



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 12, No. 5

June 2007

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON SATURDAY, JUNE 9 CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE TRAINING CENTER 2965 DUTTON AVENUE, SANTA ROSA

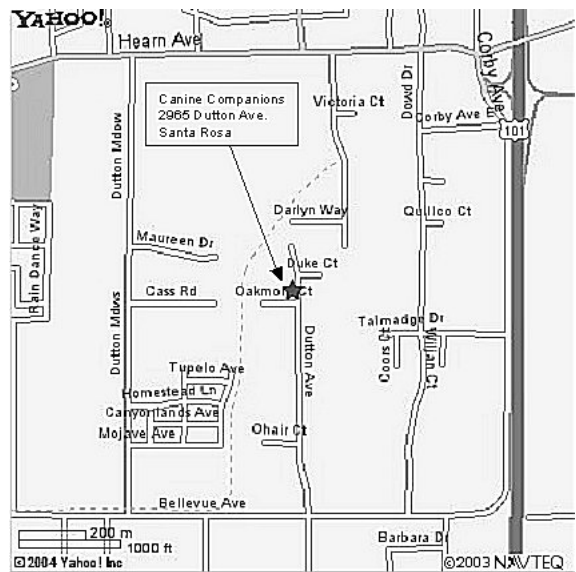
Registration	9:45 AM
Business Meeting	10:00 AM
Potluck Lunch	Noon
Program	12:30 PM

Coffee, etc. will be served before the meeting.

- Bring dessert, salad or bread, etc. to share for the potluck lunch.
- Bring the 2007-2008 Annual Meeting Kit.

OUR SPEAKER

The guest speaker will be Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, LWVSC member, who represents most of Santa Rosa as well as Napa and Solano Counties. She will talk about current issues in the California State Legislature, especially those issues of interest to Leagues at the state and local levels.



Directions

Southbound Highway 101

- Take the HEARN AVE. exit.
- Stay on the left (south) onto CORBY AVE.
- Continue south on CORBY AVE. The road will curve to the right (west) and become BELLEVUE AVE.
- Turn right (north) on DUTTON AVE.
- Canine Companions will be on your left.
- Enter the second gate.

Northbound Highway 101

- Take the TODD ROAD exit.
- Stay right as you exit. The road will wrap around and cross over 101 and intersect with TODD ROAD westbound. Head west on TODD RD. and turn right (north) on STANDISH AVE., which becomes DUTTON.
- As you cross BELLEVUE AVE. Canine Companions will be on your left.
- Enter the second gate.

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of Sonoma County**

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Susannah Likins, Treasurer

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Amy Southwick, Voters Service
Carol Adams, Voter Outreach

VOTER Team:

Helen Sundergill, VOTER Editor
Marsha Vas Dupre
May Huddleston
Betty Keefauver
Caroline Ramberg
Nancy Richards

July/August 2006 issue. The review, the response and other reviews can be read on Easterly's Web site (<http://www.nyu.edu/fas/institute/dri/Easterly/BookReviews.htm>).

The book group will not meet in July or August. In September, we plan to begin with some LWVUS recommended books and articles on immigration.

If you have questions about the book group, please call or send me a message.

Lynda Hungerford
539-5770
info@lwvsonoma.org

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDY
GROUP**

The International Relations discussion group will meet on Tuesday, June 12, at 12 noon in the Santa Rosa League office. It is a brown-bag lunch session that lasts about 1-1/2 hours.

The topic for discussion will be "**Mexico: neighbor in turmoil.**" The results of Mexico's presidential election were nearly too close to call, how will this result affect the new Mexican administration's policies? Can Felipe Calderon successfully reform Mexico's policies on energy, trade and border security and strengthen relations with the United States?

The topics are selected from the *Great Decisions* briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association in New York City. All members and friends are welcome to join the group discussion, with or without the briefing book. We also refer to the most current news items and articles pertaining to the discussion topic. There is no homework involved and everyone is invited to come with ideas, opinions and suggestions or just to enjoy the discussion.

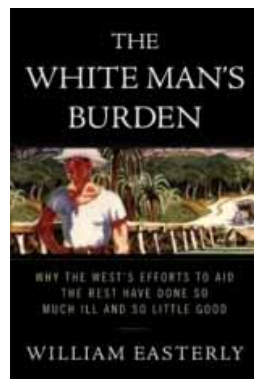
Our group will take a summer break. The next *Great Decisions* topic discussion will be in September and details will be reported in the September VOTER.

If anyone has a question about the group, please contact me at 769-8826.

Rosalie Gillmore

BOOK GROUP CORNER

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM on Thursday, June 21, for a discussion of William Easterly's, *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. The group will meet in the League office, Suite 209, 100 E Street, Santa Rosa.



Professor of Economics at New York University, Easterly spent sixteen years as a Research Economist for the World Bank and is the author or co-author of numerous books and articles. In *The White Man's Burden* Easterly examines why foreign aid as conceived by Western planners has failed to aid the poor.

The distinguished economist Amartya Sen reviewed *The White Man's Burden* at length in the March/April 2006 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, and Easterly responded in the

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the annual meeting this month, you will have the opportunity to get in on the ground floor with several new and exiting projects. I'm sure you realize that our Voters Service committee will be working at full speed helping to prepare our community for the election in February. Your participation is needed. Please step up to help us during upcoming election cycles.



We need to find a chair for the LWVUS Immigration Study. There is a great deal of information about this study on the LWVUS website. Activities at the local level are very well supported by the National study committee and will be very interesting for us. Our September kickoff meeting will focus on immigration. Please take a look at the following information from the California Voter and join our local committee.

