



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 10, No. 6

September 2005

SEPTEMBER KICK-OFF SOCIAL

Saturday, September 17

12 Noon – 3:00 PM

At the home of Phyllis and Robert Clement

753 Hurlbut Avenue, Sebastopol

Program:

- Guest Speaker from the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation who will discuss the ecological importance of the Laguna and the work that is being done to bring it back to its original state.
- Presentation by the Development Committee

Since we need to plan for how many are attending, please RSVP by Monday, Sept. 12 with your check for \$10 per person to: Susannah Likins, 6800 Gravenstein Hwy., Cotati, CA 94931. Make checks payable to LWVSC. Please note "Social" on your check. The \$10 per person cost includes appetizers, beverages, lunch and dessert!



Directions

- Hwy. 116 heading out of Sebastopol toward Forestville.
- At the first stoplight past Fiesta Market, turn right on Hurlbut Ave. The driveway starts 100 feet on the right. It is a paved single-lane long drive.
- Turn toward the left when it opens out.
- It is the brown house on the right. #753. Park in the field on the right under the apple trees.

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**The League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County**

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May Huddleston
Lynda Hungerford
Caroline Ramberg
Nancy Richards

PROS AND CONS

Help Wanted

The status of California's November 8 Special Election has experienced numerous fits and starts. Instead of waiting on decisions yet to be made (at publishing deadline for the VOTER), the LWVSC Voters Service Committee has forged ahead with plans to enable the League to respond to the heavy demand from the community and other organizations for unbiased information about the Pros and Cons of the complex measures on the ballot.



The greatest need is to have available an extensive roster of presenters. Please call right away if (1) as a former presenter, you will be available for some assignments, or (2) as a LWV member, you are interested in becoming a presenter and would like more information. This is a good way for newer members to learn about League activities from the inside and get to know more experienced local area members.

All presenters are provided training and excellent resource materials prepared by the State League for this purpose. These in-depth aids ensure your knowledge and confidence as a presenter. While the primary goal of this LWV service is to educate and inform voters and thus encourage voter turnout, it has become an important public relations outreach for League, bringing League's non-partisan mission and good name to many who might otherwise have no direct experience with LWV activities.

You can, and should, be a part of this worthwhile effort. Please inform me of your interest. My telephone number is 584-5210. The training session will be on Monday, September 26 at 10:00 AM in the League office.

Janie Hawker
Coordinator

SONOMA COUNTY HARVEST FAIR

Help needed to register voters, September 30th through October 2nd



LWVSC will be registering voters at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair. The Sonoma County Registrar of Voters sponsors the booth and we will be staffing the table. We need members to volunteer to staff three-hour

shifts each day, with two volunteers for each shift. This is a popular League activity, so please get in touch with us as soon as you can to volunteer for your shift.

You will receive free admission to the fair and we will have two parking passes to share.

Don't miss this great opportunity to register voters and attend the fair! Please contact Corol Ann at 773-4510 or by e-mail corolann@hotmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM

**IVA WARNER
1912-2005**

Our League has lost a longtime active member at the age of 93. Iva was a tireless advocate for the League's positions of Open Government and the Environment. In 1999, she was named by the *Press Democrat* as one of the most influential people in Sonoma County for the 20th century. Primarily because of Iva, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed to redesign the Warm Springs Dam so it would be more sensitive to the environment. She is greatly missed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our annual meeting at Canine Companions for Independence was a great success. The membership voted to affirm all our local positions. We will undertake an update of the Transportation position which will include a study of the SMART proposal to fund a passenger rail system, including suggested routes, projected ridership, effect on land use and anticipated costs and subsidies. We approved a new study including all issues regarding water management within the County.



In addition to our local studies, we will be participating in the State study on Energy which is scheduled for consensus in March.

