



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 10, No. 5

June 2005

ANNUAL MEETING 2005

Saturday, June 4, 2005

**Canine Companions for Independence Training Center
2965 Dutton Avenue, Santa Rosa**

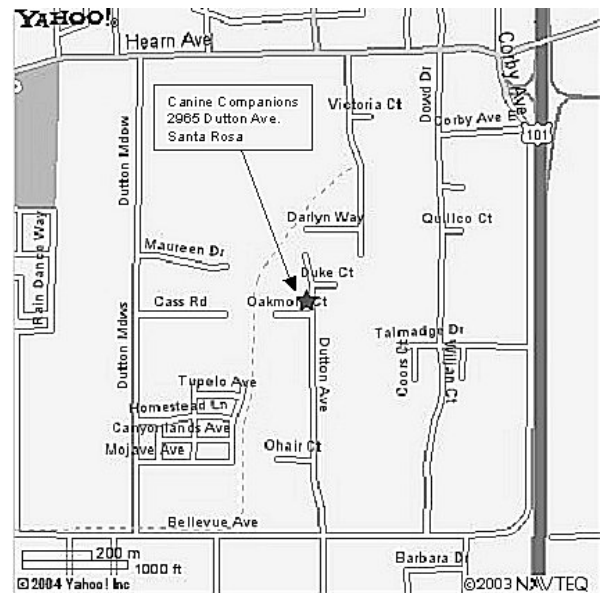
Registration	10:00 AM
Business Meeting	10:15 AM
Potluck Lunch	Noon
Program	12:30 PM

Coffee, etc. will be served before the meeting.

- Bring a dessert or salad to share for the potluck lunch.
- Bring the May issue of your VOTER which contains the annual meeting kit.

Program: "The Juvenile Justice System Today and Tomorrow: Delinquency and Dependency"

Speaker: Judge Arnold Rosenfield (Please see biography on p. 2.)



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Directions

Southbound Highway 101

- Take Hearns 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 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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**ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER, JUDGE
ARNOLD ROSENFELD, IS NOTED
FOR HIS LONG CAREER
INVOLVEMENT IN JUVENILE LAW AND
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Judge Rosenfeld was elected a judicial officer in 1984 for a term commencing in 1985. He has served most of his tenure in juvenile court, hearing both dependency and delinquency matters. He is a member of the California Judges Association and the Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, which he chaired from 1991 to 1993. A former member of the Senate's Task Force on Family Law Courts, he is known for his commitment to and compassion for children and families in California.

Judge Rosenfeld is an active member of his community. He co-founded the Redwood Children's Center, an organization that assists local authorities in the investigation of allegations of child abuse and neglect. He introduced to Sonoma County the Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, which provides volunteers from the community to act as advocates for children who appear before the juvenile court. Judge Rosenfeld, a member of the Board of Directors of Social Advocates for Youth, is also involved with Jewish Children and Family Services and the Parent Education Project of Sonoma County.

BOOK CLUB CORNER

Members of the book group invite you to join them at 87 Greenrock Court, Santa Rosa on Thursday, June 16. to discuss *The United States of Europe: The New Superpower and the End of American Supremacy* by T.R. Reid.

Reid is a journalist who is currently Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief for *The Washington Post*. He is the author of eight books, three in Japanese and five in English. Among his English books are *Confucius Lives Next Door* and *The Chip*. In *The United States of Europe*, he explores how the unification of Europe and the rise of the euro challenge the supremacy of the United States.



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 title of the book selected for July will be posted on our website, <http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org>, shortly after the June meeting, and the August book will be posted after the July meeting. If you have questions about the book group, please call 539-5770.

Lynda Hungerford

**A NOTE OF THANKS FROM
LARKFIELD**

The Town Meeting (forum format) on Saturday, May 7, moderated by the League, accomplished its purpose which was to determine the interest of citizens of Larkfield/Wikiup in forming a Community Services District.

