davis consented to become part of the board in that role. This has enabled us to move toward even more clearly distinguishing the 501(c)(4) functions of the League of Women Voters of California from the 501(c)(3) functions of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund.

...and then 9/11 happened...

Before we could even get a real sense of our portfolios, the horror and tragedy of that day and those events struck us all. We were temporarily immobilized as we watched TV images day after day; we were profoundly effected by an event that not only brought terrorism home and killed so many people in such an unexpected and dramatic way, but we were mesmerized by the very visual fact that an essentially small group of people could do something like bring all air travel over America to a total standstill. I was reminded of a movie I watched so many times during my childhood—*The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

...our challenge as a nation...

And now we are ending our term (it's only been two years!) with the Patriot Act as the law of our land and talk of followup legislation that could impact our civil liberties even more dramatically. We are ending our term with American soldiers in Iraq (and still in Afghanistan) and what appears to be a new American doctrine for resolving international disputes. Not since the League stepped forward with the Freedom Agenda in the 1950's have we been so challenged as a nation.

...our challenge in California...

At home, here in California, we are also ending our term facing what looks like an insurmountable state budget deficit and a recognition that without substantive structural reform, we will continue to see these kinds of budget imbalances every year. That means, without major reform, we will continue to see all the program areas we care about severely and negatively impacted in ways that may have long-term detrimental effects.

The good news is that there are now conversations going on that include former sacred cows. The good news is that the League is well positioned to advocate, educate, and facilitate. In spite of all the drama and trauma, the League's fundamental work has gone on. And it has not only gone on, it has gone on with vigor and vitality. We have engaged in aggressive, outspoken advocacy and we have engaged in aggressive, outspoken citizen education and voters service.

...And we continue to address our infrastructure needs...

.....In the fall of 2002, our Training Task Force coordinated three workshops in various locations around the state. Task Force members will be meeting during convention to look ahead to another round of workshops in the fall of 2003.

.....and then there's LEW, League Easy Web. LEW enables Leagues to easily build and maintain their own Web sites without having to get a trained Webmaster. First offered to California Leagues in July 2001, we now have 27 Leagues using LEW: 18 in California (including Stop 49) and nine in other states.

LEAGUE continued on page 20

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARDS

This year, the League of Women Voters of California was pleased to award for the first time Making Democracy Work Awards to individuals and organizations that have demonstrated commitment to engag-

ing in activities and projects that are part of what we believe contribute to a healthy, sustainable democracy.

LWVC Recognizes LWVC President, Hulda Hoover McClean, 1941 to 1943

Earlier this year, the League of Women Voters of California board of directors voted to recognize at Convention 2003 Hulda Hoover McLean. Hulda was the LWVC president SIXTY years ago, serving from 1941 to 1943. When notified of the board's decision, Hulda wrote I feel honored to be invited as a guest at LWV convention and to be recognized for my activities. However—at 96—I just can't make the trip. Please give my greetings to the members and tell them I am proud of the continuing successes of the organization.

During her lifetime Hulda Hoover McLean has had a wide range of experiences as artist, naturalist, writer, farmer, politician, businesswoman, wife and mother. She lived in Pasadena when she was state president. At that time she was still breastfeeding her youngest son and had to travel to and from Sacramento by train. To visit local Leagues she had to prepare for multiday trips by train, arrange for child care (or take kids with her), etc. The logistics of being a state president were very different. There were no faxes, no Internet, no email. Communication was done by phone, telex/telegraph, "snailmail," or in person. And she served her entire term during a time when the United States was at war (WWII).

Born in 1906, she now lives in Santa Cruz, where she is still active in local affairs, paints, and writes. Her autobiography, *Almost a Hundred Years*, was recently published and well worth reading. Always actively involved, and always proactive and ahead of her time, Hulda was the first woman elected to the Santa Cruz board of supervisors and served from 1956 to 1963. In 1981-82, she was the first woman to be foreman of the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury.

A relative of hers reports that one morning in 1999, as they were all looking back at the past 100 years, Hulda was called by a reporter from the San Jose Mercury News and asked what she considered to be the most important development in the (20th) century and what would be the most important one in the next century. Her response was as follows:

The most important development of the past hundred years has been the growth of freedom, acceptance and encouragement of women to use their capabilities in the fields of their choice. This has happened only in the Western countries.

The twenty-first century should bring about worldwide opportunities for education, income security, and public acceptance that will make possible the utilization of women's largely untapped potential. Women comprise half of the human race. Release of their abilities would accelerate the discovery of marvels in medicing, science, technology and other fields as yet undreamed of.

Pretty good for on the phone with a reporter and being over 90 years of age at the time! Oh, another note—Hulda's father was a mining engineer as was his brother, President of the United States Herbert Hoover. The League is an amazing organization, filled with amazing people. Hulda is certainly one of them.

California State Assembly Majority Leader Wilma Chan was presented with the first LWVC Making Democracy Work Leadership Award for Outstanding Accomplishment and Effectiveness in the California State Assembly. Although she specifically represents the cities of Oakland, Alameda and Piedmont, Assembly Member Chan has approached her role as an advocate for all Californians and is actively involved in many of the areas that are of fundamental importance to the League: good government, health care, senior services, early childhood education, environmental health and sustainable economic development. In her first year in office, she convened the Assembly Select Committee on California Children's School Readiness and Health and held the first state hearings on the link between a child's health and school success. The committee issued a groundbreaking report of their findings and legislative recommendations. Majority Leader Chan is the highest ranking woman in the State Assembly as Assembly Majority Leader and is the first Asian American to hold this position.

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) was presented our first Making Democracy Work Award for Outstanding Effectiveness, Consistency, and Integrity of Performance by a Governmental Body. The award was accepted by Elizabeth Hill, California's Legislative Analyst.

Ms. Hill leads a Legislative Analyst's Office that provides the most vital and rare commodity in Sacramento – informed, independent

GIVE IT AWAY

(Speech delivered at Convention 2003 by Judy Davis, LWVC Education Fund Chair, 2001-2003)



A plane leaves the airport in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In it is a young woman headed even further into the back of beyond. She is going to present a workshop called “Making Democracy Work” for the local militias. These are the men who work for the warlord who commands the village. The first morning the men swagger in unshaven, dirty and asking, “What is this woman going to teach us? What does she know?” They spend the day learning to brainstorm, how to rank order priorities, how to focus on a local problem they need to solve, how to get people involved and working together. The next morning the men come in clean-shaven, wearing clean clothes, standing up straight and sucking in their gut. Their evaluation forms say that for the first time they have been able to express their opinion and learn how they can help solve their own community problems. They feel self-worth for the first time. The guns and knives they carried evidently didn’t give them self-worth or make them feel as empowered as they felt when using the tools of activism given to them by that young woman. **This is civic engagement – the work of the Ed Fund.**

A candidates’ forum on the outskirts of Dushanbe, Tajikistan must be cancelled because one of the candidates has been killed in a car bombing and the other eight are attending his funeral at the appointed time. But two hundred people are sitting in the hall. Should it be rescheduled? Would that be too risky? The forum committee decides that this first-ever forum must go on if people are this hungry for information. So they reschedule for one week later. Next time all of the remaining candidates are there and 600 people are in the audience. **This is voter service writ large – the work of the Ed Fund.**

A young woman writes to the feedback section of Smart Voter: “You have given the vote back to a very disenchanting young person. I would never have voted without this information.” **This is 21st century leading-edge voter service – the work of the Ed Fund.**

A man stands up in a forum arranged to discuss the hard choices that must be made in the effort to balance the need for economic growth of a community with the need to maintain the health and a decent quality of life for the people who live there. In his recently acquired English he says that this is the first time anyone has invited him to voice his opinion about what he wants for the future of his community and he just wants to say thank you. **This is deliberative dialogue – the work of the Ed Fund.**

An economic bubble has burst and people are losing jobs and careers. They need retraining in order to find new work. Less money and fewer jobs means that more students are coming to the community colleges because they can’t afford to go away to a university or take four years to get a college degree. An already overburdened system is thrown into crisis and has trouble responding to community needs. A group of people from around the state are so concerned that they put together a committee and with virtually no money set out to document how the system works and see if there are ways it can be made to work better. 49 Leagues participate in the study and come to consensus. Now there is good information with which to inform the public about how the system works, the opportunities it affords and how they can help to make it fit their community’s needs. **This is study – the work of the Ed Fund.**

A position statement is written and passed on to the advocacy side of the League because advocacy can never happen without a position and a position can only come from study. This is the strength of the League and along with nonpartisanship the bedrock of our reputation.