Looking forward, we need to be aware of events taking place that relate to the upcoming election cycle. Please follow the articles in this issue of the VOTER and join in some of our activities. Please don't forget to return the Member Survey with your dues. This information is very helpful to members when committees are being formed. We know you will enjoy the contact, so, don't wait for us to call you. Contact us whenever you note an activity of interest to you.

See you at the kick-off meeting.

Carol Ann Fontana-Cary

FORUM ON GMO INITIATIVE SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5

The LWVSC is sponsoring a forum on the Sonoma County Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Initiative on Wednesday, October 5, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, at the Santa Rosa City Council Chambers.

Come hear the Pro and the Con arguments surrounding this important issue.

The forum is open to the public. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this opportunity to learn more about the initiative and what it means to Sonoma County. For more information, contact Sandy Benson: 763-1629, or email at: rwnatbenson@comcast.net.

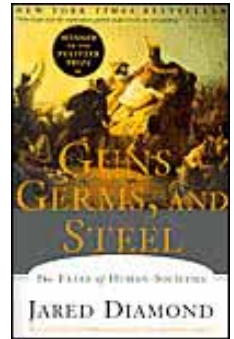
SONOMA COUNTY UNA PROGRAM

On Wednesday, September 14, from 7 to 9 PM. at First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa, there will be a panel discussion on **UN Reform: What is really broke and what is fixable?** Two retired high-ranking UN officials will present insider perspectives on these issues: UN Assistant Secretary General Gus Feissel and Deputy US Representative on the UN Security Council Jim Wilkinson. For more information: <http://www.unasonomacounty.org>.

BOOK CLUB CORNER

Members of the book group invite you to join a discussion of Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* on Thursday, September 15.

Diamond is an evolutionary biologist who argues in this Pulitzer Prize winning book that the success or failure of a culture is dependent on or even determined by its geography and material resources.



Jared Diamond

League members and guests are invited to join our book discussions the third Thursday of every month from 10:30 AM until noon. The location for the September meeting has not yet been determined because the group is looking for a permanent public location for its meetings to make them more accessible to the public. To learn the location of the September meeting, check the calendar on our website (<http://www.lwvsonoma.org>) or call the League office or 539-5770.

Lynda Hungerford

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

The International Relations Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, September 13, at 12 noon in the Santa Rosa League office. It is a brown-bag lunch session.

The topic for discussion will be **"U.S. Challenges in Iraq and in the Muslim World.** How will the war in Iraq and the creation of a transitional government transform the Middle East? How will a democratic Iraq relate to its neighbors and regional partners? Does the Iraq experiment create the potential for other Middle Eastern governments to adopt democracy?"



The group meets the second Tuesday of the month. 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. If you have a question about the group, please contact Rosalie Gillmore at 769-8826.

Rosalie Gillmore

BIG CHANGES IN RAILROAD SQUARE

The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County has played an active role in educating voters about the plans and procedures for the development of the SMART property.

Big changes are underway in the Railroad Square area. Hugh Futrell's office building beside the freeway at the corner of Fourth and Davis Streets is nearly complete, and the construction of his condominiums on Fourth Street between Davis and Wilson is proceeding rapidly. Santa Rosa Cannery LLC has begun demolition of the interiors of the brick cannery buildings on West Third Street beside Santa Rosa Creek and will submit their plans for 80 condominiums, townhouses, and live-work lofts to the City before you read this. Bids are now being solicited on the widening of Highway 101 through the heart of Santa Rosa, and construction will begin next spring. The City of Santa Rosa is virtually assured of receiving a \$450,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to prepare a Specific Plan and Program Environmental Impact Report for the area enclosed in a half-mile circle around the planned SMART passenger rail station in Railroad Square. The City will add \$50,000 to this study. Also, the MTC is awarding \$100,000 to Marin and Sonoma Counties to help plan the station areas along the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) passenger rail corridor. Finally, work is beginning on an MTC Transportation for Livable Communities grant to plan pedestrian linkages between the areas of the County Museum and Railroad Square that will use the new Sixth Street underpass that will be created when Highway 101 is widened.