One of the main issues is investigating the buying back of the water service rights from the California-American Water Company (headquartered in Essen, Germany) and establishing local control over water.

The Larkfield Water Advisory Committee was pleased with the response and will now proceed to establish a more formal committee under the County Board of Supervisors. The League served the community by providing the steps to gain transparency and outlining the format for democratic action with a moderator and written questions from the audience.

Phyllis Stanley

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In May, we enjoyed a number of excellent meetings organized or moderated by our League members. Thank you to Stan Gold for organizing a very informative meeting presented by the California Clean Money Campaign. Also, thank you to Phyllis Stanley for involving us in a very well attended informational meeting regarding water issues in the Larkfield/Wikiup area.



Susan Milstein hosted a new and prospective member meeting in her lovely home in Santa Rosa on a Sunday afternoon. Contributions are still coming in thanks to the efforts of Rosalie Gilmore, Lynda Hungerford, Nancy Richards and their committee. Participating in our local events is always rewarding.

George Ellman and I attended the LWVBA Council meeting in Palo Alto. The Bay Area League helps local leagues to work together on issues with a regional focus such as transportation and air quality. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by local leagues. Delegates to the meeting made suggestions for ways to help the LWVBA board become more familiar with and accessible to local leagues. Our league will consider inviting their board to hold a board meeting in our area sometime in the future.

Carol Ann Fontana-Cary

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

The International Relations Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, June 14, at 12 noon at 95 Marshall Avenue, Petaluma. It is a brown-bag lunch session.

The topic for discussion will be "The U.S. and global poverty. The promise of globalization is that it will benefit poor countries through trade and close the poverty gap. Critics have argued that high debt owed by poor countries to rich countries has widened the gap between these countries. What can be done to narrow the global poverty gap?"

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. If anyone has a question about the group, please contact Rosalie Gillmore at 769-8826. All members and friends are welcome to join the group discussion, with or without the briefing book.

The International Relations discussion group will take a break during July and August. We will resume the discussions in September.

Rosalie Gillmore

CLEAN MONEY CAMPAIGN

The Public Funding of Political Campaigns forum, co-sponsored by LWV and the California Clean Money Campaign, held at the main library in Santa Rosa on April 30 was a breath of political fresh air.

Both Maine and Arizona provide public funding for their statewide election campaigns. New Mexico provides public funding for the state office of corporations' commissioner.

Candidates qualify for public funding by collecting a requisite number of individual \$5 contributions to demonstrate their viability. The number of contributions required is dependent upon the particular office. Someone running for the office of governor would have to collect more \$5 campaign donations than someone running for the State Assembly.

Once a candidate qualifies for public funding, s/he must agree to a maximum spending limit, and further agree to accept funds from no other source. If the publicly funded candidate is heavily outspent by an individual who is not publicly funded, then the public funding increases, up to a limit, to help level the playing field for the publicly funded candidate.

Since the arrival of public funding, contested primaries in Maine have increased by 40%. In Arizona, the number of minority candidates running for office has tripled. The issues debated by the Maine legislature have changed somewhat, since clean money candidates began to fill the statehouse. They can now focus on controlling pharmaceutical prices, and statewide, universal, single payer health coverage.

Support for clean money is bipartisan. The Arizona LWV co-sponsored the ballot Initiative that established clean money in Arizona. In 2002, seven of that state's top nine State officers were elected with clean money.

Reference: <http://www.caclean.org>

Stan Gold



Panelists for the Clean Money Forum were (l. to r.) David Glass, Mayor of Petaluma; Dr. David McCuen, Professor of Political Science at SSU; and Attorney Gail Jonas, representing the California Clean Money Campaign. Photo by Todd Cary.

WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE OF RAILROAD SQUARE?

It is extraordinary to have the opportunity to develop 5.5 acres near the center of Santa Rosa, the largest city in the North Bay. This property in Railroad Square includes a proposed rail transit hub. Given the importance of this development, one would think it would be much in the news, but that is not the case. This gives the League an opportunity to play a significant role in educating voters about the proposed development of this site.