You have these skills within you. Take them into your community where they are needed most and give them away. **This is the work of the Ed Fund – the work I love to do.**

Thank you.

Judy Davis
judiths@speakeasy.org

CONVENTION ADOPTS

Five Issues for Emphasis



Five Issues for Emphasis were adopted on May 18 by the delegates to the LWVC Convention 2003: two new studies and three issues for education and advocacy. Since League resources for 2003-2005 will be reduced from the previous biennium, it will be important to find outside funding to undertake these projects about which League members are passionate. Ad hoc planning committees will be established for each issue; they will be charged to recommend a plan, a budget, and specific sources of funding.

The issues are:

Health Care

education and advocacy

State and Local Finances

education and advocacy

Community Colleges

education and advocacy

Education

update position

Energy

update position

Marion Taylor,
Government Director
mtaylor@got.net

SOCIAL POLICY

Convention Briefs



Community College System

Position Adopted

Delegates at the biennial convention ratified, with changes, the Community College System position. (See page 17)

Community College System

Issue for Emphasis

Delegates voted to make community colleges an Issue for Emphasis for education and action. We will be organizing an ad hoc committee to propose a plan with a time-line, budget, and specific proposals for raising new funds to support the work. If you or someone in your League is interested in taking an active role on this issue, please send those names and contact information to Kathy Webb at kwebblwv@aol.com. Stay tuned, also, for upcoming opportunities for discussion and information sharing.

Health Care

Issue for Emphasis

Delegates at convention also voted to make health care—education and action an Issue for Emphasis. With health care at a crisis stage, many members have shown great interest in the issue.

We are also in the process of setting up a listserv for an open discussion and information sharing of health care. If you wish to be a part of this, please send a message to Kathy Webb at kwebblwv@aol.com.

Education

Position Update

Delegates also voted to do an update of our education (K-12) position. An ad hoc committee was approved by the LWVCEF board to come back to the board with a plan for the update study. The members are Joanne Leavitt, chair (LWV Santa Monica), Geri Stewart (LWV Palo Alto), and Jacquie Canfield (LWV Fresno). Interested in this study? Want to be part of a statewide information and discussion network as we move through state and local components of the process? Contact Joanne at ac997@lafn.org

Kathy Webb, Social Policy Director
kwebblwv@aol.com

HEALTH CARE

Issue for Emphasis

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Convention delegates unanimously approved health care as an Issue for Emphasis at the LWVC Convention. League timing is near perfect for the work and possibilities we have to impact improvement, if not a complete overhaul of California's health care system. For the first time in a decade, a serious commitment to addressing the issue of the uninsured and problems within the health care system has been demonstrated in the Legislature. On June 4, 2003 both SB 2 (Burton) and SB 921 (Kuehl) were passed without floor debate from the Senate to the Assembly. SB 2 mandates that employers provide health coverage for their employees and employee dependents by either providing insurance for them or paying into a state fund which would cover them. SB 921, a single payer plan that would cover all Californians, leaves the current health care delivery system in place and changes the financing structure from a wasteful multi-payer system (HMOs and Insurance companies) to a publicly accountable single-payer system administered by the state.

To facilitate their passage, both bills were amended after passing through several Senate committees, and passed on with intent language only. Each bill will be amended in the Assembly and specific language added back in for further debate. The League has approved support for both bills, and depending on the amendments, we are poised to continue support as they work their way through the legislature.

With much of the Action element in place for our Issue for Emphasis, we will move ahead with the work to develop the Education element of the program. If you have a passion/interest in health care reform please forward your name and contact information to Barbara Storey at bs_lwv003@hotmail.com.

Local League presidents are also requested to urge members with an interest in health care reform to send in their name, League, and contact information with their request to join a new health care listserve which will soon be available (147 members signed up at convention [see previous page, Social Policy]). These steps are important for the education work we will be doing for the next two years.

In addition, League presidents are urged to email any thoughts they have about their League's capacity for community education, i.e. the names of possible local partner organizations, past experiences—what worked well in their area, what did not, etc.

Thank you in advance for any and all assistance with these requests.

Barbara Storey, Program Director, Health Care
bs_lwv003@hotmail.com

ENERGY

Issue for Emphasis

Update Position

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■ Energy was an issue for emphasis for 2001-2003. A committee, composed of state wide members, was formed to become educated on the topic and to provide materials for educating local League members about the energy crisis of 2000/2001 and the future of energy in California. Through their activities, the League has developed important contacts and relationships with the energy policy community. This has led to the League co-sponsoring a workshop with the California Energy Commission on the future of California's energy strategy for the next 20 years.

■ At Convention 2003, delegates voted for a study on updating the League's energy position in areas where we have not been able to advocate. Specifically, the study will address governance; financial or economic concerns, such as pricing structures or market forces; plus other issues such as consumer or ratepayer rights and reliability issues.

Robin Tokmakian
 Natural Resources Director
robint@ucar.edu

THREE RESOLUTIONS PASSED

AT LWVC CONVENTION 2003

On May 18, delegates to LWVC Convention 2003 in Oakland passed the following three resolutions, or motions expressing the will of the Convention. The texts of the resolutions are posted on the LWVC Web site, www.ca.lwv.org.

Two of the resolutions, those dealing with presidential campaign forums and with civil liberties and open government, required transmission to the LWVUS, and we have done that. We also issued a press release about the civil

liberties/open government resolution in late May and will be open to opportunities for action on this issue.

The resolution about water privatization has been referred to off-board program directors and consultants in Water and other program areas. They will examine League positions in order to see which, if any, are relevant to water privatization and whether they could result in guidelines for action in this area.

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RESOLUTION ON PRESIDENTIAL CIVIL LIBERTIES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

Passed by the LWVC Convention 2003, May 18, 2003

WHEREAS the League of Women Voters from its inception has worked to protect civil liberties and foster open government for all; *and*

WHEREAS portions of several executive orders and legislative acts, such as the USA PATRIOT ACT OF 2001 and the Homeland Security Act, are contrary to the following positions of the League of Women Voters of the United States:

- citizen rights: protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making
- individual liberties: oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights; *and*

WHEREAS portions of these acts and executive orders have undermined our fundamental rights and liberties including:

- freedom of speech, religion, assembly and the press
- protection from unreasonable searches and seizures
- the rights to counsel and due process in judicial proceedings
- equal protection under the law; *and*

WHEREAS portions of these acts and executive orders impact our libraries and other sources of information, reducing our privacy as well as restricting our ability to obtain public information as provided under the Freedom of Information Act:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the League of Women Voters of California Convention do express great concern about the erosion of civil liberties and acknowledge the need for extensive education to increase awareness and aid in protecting our constitutional rights while acknowledging widespread fear in the U.S. and the need for fair and effective ways to cope; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters, at all levels,

- stand publicly and with other respected organizations that have voiced their concern about civil liberties and open government processes
- take timely and appropriate action to affirm and defend the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE League of Women Voters, at all levels, urge our elected representatives to

- closely oversee the implementation of these acts and executive orders

RESOLUTIONS continued on next page

- actively work for the repeal of such portions of them that violate our constitutional rights and liberties
- adamantly oppose proposed legislation, such as the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003, and any future legislation that would undermine or curtail our fundamental rights and liberties set forth in the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights; *and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters of California communicate this will of the convention to the League of Women Voters of the United States and urge their immediate action.