In the midst of all this, the SMART Board is releasing a Request For Qualifications to begin the process of hiring a development team to develop the 5.5 acres owned by SMART in Railroad Square. Development teams will submit their qualifications in September, then a five-member panel will select the developers invited to submit full proposals, which will be due in November. It is planned to select a developer before the end of the year. The five-member selection panel is composed of three SMART Board Members, Bob Jehn from Cloverdale, Jim Eddie from Mendocino County, and Charles McGlashan from Marin County as well as two members selected by the City of Santa Rosa.

The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County has played an

active role in educating voters about the plans and procedures for the development of the SMART property. The League led the organization of two voter education forums held in the 6th Street Playhouse. The forum on June 29 focused on Transit-Oriented Development and described the opportunities, options, and process for the development of the SMART property. On July 6, a panel of stakeholders presented their views on how the SMART property should be developed. More than 100 people attended the first forum and almost 100 attended the second. Videotapes from these forums are being broadcast on Community Media Access in Santa Rosa. DVDs



Shown here are panel members: Rick Williams, Architect/Urban Designer, Van Meter Williams Pollack, LLP, San Francisco and Philip Erickson, President, Community Design + Architecture, Oakland; and moderator, Carole Bennett, Santa Rosa Junior College and LWVSC member. Photo by Todd Cary

of the forums should be available by the time you read this. To borrow or to obtain a DVD, send an email to action@lwvsonoma.org.



Both forums were well-attended and excellent questions were presented to the panel by audience members. Photo by Todd Cary

The need for public involvement in the design of the development of the SMART property will increase again early next year after the development team has been selected. Current plans call for a series of public meetings during the preparation of plans for this property, which is owned by the public.

Willard Richards
Action Chair

VOTERS SERVICE GEARS UP FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

On November 8, Sonoma County will have several local district elections for seats on the boards of Community Services, Fire Districts, Public Utilities Districts, Parks and Recreation Districts, Water Districts and School Districts. There is also a Sonoma County measure to ban Genetically-Modified Organisms (GMO) on the ballot. Please read the article in this VOTER for a description of the GMO measure together with a summary of the State propositions that may also appear on the November 8 ballot. As of this writing, it is not certain if the Governor will cancel the special election.



The Sonoma County Registrar of Voters will mail the sample ballots around September 29 and absentee ballots on October 10. The last day to register to vote is October 24 and the last day to request an absentee ballot is November 1.

The League of Women Voters of California will produce the Pros and Cons summary. A speaker training session will be held in September. Janie Hawker will again coordinate this valuable service. All members are invited to attend. Please call Janie Hawker (584-5210) so that she can tell you the date and location. See the Pros and Cons HELP WANTED article on page 2.

The Pros and Cons training session will be held in lieu of a regular September Voters Service meeting.

Amy Southwick and Rosalie Gillmore

Voters Service Co-Chairs

Sonoma County Election, November 8

Sonoma County GMO Ordinance as it appears on the ballot:

Shall the "Sonoma County Genetically-Engineered Nuisance Abatement Ordinance" which would, for at least the next ten years: (1) prohibit the raising, growing, propagation, cultivation, sale, or distribution of most genetically-engineered organisms, (2) require the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner to enforce the ordinance by, after a hearing, confiscating and destroying the genetically engineered organisms, and (3) provide for fines and fees for each violation, be adopted?

Summary of the California State propositions that may appear on the November 8, ballot:

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed two initiatives: Propositions 74 and 76; the other initiatives that qualified for the State ballot are Propositions 73, 75, 78, 79 and 80.