Where is the property, who owns it, and what has been proposed for its development? The property extends from Third to Sixth Streets, and includes the rail tracks and all the empty land between the old rail depot and the brick buildings beside the water tower. It is now owned by the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) District, which plans to restore passenger rail service between Cloverdale and the Larkspur ferry terminal on a right-of-way now in public ownership. SMART would like to see this property developed in a way that produces both revenue and ridership to support the rail service.

The Sonoma County Food and Wine Center has long been interested in building their facility on this property. The merchants in Railroad Square have a long-standing desire to see a public parking structure built there. These plans were on hold until the toxic cleanup of the site was completed and the ownership of the rail properties consolidated under SMART about a year ago.

To facilitate the development of this property, the City formed a redevelopment area that includes this property, the brick buildings between this property and Santa Rosa Creek, and also a building between the tracks and the Creek south of Third Street. The Environmental Impact Report for the formation of this redevelopment area assumed that when development was completed, the SMART property would contain a parking structure for 1088 cars, commercial space, and no housing.

Last summer, the City of Santa Rosa asked SMART how much revenue and ridership it expected from the property. To answer that question, SMART extended the contract of its station planning team to prepare a conceptual development plan and an economic analysis of that plan. They found that housing produces far more ridership than retail or office space. The best economic return was from for-sale condominiums, and even a small public parking structure would have a strong negative impact on revenue from the development. The SMART consultants recommended a mix of housing with commercial

space on the first floor, an open corridor that extends Fourth Street to the water tower, and a street pattern that minimizes cut-through traffic. The Food and Wine Center could be included.

Now is the time for citizens to learn about and comment on the different development proposals for this property. Should it include housing? Should low- and moderate-income housing be included, as required by redevelopment law, or moved elsewhere, as in a resolution passed a year ago by the Santa Rosa City Council? Should a public parking structure be included? What maximum building height should be allowed?



Some of these issues will be addressed in the *Request for Qualifications* that is now being drafted and scheduled to be completed and released in July. This document begins the process of hiring an organization to develop this property, and tells prospective developers what will be expected. Comments from informed citizens may affect these instructions to the developers. Opportunities in Santa Rosa to become informed include the May 24 City Council meeting, which is televised live and rebroadcast in Santa Rosa, and a special SMART Board meeting in Santa Rosa at 7:30 PM on June 21. Important decisions will also be made at the monthly SMART Board meetings, which alternate between Novato and Petaluma. The agendas for these meetings are on the SMART website:

<http://www.sonomamarintrain.org>

If you have questions about the SMART meetings in Petaluma and Novato or wish to join a carpool, please contact me.

The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County and several co-sponsors are planning two forums to raise the awareness in the community about the proposed development of this property. One forum, scheduled for the evening of June 29, will address the current

trends for development near transit stops in urban settings, the range of options that could be considered for the SMART property, and the pros and cons of those options. There will be a tour of the SMART property at 6:00 PM followed by the forum at 7:00 PM in the 6th Street Playhouse, 52 W. 6th Street. The second forum, date to be determined, will address the current status of the planning for development of the SMART property and the specific options now being considered. The forums will be held in the Sixth Street Playhouse, which is adjacent to the SMART property. League members will receive email or postcard notifications when the final arrangements are known.

Willard Richards

WATER, WATER NOT EVERYWHERE PART 1

The surprising new status of water will be the topic of a League program in the fall. This is part one 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 2 will deal with the rationale for privatization and review LWV's checklist for evaluating water privatization proposals.

Perhaps in this era of globalization and outsourcing, it shouldn't come as a surprise to get your water bill from a U.S. subsidiary of a French company—and if you live in Indianapolis, Jersey City, Laredo, Lawrence and many other places in this country, you do—but when you think how intimate and personal water is, making up 87 percent of your very being and indispensable in every room of your home, the idea that fresh, clean water is so scarce it is now a commodity being bought and sold by mega businesses around the world, can, as they say, stagger the imagination.