RESOLUTION ON PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FORUMS

Passed by the LWVC Convention 2003, May 18, 2003

WHEREAS the delegates assembled in League of Women Voters of California State Convention 2003 are committed to policy positions of LWV of the United States to “Promote an open government that is representative, . . .” to “Protect the citizen’s right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making,” and

WHEREAS The delegates assembled seek to encourage LWV United States policy positions to “. . . enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process,” and,

WHEREAS the delegates concur in the LWVUS Voting Rights Policy to “Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote,” and

WHEREAS the delegates assembled are convinced that LWVUS design and conduct of national presidential candidate debates in past elections met the purposes of these policies much more assuredly than did the exclusivity of the debates conducted by the two dominant political party campaign authorities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this body appeal to League of Women Voters of the United States to obtain financing, facilities and staff to design and conduct nationally televised United States’ presidential candidate forums, 2004, and further,

BE IT RESOLVED that all candidates who qualify for the national presidency ballot be invited to have equal opportunity to present themselves and their views.



RESOLUTION ON WATER PRIVATIZATION

Passed by the LWVC Convention 2003, May 18, 2003

WHEREAS local Leagues have grave concerns with the growing privatization of water sources in ways that could misuse this valuable resource and could take control of this scarce and essential resource out of public hands, and

WHEREAS there are privately owned water companies in California that function well and in the public interest, and

WHEREAS guidelines for local advocacy and action established with appropriate input from local Leagues would enable local Leagues, with LWVC approval, and the LWVC itself to support or oppose a specific project after careful review,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LWVC Board authorize the appropriate director(s) to examine League positions in order to ascertain which positions, if any, are relevant to water privatization.

CONVENTION AWARDS

ACTION

- **LWV of Bakersfield** was presented an award for bringing campaign finance reform to Kern County by conceiving and executing a comprehensive campaign plan
- **LWV of Los Angeles** was presented an award for playing a major role in successfully fighting the secession proposal in their city with rationality backed by excellent organization; and
- **LWV of Oakland** for assuring that a promised trial period and community assessment of the strong mayor form of government would not be short-circuited, but proceed instead as promised.

CITIZEN EDUCATION

First Place LWV Humboldt County

The LWV Humboldt County submitted two outstanding projects. (1) LWVHC's help was requested by the Native American Tribal community to help them learn about and understand their own constitution and election ordinance. The League served as the Interim Election Board, under contract with the Tribal Council, to conduct the election. The process was educational both for League members and for the tribal members. (2) In the wake of September 11th, 2001, LWVHC seized an opportunity from LWVUS to invite a diplomat from the U. S. Department of State to meet in local communities to increase communications. Collaborators included the State Department, Humboldt State University department of Government and Politics, the AAUW, Northern Humboldt High School district, College of the Redwoods, and law enforcement agencies from the Arcata Police Department, the county Sheriff's Department, the Highway Patrol, and the university police. Television, cable and print media covered the day's events.

Second Place LWV of Los Altos-Mountain View

After a parcel tax to benefit the elementary school failed, this League realized voters needed a better understanding of school funding and organized a public forum entitled School Finance 101. Their panelists included superintendents from all three local school districts and a professor of education from Stanford who was a former State Board of Education member. They advertised the forum in local papers and informed all local schools. One month later the 2nd parcel tax attempt succeeded.

Third Place LWV of San Diego

To cap off a two-year study on student services that promote a positive school environment (San Diego Unified School District) the San Diego League evaluated how such services could be improved. They planned a staff development session with the school counselors and invited a representative of the State Department of Education to speak, partnering with the local Kiwanis Club who paid transportation costs for the speaker. The meeting was held at National University, another partner in the project. End result: besides sharing of information, the counselors' budget was not cut and all counseling positions were retained.

COMMUNICATIONS/OUTREACH

Many local Leagues are working toward developing and implementing a more organized and effective communications/outreach plan and are beginning to see results. Two local Leagues have achieved outstanding results:

- **LWV of San Luis Obispo** has developed a regular television show that highlights and informs the community about their government, and government-related services ranging subject from Head Start to Witness Protection. They are starting a new series "Know Your Elected Officials." The president of the LWVSLO is Sara Horne.
- **LWV of San Diego** has added a Communications Director for the first time in 2002-3. She has developed a database of over 200 contacts with various types of press, Web pages and organizations or groups. Coverage in local community papers has increased and membership is growing. Their Speakers Bureau made 100 presentations before the election. They have presented forums ranging in subject from "Energy" to "Free Air Time." Nearly 200 people attended the Energy Meeting. About half of the participants are non-Leaguers. Beryl Flom and Catherine Stoll are co-presidents of this League.
- *Special recognition:* **LWV North Coast San Diego, Modesto, San Bernardino, Bakersfield, and Pasadena Area**

DEVELOPMENT

LWV Alameda *for reaching the highest percentage of their fundraising goal*

The LWV Alameda raised 260% of their goal with two simple, low-cost fundraisers. (1) A letter to members asking for \$25 donations to cover their budget shortfall and a chance to win a handmade quilt donated by a member if their membership was renewed by Dec. 15. Forty out of 108 members donated a total of \$2,050 dollars. (2) Members sold raffle tickets for an Oakland Raiders football game and two Oakland A's baseball games. Thirty members sold tickets, raising \$1243 dollars.

LWV Diablo Valley *for stepping into a brave new world.*

Although it had no experience in putting on a fundraising dinner event, LWV Diablo Valley did just that by hosting a Democracy Dinner in alliance with the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund. They were successful in getting corporate sponsorships, in-kind donations from the media and other businesses, as well as holding a raffle. They raised 100% of their goal after splitting profits with the LWVCEF.

LWV San Luis Obispo *for creatively fundraising while honoring youths.*

The LWV San Luis Obispo held its third annual Action Heroes luncheon honoring eight teenagers for significant civic and humanitarian deeds. Award recipients received \$500 scholarships, trophies, and certificates of appreciation. LWVSLO received financial and in-kind donations from corporations, small businesses, and individuals. This was a true community event while raising funds for their own sustenance.

INTERCOMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This award was presented to the **LWV of Bakersfield** for their work with several organizations representing the Kern County communities to host an International Women's Day Celebration, an event that honors women born in another country who have made significant contribution to the Kern county community. The Bakersfield League was able to recruit more members from the diverse population in Bakersfield and also raised community consciousness of the incredible contribution some immigrant women have made to the community. A League board member, Larry Pitman came up with the idea. Pitman states that "This is a big event in other countries." Beyond learning a new language and culture, it is an "extraordinary accomplishment" to come to another country and make a significant community contribution.

