



# THE VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 11, No. 4

April 2006

### LVSC MEMBERS SUPPORT KBBF FUNDRAISER

Past president of our League Nancy Richards organized League members to attend KBBF's fundraising dinner-dance at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building to celebrate their 35 year anniversary. The radio station broadcasts in English and Spanish for our community.

Dolores Huerta was the guest speaker. She and Cesar Chavez founded the United Farm Workers of America ("UFW"). She is the mother of 11 children, 14 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren and has played a major role in the American civil rights movement.

After high school in Stockton, Dolores attended the University of Pacific's Delta Community College and received a teaching degree. She taught grammar school, but left her job because in her words, "I couldn't stand seeing kids come to class hungry and needing shoes. I thought I could do more by organizing farm workers than by trying to teach their hungry children."



Photo by Alfredo Sanchez

From left to right: Sandy Benson, Nancy Richards, Susan Gorin, Willard Richards, Jack and Marsha Dupre, Corol Ann Fontana-Cary, and Liz & Bob Hawthorne

### SAVE THE DATE: LWVSC ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 3

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

100 E Street, Suite 209  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707-546-5943  
info@lwvsonoma.org  
http://www.lwvsonoma.org/

Officers:

Corol Ann Fontana-Cary, President  
Willard Richards, VP Action  
Helen Sundergill, VP Administration  
Alexandra Benson, VP Program  
Chlele Gummer, Secretary  
Susannah Likins, Treasurer

Directors:

George Ellman, Transportation & Land Use  
Laurie Hall & Susan Milstein, Public Relations  
Olive Horrell, Membership  
Rosalie Gillmore & Amy Southwick, Voters  
Service

VOTER Team:

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

**BOOK CLUB CORNER**



Jung Chang

Members of the book group invite you to join them on Thursday, April 20, at 10:30 AM for a discussion of *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China* by Jung Chang. The April meeting will be in Room A in Oakmont's Multi-Purpose Building. Although this building does not have an address of its own, it is the northernmost building of the Central Recreation Center, all of which is at 6633 Oakmont Drive, the corner of Oakmont

Drive and White Oak. We will have a sign out for you.

*Wild Swans* provides a portrait of China from 1911 to 1976 through the dramatic and moving experiences of three generations of women: Chang's grandmother, Chang's mother and Chang herself. Once an enthusiastic member of the Red Guard, Chang lost her confidence in Mao early. After Mao died and it became possible to study abroad, she went to England, where she has been a director of Chinese Studies at London University. She and her husband, Jon Halliday, have just published a controversial biography of Mao Zedong.

League members and guests are invited to join in our book discussions the third Thursday of every month from 10:30 AM until noon. The book for May is Stephen Breyer's *Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution*. Rereading the United States Constitution at the same time is recommended. The location of the May meeting will be announced in the May VOTER and posted on the League website at <http://www.lwvsonoma.org>.

If you have questions about the book group, please call 539-5770.

*Lynda Hungerford*

info@lwvsonoma.org

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED**

We are looking for a graphic designer who is willing to share his or her expertise with the League. We would like to provide a modern, attractive and consistent appearance to our local publications.



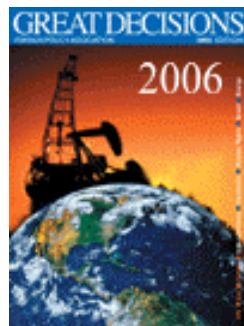
If you can help us with this project, please call me at 539-5770.

*Lynda Hungerford*

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDY GROUP**

The International Relations discussion group will meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 12 noon at 226 Windsor Drive, Petaluma. It is a brown-bag lunch session.

The topic for discussion will be "Human rights in an age of terrorism. Terrorist attacks in Western nations have forced governments to adopt measures, sometimes controversial, to combat terrorism. While security is a priority for all societies, debate has arisen about how far some of these measures should reach. Can human rights and civil liberties be fully protected in an age of terrorism?"



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 anyone has a question about the group, please contact Rosalie Gillmore at 769-8826.

*Rosalie Gillmore*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to Nancy Richards, some very exciting opportunities are on our horizon. Several League members attended a celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first bilingual radio station in this country!



KBBF transmits from Santa Rosa and can be heard in 17 counties. We are continuing to develop our relationship with the station and believe that this will help us to interact with the large Latino community in Sonoma County. Maybe this partnership will give us the opportunity we have been looking for to learn more about the issues they feel need to be advanced throughout our entire community. Education and Immigration policies are two areas of great concern to all of us. Helping to create a platform for meaningful dialog with our Spanish-speaking neighbors is something we can do. I think we might have great success in giving a stronger voice to some of our neighbors who have not always been encouraged to speak out on some of these issues.