How much water is there?

Earth's water is 97 percent saltwater. Of the three percent fresh water, two percent is frozen, leaving less than one percent for drinking, irrigating, and industrial use, and much of that is polluted.

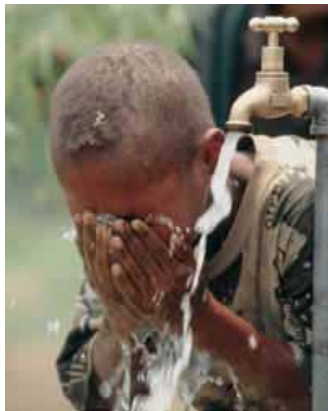
The outlook is grim:

- The earth's population is now six billion; in some forecasts it will be nine billion by 2050.
- In developed countries: irrigation systems for industrial farming use 65 to 70 percent of all water consumed by humans; water use is high among the fastest growing industries, such as computer manufacturing; and technology and sanitation systems encourage everyone to use more water than they need.
- In less-developed countries, thousands of people die daily from diseases borne by unclean water or lack of adequate supplies.
- Global warming is likely to cause severe drought, shift the jet stream to change storm patterns, and melt glaciers and snow pack. The increased demand for, and scarcity of, water has resulted in an economic model in which water, like oil, or gold, is valuable and can be sold for profits high enough to make building the infrastructure for delivering it worthwhile. Global trade agreements, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (Gatt) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) all define water as a "commodity," subject to the same trade rules and regulations as commodities like oil and natural

gas. Treating water as a commodity results in water being governed by the rules of the market.

Who owns water?

The ownership of water -- or, more precisely, the ownership of the sources of water-- has been a matter of law for centuries. The Babylonian Code of Hammurabi mentions punishment for stealing water or neglecting irrigation systems. Under Roman law, water belonged to the state. In English common law, water rights go with the land but landowners must take care for downstream users. The law deals with two types of water—surface water and groundwater—and the ownership of water is separated from the use of water. In California, surface water (riparian) rights account for about 10 percent of the rights to use surface water and are based on ownership of land adjacent to a stream or river. Appropriate rights are based on water use and belong to the first individual or entity to claim and beneficially use a specific amount of water. The first user has a claim superior to subsequent appropriators. Under California's fairly complex state law, water is the public property of the people and is considered a public resource. California's Constitution requires all claimants' use of water be reasonable and beneficial. But when Central Valley agricultural interests sell excess water to San Diego at sizable prices, what exactly is happening?



Water as a social good and human right

Water is fundamental to the survival of all living things. Clean water is critical for reducing the incidence of water-related diseases. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights recognizes access to water as a basic right of all people. The World Health Organization has identified clean water as the single most important factor in determining public health. Eighty-five percent of all water services in the U.S. is still in public hands. The public or government sector works for the good of all members of the society. Governments invest public resources in constructing water and sanitation infrastructure for the public good. And it pays off: where there are public water utilities, typhoid and cholera have been nearly eliminated. Governments can pass regulations requiring water to be clean and available at the lowest possible cost. Governments can negotiate agreements for water transfers. Governments can pass regulations to protect the environment, including endangered species. Governments are responsible for oversight, setting standards, and facilitating public communication and participation.

If access to water is a right, it is not for sale. However, water is unevenly distributed and if it is considered an economic good then it can be traded. To be traded it must be captured, stored, and then distributed, all requiring infrastructure that is expensive to build and maintain. Public funds are used to finance and operate water systems and subsidize the costs.

