



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CUPERTINO-SUNNYVALE

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SUSAN B. ANTHONY: ANOTHER VIEW

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POWER OF THE BALLOT

[The following article was excerpted from the *Russian River Flag*, December 29, 1871 by Holly Hoods]

On Thursday evening of last week, Miss Susan B. Anthony, in accordance with previous announcement, appeared before a Healdsburg audience to discuss the "Poser of the Ballot." Miss Anthony is much older in appearance and in fact, than we had supposed from the prefix "miss" always appearing before her name, and usually denoting "sweet sixteen"; and a heartless wretch at our elbows suggested that if she did not marry soon she would be an "old maid."

She reviewed her late trip through Oregon and Washington Territory, in which she spoke nearly every night, and drew a conclusion from that task that she had the physical ability to deposit a bit of paper in the ballot box. Miss Anthony was a passenger on the steamer Capitol, some days since, when it struck Red Rock in the Bay, doing great damage to the boat, and creating great consternation among the passengers. One Irish lady fell upon her knees and commenced praying, and refused to be comforted, while a representative of the sterner sex busied himself in tying four life preservers to his feet and one about his neck. Miss Anthony was reading a newspaper when the shock occurred, and manifested not the least motion of fear or anxiety. She merely raised her eyes for an instant, took a glance at the situation, and resumed her reading with the utmost unconcern. This action we should consider characteristic of the woman. If the reader can imagine a sharp-featured lady of about forty-five, who had been president of a Presbyterian sewing society for seventeen years, with the peculiarities stated above, they will have a very fine idea of Miss Anthony's personal appearance.

Miss Anthony has spent twenty years in the anti-slavery and woman suffrage movements, and in that time has spent \$10,000. Her speech indicates that she has mingled with great men and great women, and she is thoroughly posted in public affairs. Much that she said was very radical and very unpopular with the masses of the people. Those who opposed the woman suffrage movement were undoubtedly prejudiced against her, and some who were favorably disposed did not endorse all she said. She endorsed Sargent for United State Senator because he favored her hobby, and not because he was a Republican. She denounced Grant, Haight, and Booth for seeing everything but woman in their late messages, and rather intimated that she would "stump" the country against Grant, if he was a candidate for re-election. Did not denounce Booth for being an old bachelor, probably because it would not look well in her to do so; thought him good-looking, however, and a good man. The audience was small and Liberty Hall was considered a poor place to speak to a small audience.

How far we have come. Editor

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The National Convention of the League was held in Portland, Oregon from June 13 thru June 17th this year. What a terrific convention! I strongly encourage you to attend in 2010. Approximately 1,000 people attended with workshops and meetings starting at 7:30 am and continuing until 10 pm, if you wanted to go that long.

We had several fascinating speakers. The first woman governor of Oregon spoke to us about the issues with such humor and grace. We also heard from former Governor Kitzhaber who really captured the essence of what needs to happen to improve our health care system so we can viably provide it to all. I encourage you to visit his website at www.wecandobetter.org. And there were two guest speakers that spoke about the global climate change (aka global warming) and what we can each do personally.

Of course we also attended the business meetings where as a group we agreed to educate our communities about health care and promote solutions to global climate change. And we will do a very short study on the National Popular Vote to see if it is something LWVUS should support or not.

So many great ideas were shared. I met several of the LWVUS Board members and staff and found them to be very professional, very helpful, and quite knowledgeable. It was an exciting event and I want to bring that enthusiasm back to our group so we can do an even better job of helping our community with a variety of League related talents. I will be inviting you to participate in special projects, luncheons, forums, and more – I hope you'll join me in the fun of creating a better community in our area.

Elaine Manley

YOUR VOTER BY EMAIL

Our League is investigating the feasibility of sending members their VOTER by email. It can possibly save the League money and will certainly save trees.

We encourage those of you who would like to have email delivery to let me know at rhollimon2@cs.com. Each month you will be notified by email when the Voter is ready to view or download from our Website.

Of course we will still mail a paper copy to those who prefer to receive their VOTER in that form. When we have enough members receiving their VOTER by email we will switch from bulk mail to first class postage for the mailed copies

Board Briefs

Board Briefs will return in the next issue of the VOTER

Membership News

Thank you for renewing your membership: Pearl Cheng, Suzanne Ford, Roselyn Friccero, Dorothy Givens, Jo Gordon, Anita Herrmann, Robin Holmes, Marilyn Howard, Sandy Howard, Kris Kelly, Patricia Lisin, Ann McElroy, Laura Moore, and Dolly Sandoval.