Our Voters Service activities are well underway. The committee always needs help during election cycles with registration drives and informational programs. This is an area where many of our members believe that they can really make a difference in the way our communities function. Please feel free to contact Amy Southwick to offer your time. It's not necessary for you to wait until she calls you!

*Carol Ann Fontana-Cary*

## JANIE HAWKER RETIRES AS PROS AND CONS COORDINATOR



Janie Hawker Registering Voters

Janie Hawker is retiring as coordinator of the Pros and Cons Speakers Bureau, but she will work as a consultant to me, Chlele Gummer, who is replacing her. We greatly appreciate all that Janie has done throughout the years, especially coordinating the Pros and Cons speaking events and providing training to the speakers at each election period.

Training for the June Primary election issues will be on Thursday, May

4, at the League office. I will notify former presenters by phone or e-mail, and I encourage those who haven't been

involved in this process to join us. Please contact me, 537-1207, or [chleleg@sonic.net](mailto:chleleg@sonic.net) for more information or to reserve a seat at the training. Even if you aren't sure you want to participate in this way, please come and learn about the process. For the November election, we will undoubtedly need many more speakers. The State League provides us with clear and understandable resource material and training procedures. Since this election will be smaller in scope than in November, it is an ideal time for new people to learn how this important public outreach works. Last spring I participated as a presenter for the first time and found the experience to be a rewarding one. Please join us.

*Chlele Gummer*

## GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR LOCAL LEAGUE!

You are a member of the League of Women Voters because you realize that it is the best "good government" organization in the United States. Right? You are aware that for the League to fulfill its mission to promote democracy and Constitutional liberties, LWV needs the participation of our members.

This is the time that we seek to involve members in the activities and programs designed to achieve our most worthwhile goals. WE NEED YOU.

We need members who are willing to devote some time and energy to serve on the Board or to assist Board members with their duties. We need members who can support our mission with off-Board assignments. League people are great to work with. They are committed to the principles of active, responsible participation. In volunteering, you really, really learn how we function and a whole lot about government.

Please consider becoming part of the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County team for 2006-2007.

For more information, call Claire Golding, 539-5164, or Louisa Leavitt, 525-8215, or me at 762-1465.

Thank you for your help to make furthering our democracy possible.

*Lynn Camhi*

Chair of the Nominating Committee

## 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.

## MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Imagine a League with no members. No more forums, no more programs, no more clout at City Hall, and no more, heaven forbid, VOTER.

Recognizing that membership growth and renewal is key to our present success and future survival, your local Board has taken up the League of Women Voters of California's challenge to increase membership by at least five per cent in this membership year.

The Board has mapped out a plan that includes additional effort on the part of every Board member, a number of new initiatives, and the promise of an aggressive membership drive in the fall. Part of this will be a very special opening membership meeting.

But a few people laboring in a Sonoma vineyard will not be enough. We need your help. We are not asking for hours of your time. We are only asking you to do one or more of the following:

1. Remember to mention League to those of your friends whom you judge to be people who respect the League or who would if they knew more about it, and when a friend shows the slightest interest, promise him or her a three-month subscription to our VOTER. Then to make good on the promise, remember to call our Membership Chair Olive Horrell with contact information.
2. Start thinking now about whom to invite to our opening meeting and be sure to invite them as soon as the meeting is announced.
3. Consider giving the gift of membership to someone near and dear to you.

The benefits of increased membership to our mission are obvious, and they are our primary motivation. However, the League of Women Voters of California has an additional carrot: If we accomplish our goals, the state per member payment (PMP) will be returned for the number of our increased members. We can, in turn, use that extra money right here in Sonoma County.

Think of how you have benefited from League membership and think of how our community has benefited from League. Imagine a robust and growing League, and help to make that vision a reality.

*Lynda Hungerford*

Meeting the Challenge Coordinator

## LOCAL VOTERS CONCERNED ABOUT ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS

A number of Sonoma County residents testified before an all day public hearing held on March 1 in Sacramento by the Secretary of State on his proposal to certify three electronic voting systems for use in California elections: **ES&S, Hart and Sequoia**. He had previously, without a public hearing, certified the **Diebold Electronic Voting System**.

As in some League panels, a Moderator and Timer kept speakers to two minutes each. Bruce McDannold, of the Secretary of State's office, presented the staff technical reports on the voting systems. Approximately 50 of the estimated 150 people in the auditorium spoke,



Diebold Voting System

some representing voting rights groups. Almost all spoke against certification of the electronic voting systems, citing expensive purchase and maintenance costs and documented problems with accuracy and reliability.

John Tuteur, Napa County Registrar of Voters, spoke in support of certification of the **Sequoia Voting System**, which he said his County has been using successfully.