Sonja Bartsch and Judy Wheeler

LWV, Pasadena Area

BOARD BRIEFS**May 2005**

At the May 3rd meeting of the LWVSC board, the following key items were covered:

- Spring Fundraising Drive Chair Rosalie Gillmore reported that fundraising letters were sent to 257 prospective donors on April 14. To date, the letter has generated \$900 in donations to LWVSC operations and to the Education Fund. Jean Schulz served as Honorary Fundraising Chair. Rosalie thanked the committee that worked on the letter and gave special recognition to Lynda Hungerford who printed the letters and envelopes and will prepare the thank you letters and envelopes.
- At the request of League member Beth Martinez, Action Chair Willard Richards has written a letter expressing our support of bike lanes on Mendocino Avenue. Carol Ann plans to read the letter at the Santa Rosa Board of Education meeting on May 11 when the School Board considers whether to grant an easement to allow the widening of Mendocino Avenue to allow two turn lanes into the proposed Junior College parking structure. A League representative also will be asked to read the letter to the SRJC Trustees on May 10 and to the Santa Rosa City Council, also on May 10. Neither the Junior College Trustees nor the City Council are considering action on this matter at present. But the board felt this would be a good opportunity to go on record with our support of bike lanes.
- LWVSC wrote a letter to the SRJC Board asking that committee reports be made available on the SRJC website before they are on the agenda of the SRJC Board.
- LWVSC wrote a letter to the Sonoma County Supervisors in support of the recommendations on housing policy recommended by the Planning Commission.
- The board authorized Willard and Nancy Richards to organize two, and possibly three, community forums to focus public attention and scrutiny on the plans for the development of the SMART property in Railroad Square. The forums would be held in June. The League would be the lead sponsor of the forums, but other community groups would be asked to co-sponsor and to help cover the costs. The total cost of two forums would be about \$1000. The goal is to inform the public about the negotiations among the City of Santa Rosa, the SMART Board, and the Sonoma County Food & Wine Center concerning the SMART property in Railroad Square and to help citizens understand the opportunities and options. A possible site for the forums is the Sixth Street Playhouse, which is adjacent to the 5.5-acre SMART property.
- The board endorsed the suggestion of Sue Beittel of LWV Marin that a joint Sonoma/Marin meeting be held in September to review the SMART EIR and to reach a consensus on whether or not to support the SMART Ballot measure. This would be a League meeting, not a forum.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Milstein

THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Dan Benedetti, Clover-Stornetta
 Steven and Melissa Benjamin
 Lois Brown
 Spence and Katherine Burton
 Codding Foundation
 David Crone
 Flora Ganzler
 Bill and Lucy Kortum
 Jim Leddy
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ROSTER CHANGE

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VOTER TEAM TAKES SUMMER VACATION

This issue 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.



**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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COFFEE, UNITED NATIONS, AND YOU

On Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 PM, at the First United Methodist Church, 1551 Montgomery Drive in Santa Rosa, Mark Inman, advisor for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, will describe how the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals, the International Coffee Organization, and fair-trade, organic and shade practices are helping to stabilize the economies of the developing world.



This program is free and open to the public.

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.



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 _____

JUNE 2005 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Saturday June 4	10:00 AM – 1:15 PM	Canine Companions for Independence 295 Dutton Ave. Santa Rosa	Annual Meeting See p.1.
Tuesday June 7	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	2200 D Street Extension Petaluma, CA	Old Board/New Board Meeting League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Thursday June 9	7:30 PM	First United Methodist Church 1551 Montgomery Drive Santa Rosa	Coffee, United Nations and You See p. 7.
Tuesday June 14	12:00 Noon	95 Marshall Avenue Petaluma	International Relations Discussion Group The U.S. and global poverty See p. 3.
Tuesday June 21	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Action Committee
Thursday June 16	10:30 AM	87 Greenrock Court Santa Rosa	Book Club <i>The New Superpower and the End of American Supremacy</i> by T.R. Reid See p. 2.
Wednesday June 29	6:00 PM (tour) 7:00 PM (forum)	6 th Street Playhouse 52 W. 6 th Street Santa Rosa	SMART Property Forum: Current trends for development near transit stops in urban settings See p. 4. Check the LWVSC website for last minute changes.

LINK TO CURRENT CALENDAR