- **Prop. 73** A constitutional amendment that would require girls 17 and younger to obtain parental or guardian permission 48 hours before obtaining an abortion, except in medical emergency or with parental waiver.
- **Prop. 74** A teacher tenure initiative, which would increase the time required for public school teachers to gain tenure from two complete consecutive school years to five.
- **Prop. 75** A Public-Employee Union Dues initiative, which would prohibit public-employee labor unions from using union dues or fees for political contributions unless their members provide written consent.
- **Prop. 76** A constitutional amendment that changes state minimum school funding requirements (Proposition 98), permitting suspension of minimum funding, but terminating repayment requirement, and eliminating authority to reduce funding when state revenues decrease. Excludes above-minimum appropriations from schools' funding base. Limits state spending to prior year total plus revenue growth. Shifts excess revenues from school/tax relief to budget reserve, specified construction, debt repayment. Requires Governor to reduce state appropriations, under specified circumstances, including employee compensation, state contracts. Continues prior year appropriations if new state budget delayed. Prohibits state special funds borrowing. Requires payment of local government mandates.
- **Prop. 78** A prescription drug discount initiative, which enables certain low- and moderate-income California residents to purchase prescription drugs at reduced prices. Imposes \$15 application fee, renewable annually. The California Department of Health Services is authorized to contract with pharmacies to sell prescription drugs at agreed-upon discounts negotiated in advance and to negotiate rebate agreements with drug manufacturers.
- **Prop. 79** Another prescription drug discount initiative to Californians who qualify based on income-related standards, to be funded through rebates from participating drug manufacturers negotiated by the California Department of Health Services. Rebates must be deposited in the State Treasury fund, used only to reimburse pharmacies for discounts and to offset administration costs.
- **Prop. 80** Electric Service Providers regulation initiative would subject electric service providers, as defined, to control and regulation by the California Public Utilities Commission. Imposes restrictions on electricity provided by the customers' ability to switch from private utilities to other electric service providers.

Smart Voter, the League's comprehensive online election information service, will cover both the state and local elections.

WATER, WATER NOT EVERYWHERE PART 2

The surprising new status of water will be the topic of a League program in the fall. This is part two of a two-part preview of this subject. We are grateful to the LWV Pasadena Area for their permission to reprint this information that was originally published in their April VOTER.

Part 1, published in our June VOTER, dealt with supply, ownership and social issues.

How much water is necessary to satisfy the right to it?

The Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security recommends:

- 5 liters per person per day (lpppd) for drinking water
- 20 (lpppd) for sanitation services
- 15 (lpppd) for bathing
- 10 (lpppd) for food preparation

That's a total of 50 liters per person per day, not including the water needed to grow the food (an amount far greater than domestic use). Fifty liters is equal to approximately 13 gallons. How much do we actually use?

The *BASIC NEED* is 13 gallons per person per day. The following average consumption is by nationality:

- Americans 153
- Britons 88
- Asians 23
- Africans 12

The rationale for privatization

Despite considerable effort by the public sector, more than 1.2 billion people still lack access to clean drinking water. Water projects can be very expensive. Emerging economies and financially stressed communities do not have the capital to build, maintain or upgrade water systems. With industrial development, however, these areas would benefit from the corporations involved ensuring adequate water supplies for their own use as well as that of the surrounding area. Under "privatization," some or all of the assets or operations of public water systems are transferred to private hands. It can be done in numerous ways: transfer responsibility to operate a water delivery or treatment system; transfer system ownership and operation responsibilities; even sell publicly-owned water rights to private companies. The Pacific Institute defines it this way: "Water transferring or marketing is accomplished by purchase, lease or some other form of exchange and requires complex and expen-

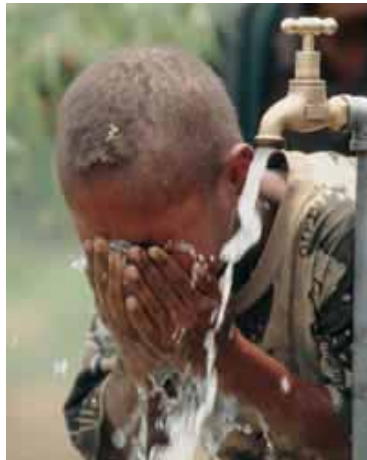
sive storage and distribution systems." Privatization can be (or seem to be) a boon to a community that has a wastewater system facing growing problems such as aging infrastructure and inadequate wastewater treatment. The community may be paying large fines as a result of federal, state and private complaints about its service. Or a community's water needs may require importing water from other areas, resulting in a very large and expensive water distribution system. In either case, the community may save money by contracting with a private company for all or part of the public system:

- Outsource parts (e.g., lab work, meter reading) to the private sector
- Continue to own the waterworks, but contract with the private sector to operate and maintain it
- Arrange with a private firm to design, construct and operate any new facilities
- Sell outright its water utility assets to a private company

Two of the biggest companies operating water utilities for profit are French—Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux and Veolia Environnement. Others are a German-British merger—RWE AG Thames Water; a U.S.-British alliance—

OMI/Thames Water; a French-U.S., now German-U.S., pairing—Siemens AG bought USFilter from Veolia Environnement last year; and a U.S. company -Bechtel-United.

In the U.S., Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux operates through its subsidiary United Water, and RWE Thames functions by way of American Water Works. In 1998, Atlanta, Georgia signed a 20-year agreement to contract water services to a Suez subsidiary, United Water Services Atlanta. In January 2003, Atlanta officials voted to terminate the contract, charging mismanagement, staff cuts that threatened water quality and service, and billing the city for service it did not receive. United Water Services Atlanta protested, but the contract was dissolved.



The Stockton, California City Council signed a contract with OMI/Thames Water to manage their water utility. The Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton has filed a lawsuit against the City of Stockton and OMI/Thames Water Stockton. There are other communities trying privatization.

Sources used to compile this information:

Water Wars by Diane Raines Ward

"Blue Gold" by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, *National Geographic*, September, 2002

"The Human Right to Water" and "The New Economy of Water," Pacific Institute, <http://www.pacinst.org>

"Layperson's Guide to Water Marketing," The Water Education Foundation, <http://www.watereducation.org>

Public Citizen of California, <http://www.citizen.org>. CA Department of Water Resources, <http://www.water.ca.gov>

CA State Water Resources Control Board, <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>

CA Public Utilities Commissions, <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>

CA State Water Resources Control Bd., <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>

What does water privatization mean?

According to the Pacific Institute, privatization in the water sector involves transferring some or all of the assets or operations of public water systems into private hands. There are numerous ways to privatize water, such as the transfer of the responsibility to operate a water delivery or treatment system, a more complete transfer of system ownership and operation responsibilities, or even the sale of publicly owned water rights to private companies.

How do you assess a proposal?

- The State League has developed a checklist for evaluating water privatization proposals. We know of none pending in our area, but that could change.
- Answer the questions and weigh the negative impacts of no answers against the positive impacts of yes answers. If the negative impacts outweigh the positive impacts, Leagues could oppose the proposal. If the positive impacts dominate, Leagues could support it.

Does the proposal:

- Benefit the environment?
- Require coordination of water and land-use planning without encouraging growth?
- Protect the natural environment in areas of water origin and water use?
- Avoid policies that build up demand and establish rigid patterns of use?
- Provide for coordination of ground water and surface water?
- Provide for assessment of the water project's economic, social and environmental costs and benefits?
- Have documents that present clear, concise information readily available to the public?
- Ensure high water quality standards for end-users?
- Have a water conservation component as part of its plan?
- Take into account the carrying capacity of the appropriate basin?

- Protect low- or fixed-income water users by lifeline rates?
- Allow government to exercise a stewardship function?

Sonja Bartsch and Judy Wheeler

LWV Pasadena Area

UPDATE FROM LWV BAY AREA



On July 27, 2005, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission adopted a groundbreaking Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy that requires areas around new transit stations to meet certain

development thresholds if the transit improvements are to be funded. This was a result of many years of effort by the LWVBA and other organizations that encouraged MTC to take land use considerations into their transportation planning and funding. MTC will actually be funding the development of specific land use plans in eight station areas.