VOTER

First Place LWV Marin County

"We like to think of our VOTER as the new York Times of VOTERS, a fairly formal and complete record of the many activities of our League." This is an excellent VOTER, attractive in appearance, Signature look, very professional graphics, well written, filled with information and a pleasure to read. President, Margaret Jones; Editor, Marcia Hagen

Second Place LWV North San Mateo County

"Our VOTER seeks to meet the diverse informational needs of our members and the communities we serve while striving to maintain an even balance between education and advocacy" this VOTER has a signature look, easy to read, good graphics, a lot of well-written information, and a "help wanted" column that lists a very professional call for observers, smart voter, voter service, etc. President, Marie Baldisseri; Editor, Donald Jacobberger

HEART AND SOUL AWARD

The Heart and Soul Award was presented to the **LWV of San Luis Obispo County** celebrated their 40th Anniversary with a very successful idea of promoting their League and membership growth with \$40/40/40 campaign. That is \$40 dues, 40th anniversary, and 40 new members. It paid off as they increased their membership from 149 to 200. What a success! It was promoted on their TV show which focuses on information for their community.

Honorable Mention: **LWV Bakersfield** and the **LWV Marin County**

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Four years ago, Gail Dryden, at that time our incoming LWVC president, conceived of a program to challenge and energize local Leagues to increase their membership, develop their infrastructure, increase visibility in their communities, and to grow and stretch and take risks. Congratulations go to the seven local Leagues that successfully met the challenge this year: Southwest Santa Clara County, Santa Monica, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, Fremont/ Newark/Union City, Bakersfield, and Piedmont.

AWARDS continued on page 23

THE LWVC IN ACTION . . .

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The deepening state budget crisis put state and local finances at the top of our list of legislative priorities this year. We have been active in various coalitions urging a balanced approach to the problem. Neither program cuts or increased revenues alone can significantly address the problem.

We have resisted cuts, such as a roll-back in Medi-Cal provider rates and covered services, that we believe impact those who have no other realistic alternative for care. Such cuts also cost us matching federal dollars and would send even more people to seek treatment at emergency rooms, at a high cost to local health agencies.

We have also advocated for a return to previous higher rates for the top income tax brackets. The League believes that ability to pay should be the primary criterion for distributing the tax burden equitably. Moreover, high-income taxpayers will be minimally affected, since they can write off the state tax on their federal tax returns, on which they are already getting a reduction. We also supported returning the Vehicle License Fee to its previous level as provided by law, and its use to support local government.

Other legislative priorities are education, health care, voting rights, sustainability, energy, water, children and family issues, juvenile justice/dependency and meeting basic human needs. We had successful early action to protect the continued existence of the Coastal Commission, made necessary by a court decision.

BALLOT MEASURES

The League is always sought after by ballot measure campaigns for both our credibility with voters and our experience in such campaigns. The LWVC board has already taken a stand on several measures headed for the March, 2004 primary ballot.

Two of these measures are already approved for the primary election. One is the second installment of the school bond passed by the voters last November. We are supporting this \$12.3 billion bond measure that includes \$10 billion for K-12 school facilities, with about half for new construction and a quarter each for modernization and critically overcrowded schools. There is also \$2.3 billion for the community college system.

We are opposing Ward Connerly's so-called "Racial Privacy Initiative," which is also scheduled for the primary election but could go on the ballot this fall if the recall aimed at Governor Davis qualifies and is put to the voters then. This initiative would ban "classifying" people based on race, color, ethnicity or national origin in public education, contracting or employment. It would stop the state from even collecting or compiling statistics in such vital areas as health and education, making it hard to target programs and funding to populations most in need or to track positive or negative trends.

The board has also taken stands on two measures that are just now heading out for signature gathering. One is the Budget Accountability Act, which would reduce the vote in the Legislature needed to pass the budget and to raise taxes (if necessary to maintain current service levels) to 55 percent instead of the current two-thirds vote. The League has long advocated for a simple majority vote on these matters, and the board believes this is a significant step in that direction, and essential if the current budget crisis is to be confronted in a rational way over coming years.

The measure contains several other provisions to encourage responsibility and accountability in the budget process. For example, it provides for a rainy day reserve fund, requires the Governor and legislators to forfeit pay if the budget is not passed on time, and makes information on major provisions of the budget available in the ballot pamphlet, as well as information on how to find legislators' votes on the budget and related taxes on-line.

Recognizing the need for major fiscal reform in California, delegates to LWVC Convention 2003 in May adopted state and local finances as an Issue for Emphasis for public education and advocacy. One of our first activities in this biennium will be action to collect signatures to qualify the Budget Accountability Act for the March 2004 ballot, and without doubt, the League will be prominent in the campaign to pass the initiative.

The board is also supporting the Corporate Tax Accountability Act, filed by Lenny Goldberg, Executive Director of the California Tax Reform Association. It would require that corporate tax preferences (tax expenditures) could be repealed or amended by the same vote needed to pass them (a simple majority). It would also require that these tax breaks be reviewed as part of the regular budget process and have a five-year sunset unless reenacted. Revenues resulting from repeal or amendment of these preferences would be placed in the State Reserve Fund.

Some other possible measures are being considered by the Legislature. It is likely that SCA 1 (Burton) will be placed on the ballot. It would amend the California Constitution to provide that the people have a right to attend, observe, and be heard in the meetings of elected and appointed public bodies, and to inspect and obtain copies of public records. Other potential measures deal with reducing the vote requirements to enact several kinds of local taxes. We are supporting bills to lower the requirement for transportation taxes and for parcel taxes for schools.

Anne Henderson, Legislative Director
annehenderson@att.net

The logo features the word "CALIFORNIANS" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "for" in a smaller, lowercase font. Below this, the words "Budget Accountability" are written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "Budget" and "Accountability" stacked vertically. The text is white on a dark background.

A Permanent Solution for California's Budget Crisis

The Budget Accountability Act will hold the Governor and Legislature more accountable to taxpayers in order to produce more responsible and timely State budgets. Here's how:

Hold Legislators accountable to pass a budget on time.

If the State Budget is not passed by the Constitutional deadline, the Governor and members of the Legislature will permanently forfeit their salary, per diem expense allowance, and car allowance for each day until the budget is adopted and signed into law.

Currently the Governor and the Legislature have almost six months to adopt a budget. The Legislature has not met the June 15 constitutional deadline since 1986. The Budget Accountability Act will hold our elected representatives accountable. If they are not doing their job then they shouldn't get paid.

End partisan gridlock.

The vote required for the State Senate and Assembly to adopt the State budget and related tax legislation is reduced from 2/3rds to 55%. Currently, Rhode Island and Arkansas are the only other states to require a vote of two-thirds or more to pass a budget. The 55% vote required by the Budget Accountability Act still requires broad consensus to pass the budget, but it will end the gridlock caused by our current system.

The Budget Accountability Act also provides the Legislative Ethics Committees of the Assembly and State Senate authority to censure party leaders, members of party caucuses, or individual legislators who punish or threaten to punish any legislator for casting a particular legislative vote.

In the current political atmosphere, legislators are threatened and punished if they do not follow the party line. The Budget Accountability Act allows legislators to vote their conscience. They should be accountable to their constituents for their votes on the budget, not their party leadership.

Force the Legislature to make the budget its top priority.

If the State Budget is not passed by the Constitutional deadline, the Legislature is required to remain in session and is prohibited from acting on other legislation until the budget is adopted. An exception is made for legislation in response to an emergency declared by the Governor.

Passing a responsible budget on time is the Legislature's most important job, but right now legislators can work on other bills or even go on vacation while California's budget remains in limbo.

Give voters the facts about the budget.

The official voter pamphlet sent to voters each statewide election will be required to contain a summary explaining how the state spends the funds it receives and a Web site address where voters can go to find out how their legislators voted on the budget.

To hold politicians accountable, voters should know how their money is being spent and who is spending it.

Encourage fiscal responsibility.

The state is required to create a "rainy day" fund of 5% in years when revenues exceed the amount needed to fund existing service levels. Expenditures from the reserve could be made only when there is an economic downturn and revenues fall below existing program levels or for expenses related to a disaster declared by the Governor.