IMMIGRATION STUDY: RESOURCE AVAILABLE

In addition to the eight LWVUS Immigration Study Committee background papers available online, Leagues are encouraged to utilize the plethora of immigration information available in news magazines and newspapers. The Immigration Study Committee continues to work diligently to provide balanced materials that address the pros and cons of the issues. One such example is the testimony presented to the House Judiciary Committee by Wade Henderson, President and CEO of the League partner, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR). In this testimony, Henderson discusses immigration reform as it relates to civil and human rights.

I look forward to seeing all of you this month at the annual meeting. We will be working this summer to prepare for another great year for our league!

Carol Ann Fontana-Cary

MISSION

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.

BOARD BRIEFS

MAY 1, 2007

Ann Berens, chair of the Juvenile Justice Study committee, reported on the progress of the forum on March 24th on Juvenile Justice in Sonoma County. She presented the flyer, the press release and the e-mail invitation for board approval. The board passed a motion to use the League letterhead on the invitation and to have it signed by president, Carol Ann Cary.

President Carol Ann, George Ellman, and Lynda Hungerford are in the final stages of reviewing the bylaws. These bylaws will be based on a model presented by the state League. Proposals of bylaw changes are posted on our website. These will be part of the annual meeting kit to be published in the May VOTER.

Carol Adams presented a draft phone tree that she had designed for use for advertising our special events and forums to our membership. The Board showed much interest in it and is hopeful that it will increase attendance at our functions.

The nominating committee has restructured the board to include four vice presidents: administration, community services, program and action. The vice president of administration is the one who would take on the president's duties in an emergency. They reported that most positions have been filled.

Willard Richards shared the article he wrote for the Marin Voice, *Transportation That Does Work*, a rebuttal to a letter that was against rail transit.

He also raised a call for action in the monitoring of the commercial developments in Petaluma and Santa Rosa. He believes that these developments need to be watched with regard to our land-use values.

George Ellman reported that during a meeting with some members of the SMART board, he recommended that for the next election, if they put the project on the ballot again, it would be helpful to have a bike lane partially built, to have already begun negotiations with the bus people on suggested routes, etc. and even have a demonstration train. These actions may have a positive influence on the voters.

Chlele Gummer
Secretary

WATER WATCHER'S MEETING



David Keller, Corol Ann Fontana-Cary and Carol Dean

Another successful public forum on local water issues was held on Saturday, May 12, at the Rincon Valley Public Library.

David Keller, Petaluma member of the Sonoma County Water Coalition, presented background on why we need to protect our watersheds and commented on current actions taken by the Sonoma County Water Agency. Carol Dean, a member of the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities, told the audience what Santa Rosa is doing to meet the impending water crisis.

A Q & A period followed both presentations. Response to the program was enthusiastic with many people saying that there is so much to learn in order to understand how to react to the water situation, both from the standpoint of quality and supply.

Phyllis Stanley

UPDATE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE INTEREST GROUP

MAY 10, 2007

The Juvenile Justice Interest Group (JJIG) has completed the lists of comments gathered from post-its at the Town Hall Forum on March 24 and will be sending them out shortly to the follow-up list who gave their e-mails for that purpose.

We plan to resume our long term study of the Sonoma County Juvenile Justice System (JJS) by interviewing representatives of the various components - especially Mental Health and Education. We will also be studying the effectiveness of alternatives to incarceration and punishment.

Railey Album has been attending, as an observer, the Mayor's meetings with officials and selected organizations on accountability of law enforcement responses. Linda Picton attended a Mental Health Conference in Emeryville, the purpose being Eliminating Stigma and Discrimination Associated with Mental Health, and covering a broad spectrum of topics. Ann Berens & Katie Sanchez attended the Restorative Justice Conference organized by Jessalyn Nash of Restorative Resources in Sebastopol, which was attended by almost all of the Juvenile Justice Forum panelists.

If interested in participating in this Juvenile Justice study or wish to be added to the e-mail list, call Ann Berens at 836-9822 or Katie Sanchez at 579-5141.

Ann Berens

PHOTOS FROM LWVSC MONTHLY MEETING



Liz Hawthorn and Trudy Schafer



Olive Horrell and Chlele Gummer

VOTER TEAM TAKES SUMMER VACATION

This issue of the VOTER will be the last one until September.

The article deadline for the September issue is August 10.

Consult the web calendar at <http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org/> for updates on meeting times and locations.





There's something special in your own backyard.

Be a part of it!
 Become a member.
 Become a volunteer.

For Membership call Emily @ 579-4452 # 108
 To Volunteer call Kristi @ 579-4452 ext. 116

or visit www.SchulzMuseum.org
 click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



HURRY TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS! © 2007



League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

I am interested in the following areas:

Program _____ Membership _____

Speakers Bureau _____ Social Policy _____

Natural Resources _____ Voters Service _____

Newsletter _____ Fundraising _____

Cable TV _____ Smart Voter _____

Community Outreach _____ Website _____

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$60.00 for individual annual membership, \$90.00 for household, and \$40.00 for limited income. The membership year is July 1 to June 30.) Please mail check to LWV Sonoma County, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Thank you.

JUNE 2007 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Tuesday June 5	10:00 AM - 12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Board Meeting League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Saturday June 9	9:45 AM	Canine Companions for Independence 2965 Dutton Ave. Santa Rosa	Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon
Tuesday June 12	12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	International Relations Study Group Mexico: neighbor in turmoil See p. 2.
Thursday June 21	10:30 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Book Club <i>The White Man's Burden</i> by William Easterly See p. 2.

For July and August, please consult the web calendar – <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/> for meeting times and locations.