The next phase of this TOD effort will be focused on the development of Specific Plans in the following transit extension corridors:

- Ferry Terminal at Alameda Point
- e-BART corridor in Contra Costa County
- Capital Corridor at Fairfield Multi-Modal Station
- Dumbarton Rail Station in Menlo Park
- T-BART at Hacienda in Pleasanton
- Bus Rapid Transit in downtown San Leandro BART Station
- Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit in Downtown Santa Rosa
- BART to San Jose Santa Clara Station

LWVBA would like each of the local Leagues in which these plans are being developed to become informed and involved in the process to assure that the appropriate level of transit-oriented development (i.e. infill density, affordable housing, mixed uses, etc.) is approved by your cities. We will support and work with you in this effort.

Linda Craig, President

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
President@lwvba-ca.org

2004-05 Final Treasurer's Report

	BUDGET	100% of Year Year to Date	% of Budget	Notes
Income				
Dues	\$8,500.00	\$9,628.00	113%	Household Members 54, Individual Members 141, Limited Income Members 16
Member Contributions	\$1,500.00	\$1,748.15	117%	Thank YOU!
Nonmember Contributions	\$1,500.00	\$1,007.44	67%	Donations for Water Document, Voter Business Donations
Sonoma County Contract	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	75%	One payment late to us
League Lodging	\$100.00	\$100.00	100%	Members offer homes to out of town Leaguers
Fundraising Events	\$4,500.00	\$3,903.00	87%	Gross Receipts: Net Amount total is \$3,491.44
Hope Washburn Endowmt	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	100%	This is a restricted endowment
Miscellaneous	\$100.00	\$0.00	0%	
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,000.00	\$20,436.59	97%	
Expense				
Board Expense	\$100.00	\$81.68	82%	Supplies for board members
Membership Expenses	\$500.00	\$418.49	84%	New member mailings, roster printing
Committees' Expenses	\$200.00	\$97.27	49%	Supplies for committee work
Program	\$550.00	\$429.30	78%	Food, rentals
Annual Meeting	\$200.00	\$113.26	57%	Coffee, rentals
Conventions, Workshops	\$2,000.00	\$2,132.82	107%	California State Convention
Insurance	\$650.00	\$698.00	107%	Liability Insurance
Maintenance	\$200.00	\$340.00	170%	Copier repair
Office Supplies, Equipmt	\$400.00	\$397.17	99%	Paper, etc.
LWVBA PMP dues	\$184.00	\$184.00	100%	Bay Area League dues
LWVC PMP dues	\$3,864.00	\$3,864.00	100%	California League dues
LWVUS PMP dues	\$4,380.00	\$4,244.20	97%	National dues
Position Support	\$200.00	\$200.00	100%	Coalition support
Postage		\$750.00		Bulk mail permit and mailings
Publications	\$250.00	\$1,219.69	488%	Water Document printing, Impact on Issues publications
Communications, web	\$300.00	\$153.00	51%	Community Media Center dues, LWV CA fees for website use
Rent	\$4,800.00	\$4,860.00	101%	Rent increase from \$400 to \$415 in April
Telephone	\$250.00	\$213.53	85%	Office telephone
Voter	\$3,000.00	\$1,413.96	47%	Budget number was for printing and postage, now will be two items
Voters Service	\$500.00	\$1,525.04	305%	League prepaid Santa Rosa Rail Road Square Forum expense, will be reimbursed \$1,000 from Ed Fund
Fundraising Expense	\$0.01	\$911.56		Costs this year \$411.56 and we have paid a \$500 deposit for Feb 2006 theater event
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$22,528.01	\$24,246.97	108%	
EDUCATION FUND BALANCE		\$1,204.95		Donations to the Education Fund are Tax Deductible. Funds are for forums, voter servcie publications
T. ROWE PRICE ACCOUNT		\$10,782.70		Our reserve account
GENERAL FUND BALANCE		\$1,634.81		Checking Account balance as of June 30, 2005