The current constitutional requirement establishes a "reasonable and necessary" prudent reserve, but no amount is specified. The Budget Accountability Act requires the Legislature to set aside a "rainy day" fund of at least 5% in good times to have a cushion so that extreme budget cuts and tax increases will be less likely in a weak economy.

THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT (HAVA)

The federal election reform legislation, signed on October 29, 2002, is called the "Help America Vote Act" (HAVA). HAVA requires states to make badly needed changes to their electoral procedures including: mandating that voters be allowed to cast provisional ballots, establishing a statewide computerized voter registration list, improving accessibility for voters with disabilities and keeping voters informed about their rights. The law also authorizes federal funds for these and other purposes.

California Secretary of State Kevin Shelley appointed 24 people to serve on his HAVA State Plan Advisory Committee; as the LWVC Government Director I was appointed to represent the League. On June 17 the document "My Vote Counts: The California Plan for Voting in the 21st Century. HAVA California Preliminary State Plan" was posted

on the Secretary of State's Web site (www.ss.ca.gov/elections/hava-state-plan.htm) for public inspection and comment through July 17, 2003. I hope that interested League members have reviewed the plan and submitted their comments. Those who do not use the Internet may call me to request information.

Here are some key elements of the plan.

VOTING SYSTEM STANDARDS

"Support, promote and encourage the use of direct recording electronic (DRE/touchscreen) voting systems... that are compatible with alternative voting methods such as ranked ballots and cumulative voting."

"Paper trails": The plan makes no reference to voter-verified paper records of votes cast as insurance against fraud. HAVA requires that a paper record be produced for audit purposes but does not specify that it must be produced when the vote is

cast. A number of League members, particularly those who know computers and believe that they are not well-protected against fraud, have urged that the League take a stand in favor of a contemporaneously generated paper trail.

When I first consulted the LWVUS about a position on paper trails, I was told that the League had no position. However, after in-depth analysis on June 12, the LWVUS issued a Briefing Paper which encouraged the use of electronic touchscreens and rejected the need for voter-verified paper trails. The paper concludes, "... An individual paper confirmation for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs, and slow down the purchase or lease of machines that might be needed to replace machines that don't work. The experts that we have consulted say that there are many safeguards other

RECALL PROCESS UNDER SCRUTINY *HAVA continued on page 16*

In recent months, efforts to recall Governor Gray Davis from office have drawn attention to the recall process in California. The recall is the power of the voters to remove elected officers before their terms expire. It was added to the state constitution in 1911, along with the initiative and referendum and other changes resulting from the Progressive movement. Recall elections combine features of both a ballot measure and a candidate election. A question of recalling an elected official is placed on the ballot by filing petitions containing the signatures of the required number of registered voters. For a statewide officer, this is 12 percent of the number who last voted for the office, or in this case 897,158 signatures, based on the approximately 7.5 million who voted in the November 2002 gubernatorial election. As in other cases where signatures are gathered, such as to qualify initiatives for the ballot, more than the minimum number of signatures are obtained to allow for ineligible ones. The goal of recall proponents is likely to be roughly 1.2 to 1.3 million.

Proponents of the recall have 160 days for circulating petitions. Every 30 days, county elections officials certify the number of qualified signatures they have received to that point. Once the Secretary of State certifies that sufficient signatures have been obtained, a special election is set to take place within 60 to 80 days. However, if a regularly scheduled statewide election will take place within 180 days of certification, the recall election can be consolidated with it.

Thus, if enough signatures are certified for the recall of the governor by September 2, 2003, a special election must be called for a date in the fall of 2003. If signatures for a recall election are certified after that date, the election would be consolidated with the March 2, 2004 statewide primary election. Accounting for the time required for the certification process, recall proponents believe they must turn in signatures by July 16, 2003 to ensure a fall 2003 special election.

RECALL continued on next page

RECALL continued from page 14

Before 1994, the only question at the recall election was whether the official should be recalled; if the recall was approved by a majority of the voters, a subsequent election was held to elect a successor. However, in November 1994 the law was amended to consolidate those two elections. Now the question of the recall and a list of candidates to succeed the official appear on the same ballot.

Candidates must file nomination papers and a declaration of candidacy 59 days prior to the election. For governor, a filing fee of \$3,500 and 65 valid signatures of registered voters of the same party as the candidate are required. Candidates not affiliated with a party may submit 65 valid signatures of registered voters of any party affiliation. Candidates may apply for a fee waiver by submitting additional signatures.

If the recall succeeds, the candidate with the largest number of votes is elected to the office and takes office the following day.

There are no party primaries to select candidates, and no provision for a runoff if no candidate receives a majority of the vote. There is no limit on the number of candidates who can run. If there are a number of candidates running, the winner could be elected with a relatively low percentage of the vote.

The proponents' statement of reasons for recall and the response, if any, filed by the official whose recall is sought are printed on the recall petitions and on the sample ballots mailed to voters.

According to a Fair Political Practices Commission fact sheet (www.fppc.ca.gov/index.html?id=102), the recall part of the election would be classified as a ballot measure, for which there are no contribution limits under the state

Political Reform Act. Thus, the contribution limits of Proposition 34 would not apply either to the proponents of the recall measure or to the elected official who is the target of the recall. However, Proposition 34 contribution limits would apply to the campaigns of the candidates running to succeed the recalled official. As with other elections in California, all candidates and campaign committees have reporting and disclosure obligations under the Political Reform Act.

If a special statewide recall election is called, the cost to taxpayers is estimated at \$25-35 million.

If the elected official is not recalled, his or her campaign expenses are reimbursed by the state. This potential cost to taxpayers is unknown.

Anne Henderson, Legislative Director
annehenderson@att.net

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Recall process: Secretary of State's Web site
ss.ca.gov/elections/recall.pdf

Recall proponents: Rescue California, 916-443-703,
www.rescuecalifornia.com,

People's Advocate, 916-482-6175 or
www.davisrecall.com.

Opponents of the recall: Taxpayers Against the
Governor's Recall, 916-569-0898 or 213-382-4111
or www.stoptherecall.com.

Campaign financing reports:
www.cal-access.ss.ca.gov
Globalsearch.asp?SEARCH=Recall+Davis

DEMOCRACY continued on page 14
DEMOCRACY continued from page 4

non-partisan analyses of the most important issues of the day. It was set up fifty-eight years ago by the Legislature as its own fiscal research arm to run the budget numbers independently from the governors office. The League regularly uses the materials the LAO publishes, most of which are posted online and downloadable.

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, who has achieved the distinction of being the highest ranking elected woman in the United States, was awarded a Making Democracy Work Award for her work in the United States Congress.

The Congresswoman was unable to attend in person due to a scheduling conflict but did send a three minute video of her acceptance. Her Chief of Staff, Katherine Dobson, accepted the award on her behalf.

The **Sierra Club**, **Kenneth Cole Productions**, and **Verizon Wireless** received Making Democracy Work Awards for creating and publishing outstanding, inspirational, and clean political ads aimed at getting voters to vote in the November 2002 election. Enlarged versions of these ads were on display during convention.

Barbara Inatsugu, President
inatsugub@aol.com

HAVA continued from page 14

than an individual ballot paper confirmation that can protect the sanctity of the ballot and that other issues are far more important in safeguarding our election systems.” It is available at the LWVUS Web site (www.lwv.org) under “Election Administration Reform.” A June 5 letter from LWVUS President Kay Maxwell to the New York Times, which was based on the Briefing Paper, is available there under “Get the News.”