Thanks for including a donation with your dues: Nancy Burnett and Don Burnett, Marilyn Collins, Roberta Hollimon, Evelyn Lundstrom.

Welcome new members: Laurel Stell, Marilyn Wendler, and Mildred Vasani.

Community Appeal

Thank you for your donations to the Community Appeal: Susan Bates, Gail George, Roberta Hollimon, Marilyn Howard, Kris Kelly, Jenny Lopresto, Jo Lucey, A.G. Meder, Norma Medlin, and Jack Walker.

Thanks to National Semiconductor for their generous donation.

MEETINGS, COUNCILS AND CONVENTIONS

Leagues are busy during the months of May and June holding Annual Meetings, Councils and Conventions. This is the time that Leagues adopt program, approve budgets, amend bylaws and in general take care of the nitty-gritty League business so the League can function and do its important work for the coming year, fulfilling its mission to “encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.”

The reports on these meetings will inform you of the workings of the League and maybe entice you to consider attending one of these meetings in the future.

ANNUAL MEETING

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale's Annual Meeting was held June 7, 2008. We started with an interesting and informative talk by Linda Craig, state League Advocacy Director and Bay Area League president. Linda explained how the League decides which issues to work on at the state level. Some come from local Leagues during program planning and others are set by the Legislative Committee which looks at issues that are likely to come before the Legislature and on which we could have an influence. Of course they have to be issues on which we have a position. She also told of the work of the Bay Area League.

Elaine Manley presided over the business meeting at which we adopted a budget, adopted program and elected the board: President Elaine Manley, Vice President Susan Hough, Secretary Louise Levy, Treasurer Roberta Hollimon, Directors Suzanne Ford, Russ Howard, Marilyn Howard, Pat Meyering, LaVerne Prentice, and Jason Spiller.

BAY AREA CONVENTION

The LWVBA Biennial Convention was held in San Jose on May 31. Our League, sent two of our allotted four delegates. Fran Grabau and Louise Levy.

Linda Craig presided (you met her at our annual meeting) as she completed two terms as president of the Bay Area League. She is also on the LWVC Board, and active in her own League. Unfortunately, no one was nominated for the presidency, nor is there a candidate for 1st (Administrative) vice president. The other two vice presidents will take up the slack as their other positions allow. The rest of the board positions are filled, (including Linda as regional government/planning chair) and one of three nomination committee positions is filled.

The LWVBA Bylaws were amended to eliminate the words "of citizens" so that anyone may participate actively on government issues; lowered the minimum number of board members from 12 to 10, the maximum from 18 to 15, and eliminated the need to set a fixed

number; “modernized” the notification of Council and Membership Meetings to be sent by any legal method the Board determines, not just 1st class mail.

The following Board recommended program items were approved. Based on input from local Leagues the current positions will remain as they are.

Priorities for the Biennium will be:

- a) Active involvement in the Joint Policy Committee (ABAG/MTC/BAAQMD/BCDC) in their guidance of regional land use, transportation and climate solutions (emphasis on transportation);
- b) Participate in policies and solutions to address Climate Change in the Bay Area, including issues relating to water.

Printed reports from the various Board Members are available. The Webmistress' report urged us to consult www.lwvbarea.org to keep up with the Bay Area League. It includes such material as publications, advocacy, issue papers, resource documents, and an e-mail address for each of our Local Leagues.

STATE COUNCIL

The 2008 Leadership Council of the League of Women Voters of California, with the theme “Our Bridge to the Future,” was attended by 109 delegates and guests, representing 50 local Leagues. Some highlights are noted below.

In her report, President Janis Hirohama talked about the inspiration she recently found in the book *The Last Lecture*, by Randy Pausch. Dr. Pausch, a computer science professor dying of cancer, gave a “last lecture” that became a worldwide phenomenon on the Internet and a bestselling book. Hirohama noted crucial lessons from *The Last Lecture* that apply as much to organizations, like the LWVC, as they do to individuals. Among those lessons are the importance of feeling gratitude, identifying your values and what matters to you, and, especially, the value of self-examination and focusing on how you can do better. She noted that in the press of day-to-day work, the LWVC usually has little opportunity to engage in such

a process of taking stock and strategically planning for the future. However, a grant from the Irvine Foundation for the League's Easy Voter Guide work has given the LWVC the opportunity to start a self-assessment and strategic planning process.

Government Director Chris Carson talked about the LWVC's commitment to making the campaign to get the California Voters FIRST redistricting initiative passed in November its top priority.

Social Policy Director Julie Rajan reported on the LWVC's health care reform efforts. She noted the importance of continuing to move forward on SB 840.