Several representatives of voters with disabilities stated they were glad to be able to vote independently using voting machines. Phillip Harlan of Healdsburg, a blind voter, stated he wanted his vote recorded and counted accurately, but he did not trust electronic voting machines to do that. Eve Roberson of Santa Rosa, speaking as a member of California Election Protection Network, spoke of concerns that the **Diebold System** was approved with no public hearing which is a violation of the Elections Code. Lynn Hamilton, former Mayor of Sebastopol, spoke against certification of electronic voting machines due to their history of failure to accurately record and count votes, causing voter disenfranchisement.

Of special interest was a new non-electronic voting system, **Equalivote**, which was demonstrated outside of the meeting. It was designed for use by all voters, but especially for those with disabilities. It can accommodate paper ballots and details are on its website.

It is expected that the Secretary of State will issue his decision on certification of these voting systems in the very near future.

*Eve Roberson,*

Member, Voters Service

**NEWS FROM VOTERS SERVICE**

For the month of April, please contact Amy Southwick for any Voters Service matters. Rosalie Gillmore will be recuperating from eye surgery.

There will not be a Voters Service meeting in April.

**Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guide**

The publications that explain the June 6th primary election ballot measures, *Pros and Cons* and *Easy Voter Guide*, have been ordered and delivery is expected in late April.

**Sonoma County June Election**

It is still uncertain whether Sonoma County will have an all mail election in June.

**State Propositions**

So far, there are two state propositions on the June primary ballot:

- Proposition 81, a bond measure: California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006
- Proposition 82, an initiative, constitutional amendment and statute: Public Preschool Education. Tax Increase on Incomes Over \$400,000 for Individuals; \$800,000 for Couples. This initiative establishes a right to voluntary public preschool for all four year old children, administered by state Superintendent of Public Instruction and county school superintendents. Funded by 1.7% tax on individual income above \$400,000 annually; \$800,000 for couples.

**Candidate Races**

Because March 15 is the extended deadline, these are not finalized by press time, so stand by for next month's *VOTER*. Party primaries can be held in June to determine a party's candidate for these offices:

- Governor and Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State, Controller or Treasurer
- Attorney General
- Insurance Commissioner
- Member, State Board of Equalization
- United States Senator
- United States Representative in Congress
- State Senator
- State Assembly

**Scheduled Candidates Forums**

The LWVSC, the Marin County League of Women Voters, and the Novato Soroptimists have begun planning to co-sponsor debates on April 12 for the 6th District State Assembly seat that Joe Nation is vacating. If the League can arrange for all nominees to be present, a separate debate for each party with more than one qualified nominee will be videotaped at the Novato public access television station. The videotapes will be distributed to the community access channels and KRCB for viewing on dates and times to be announced.

A debate between the two Democratic candidates for the 6th U.S. Congressional District is not planned at this time because

Lynn Woolsey does not want to appear. Should that change, LWVSC and the Marin League will co-sponsor a debate in Marin, and the videotape will be broadcast on public television.

The League is working on co-sponsoring a forum for candidates for the 4th Supervisorial District. When this *VOTER* went to press, the date and place had not been finalized, but organizers may schedule the event in late April or early May in Healdsburg. Incumbent Supervisor Paul Kelley and Windsor Town Councilmember Deborah Fudge are the two candidates running for the office. League members will be notified when plans are completed.

**Voter Outreach: Distribution of Voter Registration Forms**

Throughout Sonoma County: On behalf of the entire LWVSC, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to Larz and Glenice Anderson for their excellent work in coordinating voter registration forms distribution for the past several years. Larz and Glenice have contributed to the success of the "get-out-the- vote effort by coordinating the 20 member outreach team that distributes voter registration forms to 169 locations in every corner of Sonoma County. Larz and Glenice are retiring, and Carol Adams will take over coordinating the Voter Registration Forms Distribution Committee. Thank you, Larz and Glenice! Welcome, Carol!

On a related note, voter registration forms are updated every few years. Please be sure that any voter registration forms that are distributed to the various locations around Sonoma County or at tabling events have a 12/04 revision date or later. Older forms are no longer valid and cannot be processed by the Registrar of Voters.

The LWVSC is cooperating with the Registrar of Voters in an experiment to get information about registering to vote into the hands of citizens when they pick up voter registration forms. Stiff "rack cards," 3 5/8" by 8 1/2," will be available with registration forms throughout the county during this election period.