ENHANCING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

To the extent possible, allow voters to cast a provisional ballot upon signing a statement affirming the required information, without providing additional identifying documents. If the information obtained to acquire a provisional ballot is sufficient, use it to register the applicant to vote in future elections. Consider sponsoring legislation whereby a person’s provisional ballot is counted with respect to those candidates and measures for which the person is entitled to vote, even if the provisional ballot is cast in the incorrect precinct or using the incorrect ballot for that person. Create or oversee local creation of “a secure and confidential free access system for a provisional voter to determine if his or her vote was counted, and, if it was not counted, the reason . . . [or of] procedures whereby every person who casts a provisional ballot is notified as to the status of that ballot in terms of whether it was counted or not counted, and if not counted, why it was not counted.”

STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE

“Develop, operate, and implement a process to continuously support and improve a secure statewide voter registration database that is a single, uniform, centralized,

interactive system that is defined, maintained, and administered at the state level.” The system will interface with the State Department of Corrections to coordinate records on felony status of voters; with the State Department of Health Services on the death of voters; with the DMV to verify driver’s license, California ID card, and social security number information; and, when practical, with other appropriate databases such as those involving the disability, public assistance, student and other communities.

The statewide database is key to implementing HAVA successfully in California. Its use will mitigate the impact of the new requirement in HAVA that citizens registering for the first time by mail must provide photo identification or proof of residence unless their registration has been verified with a social security or drivers license number.

POLL WORKER TRAINING

Ensure that any training provided to poll workers cover at least (a) proper operation and maintenance of voting systems and technology; (b) rights of voters to cast provisional ballots and the proper processing and counting of those ballots; (c) the non-discriminatory application of HAVA’s identification requirements for certain voters who register by mail; (d) the rights of minority language voters in jurisdictions where the 1965 Voting Rights Act requires that they may receive language assistance at the polling place.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A committee constituted for those purposes is provided for implementing most provisions of the Plan. The LWVC will be active in suggesting participation by League representatives on these advisory committees.

Marion Taylor, Government Director
mtaylor@got.net

COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDY THANK YOUS

After two years of work, the Community College System Study Committee was disbanded, with great appreciation.

Thank you to the committee members:

Active Members

Berkeley Albany, Emeryville

Polly Amrein

Helene Lecar

Central San Mateo County

Sherrean Rundberg

Claremont

Katie Gerecke

Cupertino/ Sunnyvale

Bernadette Buck

East San Diego County

Dana Quittner

Marin County

Elizabeth Moody

Nancy van Ravenswaay

Oakland

Natalie Robb

Palo Alto

Nancy Rogers

Geri Stewart

Sacramento

Nancy Davenport

Consulting Members

San Diego

Pat Keir

Santa Barbara

Joan Livingston

Santa Monica

Nancy Cattell

Carole Currey

A special thank-you to **Rita Mize**, of the Community College League of California, for her generosity and expert advice.

Now that the study has been completed, we have adopted a position, (some adjustments were made at convention) on the Community College System and the action part begins. The delegates at convention chose to make Community College Systems one of our Issues for Emphasis.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM POSITION

Adopted by Delegates to Convention 2003

Vertical Positions indicated by shading

POSITION IN BRIEF

Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education.

Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning.

Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs.

POSITIONS

Mission

1. Support retention of all five missions of the Community Colleges:

- to prepare students to transfer to four-year colleges
- to provide workplace skills, career development and certification in a wide range of occupations
- to offer opportunities for life-long learning
- to engage in programs fostering community economic development
- to provide instruction in basic academic skills to those who lack them.

Access

- Support using the goal of providing access to higher education to all who may benefit as a prime criterion for evaluating the community college system.

Governance

- Support measures that:
 - simplify the governance of the community colleges to provide greater authority for the internal decision-making structure of the system to manage its own affairs
 - increase local decision making by local college

communities while encouraging an effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority, in areas such as funding, between local and state entities in responding to local needs

- promote the role of the state structure as one of support for the local colleges as they work to serve the needs of their students and their communities.

Finance

- Support measures to finance the non-capital costs of the community college system that provide:
 - stable funding
 - opportunities for long-range planning
 - funding sufficient to accommodate all students
 - funding equity among the different districts within the community college system, with accommodations for different circumstances such as special expensive programs, cost of living, urban/rural differentials and community needs.

Priority Setting

- Support local determination of mission priorities for the district, within system-wide definitions of missions, guidelines and accountability standards.

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE DONORS

The League of Women Voters of California is pleased to recognize the following as founding members of the Leadership Circle. The Circle is open to any LWV member with a contribution to either LWVC and/or LWVEF in amounts totaling \$100 and above given within the fiscal year. The generosity of our donors helps to provide services to local Leagues, publish the VOTER, and do advocacy among a myriad of other necessities inherent in an organization such as ours. Thank you:

CARRIE CATT \$1000+

Hartman King, Beverly
Hollimon, Roberta
Leonard, Mark
Rice, Susan
Sinclair Nixon, Lessie
Stolz, Jr., Max
Taylor, Marion
Watts, Carol & Vern
Weisenberg, Kathleen & David

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON \$750-\$999

Bergen, Jane
Buckley McCauley, Alice
Davis, Judith
Gill, Karyn
Jacobberger, Jackie

SUSAN B. ANTHONY \$500-\$749

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Bruggemann, Joanne
Burke, Sharon
Burrows, Sue
Carson, Christopher
Davenport, Betty
De Llamas, Caroline
Delacorte, Albert & Letitia
Gertler, Judith
Hagt, Frances
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Hampton, Sylvia
Hansen, Lois
Henderson, Anne

Hsia Wang, Li
Hungerford, Lynda
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Langlois, Marilyn
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Meltzer, David & Beth
Mysels, Estella
Niles, Diantha
Nowlin, Genevieve
Palevsky, Joan
Perforce Foundation,
Reeg, Margo
Sears, Olivia
Spiess, F.N. & Sarah
Taylor, Anna Rose
Tokmakian, Robin
Trotter, Mary Elizabeth

SUFFRAGIST \$100-\$249

Alpert, Deirdre
Anderson, Joan
Arias, Joan
Auth, Mary
Barnhart, Kathryn
Barton, Bridig
Barton, Bridig
Bean, Beverly
Benioff, Mildred
Berman, Jacqueline
Birch, Herman
Black, Elizabeth
Blum, Rita
Boltz, Janet
Bonner, Jacquelyn
Boothe, Dorothy
Bothwell, Mary
Braitman, Bob
Braude, Marjorie
Britton Gray, Marcia
Brodkin, Thea
Brusca, Helen
Buchen, Wendy
Busby, Patricia
Butter, Florence
Cain, Mrs. John
Campbell, Virginia
Canary, Jean
Casavan, Carolyn
Cassel, Phyllis
Chanon, Renee
Chessin, Laurel & Stephen
Chipp, Donna
Clapp, Altee

Cleveland, Patience
Cohen, Edward
Cohen, Jean
Conrad, Kay
Coon, Dorothy
Cooper, Caroline
Coulter, Thomas & Jane
Credit, Roosevelt & Marie
Cuicis, Kay
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Dales, Ann
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Epstein, Hazel
Faber, Garold
Fay, John
Fenwick, Janet
Fleischman, Molly
Flom, Beryl
Flores-Bauer, Momy
Foote, Marjorie
Forno, Lysia
Fovinci, Marjorie
Franklin, Lissa
Freidberg, Jeffrey
Fuller, Alison
Galdstone, Edith
Gardiner, James
Gerecke, Marian
Getz, Edna
Glaser, Lynn
Goldberg, Ann
Goldhammer, Muriel
Goldman, Ernest
Good, Anne
Goodrich Heck, Ann
Gough, Lawrence
Grabau, Frances
Greene, Dorothy
Gregg, Mary Ellen
Gruenewald, Doris
Hall, Jane