BOARD BRIEFS**June 2005**

At the June 7 meeting of the LWVSC board, the following key items were covered:

- The board agreed to give \$100 to the Canine Companions as a thank you gift for the use of their facilities for our June 4th Annual Meeting.
- Olive Horrell reported that membership packets were sent to 62 prospective members, 39 of which became new members. A New Membership Social was held on May 15.
- Willard Richards announced that two community forums were in place to present issues surrounding SMART development near Railroad Square on June 29 and July 6. The forums will be held in the Sixth Street Playhouse with a tour of the property before the meetings.
- Sandy Benson outlined the program events for the next year. In September, there will be a meeting with the Marin LWV to determine our position on the SMART development. Also, there will be the September kick-off meeting. The governor has called a special election for November 8. In preparation for this election, there will be a forum on the Genetically Modified Organisms Initiative. Pros and Cons training will be scheduled in September. The annual events of the December Social and the Theater Fundraiser in January will be planned.
- George Ellman announced a study of Transportation and Land Use would begin in September. A forum will be planned for next spring. An initiative will be on the ballot for the November 2006 election to address funding of transportation development.
- Rosalie Gillmore reported that she would have a packet of information on "How to Put on a Forum" for interested groups in the outlying areas of the county. This will also be available on the website. The November 8 election primarily consists of board and commission seats to be decided.

Respectfully submitted,

Chlele Gummer

Secretary

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.

July 2005

At the July 19 meeting and retreat of the LWVSC board, the following items were covered:

- President Corol Ann Fontana-Cary announced the off-board appointment of Ann Berens to the Sonoma County Child Care Planning Council.
- The board reviewed and reworded as necessary current 2004-2005 board policies.
- Corol Ann appointed Helen Sundergill as chair of a committee to conduct the biennial review of LWVSC bylaws.
- Corol Ann requested that the 'dues notices' be updated and sent out by August 15, thereby allowing follow-up notices to be sent out in September and phone calls made September 30. Updated rosters can then be mailed out to members on October 15.
- Willard Richards reported that the two SMART forums held in June and July were successful. He announced the North Bay Symposium on SMART Growth on July 29.
- The committee members to read and evaluate the SMART EIR that will be completed in September are Chlele Gummer, Corol Ann, Janie Hawker, Olive Horrell and George Ellman.
- The retreat portion of the meeting focused upon the LWV's "Meeting the Challenge," a program of improvement for the League. Four areas of focus will be selected from the following areas: citizen education, leadership development, communication, Voters Service, action, mock elections and development. Also, membership growth will be the primary effort for the year.
- Brainstorming membership growth came up with the following approaches: redesigning the membership brochure, have brochures available at League functions, League pins, domain name for the website, advertise book clubs and other activities, annual membership drive.
- Possible membership goal for this year is 90% retention of members. Possible goal for 2006 is an increase in membership by 5%. These goals will be further detailed at the next meeting.
- Volunteers to staff the League's voter registration table at the Harvest Fair September 30-October 2 is Chlele, Lynda Hungerford, Janie, George, Corol Ann, and Amy Southwick.

Respectfully submitted,

Chlele Gummer

Secretary

BOARD BRIEFS

August 2005

At the August 9 meeting of the LWVSC Board, there was no quorum, so, no board decisions were made. Following are the various items discussed.

- Treasurer Susannah Likins explained the addition of item 20 on the budget report. It described a contingency fund and a reserve fund. The two funds would reside in the T. Rowe Price account.
- President Corol Ann announced the date of a Bay Area Regional conference which board members might want to attend: Saturday, September 24.
- Discussion followed about who might be a knowledgeable member to be interviewed by Rayne Wolfe, a *Press Democrat* columnist. The group was hopeful that such an article would interest readers to become members.
- Willard Richards reported the Action committee continues to work on the Larkfield Water issue and the Clean Money Campaign. New action plans include a co-sponsorship of the December 7 meeting with UNA and World Affairs around the issue of population control.
- Amy Southwick listed upcoming events for the Voters Service committee which includes Pros and Cons training in September and a forum on the initiative concerning Genetically Engineered Organisms in October.