**Amy Southwick and Rosalie Gillmore,**

Voters Service Co-chairs

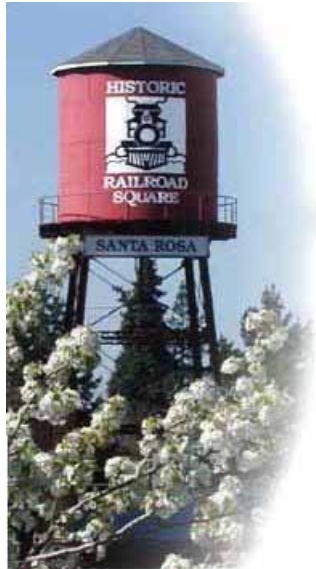
**Voters Service Committee**

Co-chairs	Amy Southwick and Rosalie Gillmore
Pros and Cons Coordinator	Chlele Gummer
Voter Outreach Coordinator – for voter registration forms and voting cards distribution	Carol Adams
Events Outreach Coordinator	Janie Hawker
Harvest Fair Coordinator	Corol Ann Fontana-Cary
Publicity and Public Relations	Susan Milstein and Laurie Hall
Smart Voter Coordinator	Lynda Hungerford

## ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

### SMART Property Bids Due March 24

Three proposals for the development of the 5.4 acres that SMART owns in Railroad Square will be opened March 24. These proposals will be made available to the public at the Central Library in Santa Rosa and also at other locations during the following week. The SMART Staff is scheduled to present summaries of the proposals to the SMART Real Estate Committee and to the SMART Board during their regular monthly meetings in April, and an overview of the proposals to the Santa Rosa City Council on April 25. The bidders are scheduled to make presentations to the first meeting of the selection committee in late April or early May. All of these meetings are open to the public and have time for comments from the public. After years of planning, we will soon be able to look at the options for the development of this property and to say which we prefer.



The League of Women Voters has actively followed and commented on plans for this development. An August 2003 letter signed by the Presidents of the Bay Area and Sonoma County Leagues was described in the February VOTER. This letter was recently sent to each of the three teams bidding on the development of the SMART property along with a cover letter indicating it was still timely. Several other organizations also sent letters to the bidding teams indicating support for the type of development desired by the SMART Board. In addition, the LWVSC sent a letter to each of the three bidding teams recommending that childcare facilities be included in the development. The goals of these letters were to help the bidders understand the community and to show community support for the type of development preferred by SMART.

It is unusual to release proposals to the public. The decision of the SMART Board to do this is one more indication of their desire to engage the public and seek public input on the development of their property. Once the successful bidder is selected, probably in mid-June, a public process to refine the proposed development plans will begin.

*Willard Richards*

Action Chair

## BOARD BRIEFS

### March 7, 2006

At the March 7 meeting of the LWVSC Board, the following key items were covered:

- Treasurer Susannah Likins reported total income of \$1,065.00 and total expenses of \$945.88, which included \$268.92 for the *VOTER*.
- Lynda Hungerford led the board in deciding upon four criteria to expand our activities in "Meeting the Challenge," a State League program. The board chose Leadership, Communications, Intercommunity Development and Development (including grant proposals).
- Sandy Benson reported that attendees of the February Program meeting selected as recommendations to the State League the Energy position for review and update. Immigration was selected as a new study program. The Death Penalty was listed for a study by 'concurrence.'
- Forty-five people attended the February Fundraiser, the play "Urinetown" performed at the Sixth Street Playhouse. The event raised close to \$500.00 in net proceeds.
- George Ellman announced a meeting for the members and public on the local League Transportation Position set for March 23 from 10 AM - 2 pm at the Rincon Valley Library. Brian Albee will be among the speakers. Carol Ann Fontana-Cary agreed to moderate and Sandy Benson will act as recorder.
- Rosalie Gillmore reported that with the Marin League and the Novato Soroptimists, we are planning a debate of the 6th State Assembly District candidates on April 12. Carole Bennett agreed to moderate.
- Willard Richards stated the Action Committee activities: following the political process in the development of the SMART property at Railroad Square; the California Clean Money campaign; and the Sonoma County Waste Management Plan.

*Chlele Gummer*

Secretary

## THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Benjamin Bigelow

Carleen Watts

Alice Richardson

### NEW NATIONAL MEMBERS

Elizabeth K. Bugental

Laura Hatch Dickinson

Daisy Greaves

Liz Landreth

Thella Pleasant

Constance Pomeroy-Sabin

Virginia Thornthwaite



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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](http://www.SchulzMuseum.org)  
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



HURRY TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS! © 1995



## 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. (\$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.

## APRIL 2006 CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
Tuesday April 4	10:00 AM - 12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>Board Meeting</b> League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Tuesday April 11	12:00 NOON	226 Windsor Drive, Petaluma	<b>International Relations Study Group</b> "Human rights in an age of terrorism..." See p. 2.
Tuesday April 18	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>Action Committee</b>
Thursday April 20	10:30 AM	Oakmont's Multi-Purpose Building 6633 Oakmont Drive Santa Rosa	<b>Book Club</b> <i>Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China</i> by Jung Chang See p. 2.

**LINK TO CURRENT CALENDAR**