JULY 2002 THRU JUNE 2003

Hammett, Ruth
 Hansen, Barbara
 Hanson, Mary & Jay
 Hauge, Sondra
 Hawkins, Patricia Ann
 Haye, Henry
 Healy, Rita
 Henderson, Mitzi
 Herman, Linda
 Heydon, Harlan & Marion
 Hill, Dale
 Hilton Riser, Helen
 Hoadley, Phillip & Lois
 Hoefling, Judith
 Hoff, Barbara
 House, Robert
 Hutchison, Helen
 Inkeles, Alex
 Israel, Gail
 Iverson, Mrs. Leigh
 Jackson, Rowena
 Jaffe, Simone
 Jaynes, Amy
 Johnson, Alice
 Johnson, Katharine
 Jones Clark, Marion
 Kaplan, Evelyn
 Karshner, Gayle
 Katz, Shirley
 Kayden, Xandra
 Kellner, Martin
 Kendrick, Wilma
 Kilsby, Mary Ellen
 King, Beverly
 King, Ray
 Kingsley, June
 Kirihara, Frances
 Klausner, Robert
 Konop, Robert
 Koshland, Yvonne
 Kruidenier, Ruth
 Kruidenier-Edwards, Sue
 Kunstadter, Sally
 Land, Elizabeth
 Lauritzen, Phyllis
 Law, Helen
 Lawson, Lory
 Layzer, Anne
 Leahy, John & Martha
 Legg, Gordon
 Lehrer-Graiwier, Jonathan & Shelah
 Leighton, Margaret
 Leithman, Dorothy
 Leitner, Monna
 Levitt, Rosanne
 Lewis, Marshall & Judy
 Lichtenman, Charlotte
 Lind, Judith
 Linden, Barbara
 Longville, John

Lucey, Christina
 Madley, Lois
 Mann, Mrs. Lloyd
 Manry, Linda
 Marsh, Elizabeth
 Mc Cauley, Alice
 McCann Sayles, Doris
 McGaha, Agnes
 McNeil, Donita
 Metzenberger, Karl
 Meyer, Doris B.
 Miller, Patty
 Miller Katz, Helen
 Miller Mc Cune, Sara
 Mishkin, Judith
 Miyazaki, Junichi & Sarah
 Monroy, Marjorie
 Monson, Karen
 Mora Loyko, Susan
 Morley, Jean
 Morris, Janet
 Morris, Jim & Dawn
 Morris, Patrick & Sally
 Morrison, Dorothy
 Mueller, Virginia
 Myers Dastrup, Faye
 Nagumo, Masako
 Nevins, Mary Lois
 Nichols, Patricia
 Noall Peterson, Audrey
 Nygaard, Genevieve
 O'Brien, Judith
 Olney Anderson, Elisabeth
 Olsen-Kohner, Margaret
 Parmelee, Arthur & Jean
 Perloff, Laura
 Petty, Joan
 Pickett, Flo
 Pine, Yvonne
 Platt, Janne
 Popenoe, Paul
 Potter, Ruth
 Price, Shirley
 Raiser, Helen Hilton
 Rankin, Morgan
 Ratcliffe, Alfonso & Dolores
 Regan, Yvonne
 Richards, Harriet
 Rieffel, Jane
 Riggs, Frances
 Robinson, Glenn & Patricia
 Robinson, Leigh & Iona
 Rodriguez, Lynne
 Roland, Diane
 Ronald, Patricia
 Rose, B. A.
 Rosenbluth, Murray
 Rosenthal, Irene
 Ruck Steer, Susan
 Rumsmore, Jean

Rundberg, Sherrean
 Ruthledge, Helen
 Scarborough, Beatrice
 Schafer, Trudy & John
 Scheifler, Donna
 Scudder, Martha
 Seaney, Barbara
 Seay, Veronica
 Simmons, Helen
 Simon, Lorene
 Skow, Dorothy
 Sommers, Barbara
 Spitters, Mary Ann
 Stallings, Betty
 Stauffer, Art
 Stavley, Elizabeth
 Strauss, George
 Sugihara, Fumi
 Suther, Evelyn
 Sutow, Mary
 Sylva, Julia
 Symons, Dorothy
 Talty, Robert
 Taylor, James
 Teitel, Thelma
 Tharp, Teresa
 Thiem, Mignon
 Thompson, Helen
 Thorburn, Margaret
 Tindall, Charla
 Tokmakian, Harold & Barbara
 Trapp, Onnolee
 Tully, William & Susan
 Turnbull, Jane
 Uehlinger, Timothy
 Van de Wetering, Arlene
 Van Ravenswaay, Nancy
 Van Voorhees, Mary
 Vederman, Joseph
 Vernon, Carol
 Wall Muir, Joanna
 Wallin, Bettine
 Wardenburg, Barbara
 Wasson, Jan
 Weinreb, Ilene
 Wheeler, Cathrine
 White, Doris
 White, Patsy
 Whitney, Loretta
 Wilder, Jeanne
 Williams, Lisa & George
 Wilson, Florence
 Witkin, Alba
 Wolber, Sandra
 Wolfe, Bernard
 Woodson, Mildred
 Yanofsky, Charles
 Yates-Poutsma, Maxine

***Any names inadvertently omitted will be recognized in the next Voter.*

LEAGUE continued from page 3

I would be remiss if I did not also note that running parallel with all the activity of this biennium, the League has suffered in ways that most nonprofits have in the post 9/11 era. Membership numbers are down; revenues are down. We have had to lay-off one staff person, reorganize the State Office, and propose a PMP increase. Our goal is to be “lean and mean,” to be prudently frugal while actively exploring ways to further increase our visibility and effectiveness in both our advocacy and in our citizen education and election services.

As an organization, must pay attention to making sure our infrastructure is solid, our foundation strong. We work on membership; we even work on fund development, but almost begrudgingly. Invariably our members are more energized by program. We often hear the phrase, “I didn’t join the League to do membership,” “I didn’t join the League to do fund raising.” Sound familiar? The fact is that the most effective boards of healthy organizations do take on these challenges and do see them as an integral part of their work. Membership recruitment and retention is, in fact, an inherent part of the League’s mission-----Member-power and sufficient funding are what enable us to do the program work we love so much. They empower us.....

There is a long-standing debate over destiny and free-will. While there are forces beyond our control, there are forces within our control and it is up to us to control, focus, and channel them.

There is an ongoing debate within the League of Women Voters. You’ve heard it before—on the one hand there are people who say that the League’s strength is in nonpartisan, issue-focused advocacy; on the other hand there are people who say the League’s strength is in voter education—in active, nonpartisan, impartial voter education; and the answer is that the League’s strength is.....and the answer is: Yes, the League’s strength IS! There is no argument there.

If nothing else, the fall 2002 election cycle highlighted the strength of the League’s voice in both advocacy and education. Smart Voter continued to expand the breadth and depth of its services to our members and to voters throughout the state of California. Candidates Forums and other election-related activities continuously dotted the landscape.....and it went beyond that—I even heard from nonvoters about how much they appreciate the information—even though they didn’t vote! They learned the hazard of making that kind of statement to your state president!

Again, the list goes on.....

ON THE ADVOCACY FRONT:

Campaigns actively sought our signature on ballot arguments at all levels of League in California. The League of Women Voters of California signed six of seven arguments on last November’s state ballot and dared to stand as the LONE VOICE in July/August when we wrote the ballot arguments opposing Proposition 49. We signed those arguments alone.

...the courage to stand alone...