Respectfully submitted,

Chlele Gummer

Secretary

ROSTER CHANGES*

Elizabeth Bush	Caroline Ramberg
Olive Horrel	Kenneth Stocking
Margaret Millner	Helen Sundergill

*For privacy considerations, members' addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses are not provided in the web version of the VOTER.

THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Heidi Blumenthal
Bernie Schwartz, California Luggage
Dr. L. Martin Griffin Jr.
Lynda Hungerford

NEW MEMBERS FROM NATIONAL*

William Alexander	Jane Huneke
Katherine Burton	Maureen Latimer
Pat Eliot	Gloria Rogers
Julia Frisk	Victoria Wikle
Bobbye Hume	

*For privacy considerations, members' addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses are not provided in the web version of the VOTER.

KNOW YOUR BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Fremont Main Library, Fukya
Room
2400 Stevenson Blvd
Fremont, CA
9:30 AM to 1:00 PM



Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act How Has It Worked, Does It Need To Be Changed?

Registration:

The cost is \$10 per person. Please confirm reservations by Thursday, September 22 to Tam Hege, tamhege@aol.com or send checks payable to LWVBA to Tam Hege, 80 Florada Ave., Piedmont, CA 94610.

For more information, go to LWVBA website at <http://www.lwvba-ca.org/> and click on "Know Your Bay Area League Day."

**Join the Gang –
Become a member of the
Charles M. Schulz Museum**



We have a world-class museum as an attraction in our county. Memberships are important to sustain the museum, and every membership level rewards YOU!

Call Maite @ 579-4452 ext. 108
or visit the Museum web site:
www.SchulzMuseum.org
Click on Membership.



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**LEAGUE LODGING IN VERMONT
MADE AVAILABLE BY FORMER
LWVSC MEMBERS JERRI AND HERB
LEVIN**

League Lodging is a fundraiser for the League. Members around the US invite League members to bed and breakfast in their homes for a nominal fee, which is donated to their local League.



LWVSC members Phyllis and Bob Clement recently visited former LWVSC members Jerri and Herb Levin in their beautiful home in Vermont. They have graciously offered their home to be registered in League Lodging with the donation being given to our League. We truly appreciate their kindness and generosity. To experience the “Fall Colors” or swim in their pool in the warmer months *and* benefit our League, contact the Levin’s:

2667 Berkshire Center Road, Richford, VT 05476
jerele@earthlink.net, 802-933-8847



League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$50.00 for individual annual membership, \$75.00 for household, and \$37.00 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.

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 _____

SEPTEMBER 2005 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Tuesday September 6	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.
Tuesday September 13	12:00 Noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	International Relations Discussion Group U.S. Challenges in Iraq and in the Muslim World See p. 3.
Wednesday September 14	7:00 PM	First United Methodist Church 1551 Montgomery Drive Santa Rosa	UNA Forum UN Reform: What is really broke and what is fixable? See p. 3.
Thursday September 15	10:30 AM	To be determined. Check calendar on website.	Book Club <i>Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies</i> by Jared Diamond. See p. 3.
Saturday September 17	12 Noon - 3:00 PM	Phyllis and Robert Clement's Home 753 Hurlbut Avenue, Sebastopol	September Kick-Off Social See p. 1.
Tuesday September 20	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Action Committee
Saturday September 24	9:30 AM to 1:00 PM	Fremont Main Library, Fukya Room 2400 Stevenson Blvd. Fremont, CA	Know Your Bay Area League Day Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act How Has It Worked, Does It Need To Be Changed? See p. 10.
Monday September 26	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Pros and Cons Training Session See p. 2
Wednesday October 5	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Santa Rosa City Council Chambers	Forum on GMO Initiative See p. 3.

LINK TO CURRENT CALENDAR