Now, when an organization like the League is willing to stand alone, especially on a high profile measure that looks like the proverbial motherhood and apple pie, and is sponsored by a wealthy, well-known proponent, people stop and ask why. Editorial boards certainly wanted to know why. Talk show hosts wanted to know why. Most everyone I talked to – at meetings, on the street, and yes, in airports, wanted to know why. The proponents wanted to know why. So, we told them.

It was no accident that in the final analysis newspapers throughout the state of California urged voters to say no to Prop 49. It was no accident that by election day we had been joined by a growing and diverse coalition of organizations and prominent individuals, including children’s advocates, a major teachers’ union, tax organizations, key legislators, and even the state treasurer.

AND.....It was no accident that we worked hard to get our message out and injected issues into the statewide public conversation that others wanted to ignore. We stood on our positions; we took a risk; and we faced crucial issues head-on. And that’s what the League is about. We may have lost the specific skirmish called Prop 49, but we won – in credibility, in respect, and in visibility. And we won because we did what we do best: work to inform voters of responsible approaches to critical issues facing all of us as Californians.

...concluding remarks...

In closing I would just like to note that the League was born in motion. We are at our best when we are engaging our members and our communities in the motion afforded by both advocacy and active education. I have heard it said that “practicing democracy between wars, is like practicing vegetarianism between meals” – it is practice, it is not commitment, it is not the real thing. Living the League mission is the real thing. It has been a pleasure to serve as your president these last two years and I thank you.

Barbara Inatsugu, President
inatsugub@aol.com

Thank you
Outgoing LWVC Board Members
2001-2003



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2003-2005



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Kathy Webb, Fresno

Voters Service

Sue Kelley, Ventura

**Thank you Judy Davis for serving as first LWVC
 Education Fund Chair, 2001-2003**

**NOTE: Robbie Davis will also serve LWVC Educa-
 tion Fund Chair, 2003-2005**

CITIZEN EDUCATION WRAP UP

In 1999, we developed a new portfolio: Citizen Education. It was a grand experiment. Its objective was to provide local Leagues and the public opportunities to engage in issues of general League interest pertaining to good governance, policy and voter education. To do so, we gave local Leagues the opportunity to initiate Citizen Information projects throughout the state and plan public forums of interest to the League.

We frequently speak of the two arms of the League: Voters Service and Action. But the League's mission is also to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Citizen Education is NOT Voters Service, nor it is Action. It is, however, a very important part of our guiding mission – it is to inform and educate citizens in governance.

We found that Leagues all over the state are strapped – both financially and for volunteers. Unfortunately for all, the citizen education part of League gets abandoned along the way – priorities are set of necessity, and in many communities, Citizen Education projects do not make the cut.

I was thrilled to see corroboration that the Hewlett Grant enabled many Leagues to present forums, hold panel discussions, print booklets, and otherwise do great citizen education. However, the Citizen Education Awards given at the 2003 convention were to those Leagues that both went above and beyond their mission and did it without the financial aid of the grant. (See page 11) These three Leagues are representative of Leagues all over the country that show initiative and energy, that remain visible in the wake of reduced number of members and members who work outside the home. All three Leagues stepped up to the plate when given the opportunity (either asked or volunteered) by their community to make a difference. They should be proud – and we all should be proud of their efforts on behalf of League members everywhere.

Ellen Taylor, Citizen Education Director
etlww@aol.com

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA HAS MOVED

Our New Address is:

**801 12TH STREET, SUITE 220
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814**

All other contact information is the same.

California VOTER

Post Convention 2003

President: Barbara Inatsugu

Layout: Marni Forcht

About the League:

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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 has two separate and distinct roles. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, which conducts our voter service and citizen education activities, is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a nonprofit educational organization. The League of Women Voters of California, a membership organization, conducts action and advocacy and is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation.

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.

With membership comes the opportunity to work with well-informed, grassroots activists on a broad range of public policy concerns. The League provides members with opportunities to learn valuable, transferable skills, including how to organize and run productive meetings, write more effectively, speak in public, organize and run effective campaigns, conduct research studies, and coordinate general civic leadership training.

The League invites your comments, letters, articles, and book reviews. They may be sent to the State Office or emailed to Sue Burrows, Communications Director, via our website.

The California VOTER is published by the

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lwvc@lwvc.org email

<http://www.ca.lwv.org>

<http://www.smartvoter.org>

AWARDS Continued from page 11

PRESIDENT'S LETTERS

Two years ago, LWVC President, Gail Dryden noted that these awards represented over 700 presidents messages. The 2003 awards represent at least as many. Our presidents are prolific and eloquent. Their writing reflects the qualities of leadership and have served as a powerful representation of League. As presidents we write our presidents letters as spokespersons for our respective Leagues. We are speaking for the organization; we are not just “expressing one person’s view.” With all that has been happening during this biennium, this has really tested many of us more than usual. Congratulations to

- **Chris Carson, 1st PLace** (LWV Glendale/Burbank)
- **Virginia Holtz, 2nd PLace** (LWV San Jose/Santa Clara)
- **Cindy O’Connor, 2nd PLace** (LWV Los Angeles)
- **Beverly Bean, Honorary Mention** (LWV Monterey Peninsula).

SMART VOTER COORDINATOR AWARD

The award was presented to **Bonnie Hamlin**, LWV Alameda County. Bonnie led Alameda’s Smart Voter efforts in the area of content as they posted detailed information on 33 local ballot measures and achieved a 60% candidate participation rate. Their publicity work included Smart Voter exposure in television and newspaper coverage, Pros and Cons presentations, community events, and placement of Smart Voter materials in libraries and businesses. She developed, trained and effectively led a team of seven local coordinators. All of these achievements were buttressed by a fundraising effort that brings in an annual fee for service from their county.

A number of Leagues and their coordinators deserve commendation for their excellent work in these areas. The LWV San Francisco achieved a 92% candidate participation rate. San Mateo and Santa Clara County Leagues created a high number of links. Salinas Area/Monterey and San Luis Obispo Leagues garnered a great deal of media coverage, while Modesto and Riverside Leagues built effective support teams. The Orange County coordinator conducted a successful fundraising effort.

WEB SITE AWARDS

Two awards were given to deserving Leagues for their efforts in building and maintaining Web sites that enhance their ability to communicate with the public. Many criteria were used by the team of three who looked at all sites. One of the most important criteria was robust content that would appeal to non-members. Congratulations to the winners and to all other Leagues with great Web sites—there are many!

- **LWV of Central San Mateo**: Best California League Web site using League Easy Web.
- **LWV of Monterey Peninsula**: Best California League Web site using an original design.

AWARD WINNING SMART VOTER PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



Remember that playful Smart Voter PSA? It has won a “Crystal Award”—one of the most prestigious communications awards in the Sacramento area. The Crystals recognize regional excellence in the field of communication and

related subspecialties and are awarded by The International Association of Business Communicators. Check it out at <http://emrl.com/portfolio.html>. Click on

television and “next” to get to Smart Voter.

The PSA has also won a “Cappie Award” from the Sacramento Public Relations Association, a prominent regional association of communications professionals in the private and public sectors.

Trudell Een, Smart Voter Coordinator
director@smartvoter.org

Not a Member Yet? Please Join!

The League of Women Voters of California is strictly nonpartisan; we never support or oppose any political party or candidate. At the same time, we are wholeheartedly political, working to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League.

YES, I want to join. Enclosed is my check for \$50.00 payable to the League of Women Voters.

Please send me more information about the League and its publications.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Mail to the League of Women Voters of California

801 12th St., Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 442-7215; (916) 442-7362, Fax; (888) 870-VOTE, toll free
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