President Hirohama presented a lifetime achievement award on behalf of the LWVC to Elizabeth G. Hill, in recognition of her accomplishments as the California Legislative Analyst.

Delegates adopted the LWVC budget for 2008-09 as proposed by the state board, which included a \$1.00 increase in the per member payment (PMP).

A key goal of Leadership Council is to provide learning, networking, and leadership development opportunities for local League members, and workshops play a vital role in that process. Well-attended workshops were held on a wide variety of topics, ranging from Mock Elections to "Unique Roles of the President and Board" to using the Easy Voter Guide and Smart Voter.

LWVUS President Mary Wilson spoke at the Council dinner on Saturday night. She discussed such topics as the national League's strong position on the U.S. Supreme Court's voter ID case and the need for the League to embrace and effectively use technology. President Wilson also joined the LWVC board, staff, and Council delegates at a reception at the state office on the evening before the start of Council.

The Council delegates unanimously adopted a resolution recognizing Trudell Een for her years of leadership and dedication as the Smart Voter Project Director.

More information about Leadership Council 2008 may be found at <http://www.lwvc.org/lwvonly>.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Excerpts from President Mary G. Wilson's Report To Convention

"I stand before you today to say that, working hand in hand with local and state Leagues across the country and with our wonderful staff at the National office, we have accomplished much toward [our] goals. I can't say "Mission Accomplished" but as we often say here in the West. We are on the right trail and we know the lay of the land immediately ahead of us. There will be many challenges as we continue to traverse the trail, but we are that same League of Women Voters that our foremother suffragists founded 88 years ago ---- strong, mighty and

determined. WE WILL FORGE OUR WAY FORWARD TO THE FUTURE AND NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF OUR GOAL!

Almost immediately after Convention 2006, in response to the delegates' overwhelming vote for a League study of immigration, we established a study committee consisting with...League members from across the country. We established the Net Neutrality Task Force whose research papers can be found on the LWV.org website. We created the Global Climate Change Task Force which has been crucial in providing information with which we have been able to take advocacy this year as issues have come before Congress.

Our work will have very little impact on our communities if it is not seen by the public. We have a reputation for being known as an honest, non-biased source of information, as thoughtful, well-informed shapers of our communities. Yes, we are known for our Good Government stance and we're proud of it

But, we need to internalize the idea that it is not sinful to seek publicity for the great work we do!

We live in a media-saturated world of 24 hour, seven day a week news...the LWVUS has realized that there is a media out there other than the newspapers we League members read and the NPR and PBS stations we listen to and watch. We partnered with XM radio this election season to bring newsworthy political information to an audience we might not otherwise ever reach. Twice this year I was on a talk show that is focused on truckers as they drive down the road listening to XM radio. A major breakthrough audience for us!

And the LWVUS is in the online communication world. We are putting more and more materials online and making them accessible to the public...we have a page on Facebook! Log on and join the new League world. What's next? Maybe a blog?"

Delegates elected a new board, adopted a budget and approved many Bylaws changes. They agreed to amend the LWVUS Principles by adding, "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial."

In addition to approving current Program the delegates adopted recommended items: "a Health Care program to educate members and communities in order to be better prepared to do health care advocacy as needed," and "a Multi-Level Education and Advocacy Campaign to promote solutions to global climate change" as an amendment to the proposed program. They also adopted the non-recommended study item entitled: "The advisability of using the National Popular Vote compact among the states as a method for electing the President." So we will have a mini-study.

National Convention is never a rubber stamp. Editor

LEAGUE NEWS

National – The League Urged Senators to support amendments to strengthen the Climate Security Act of 2008, oppose amendments to weaken it, and pass subsequent strong global warming legislation.

State – The state League announced that the campaign to qualify California Voters FIRST, the initiative measure supported by the LWVC, California Common Cause, AARP, and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, turned in 1.2 million signatures to county registrars across the state on May 6. LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and coalition partners at the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office to personally deliver boxes and boxes of signed petitions.
<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/redistrict/>.

League Websites

National www.lwv.org
State www.ca.lwv.org
Bay Area www.lwvba-ca.org
County www.scc.ca.lwvnet.org
Local www.cs.ca.lwvnet.org

THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS

How are the needs of the uninsured in Santa Clara County being met until Single Payer is a reality?

Health Care Forum

Thursday, July 10 7-9PM

Mt. View City Council Chambers

2nd Floor

500 Castro St. Mt. View

Featuring the documentary: The Healthcare Solution:
California OneCare

Panel of Santa Clara County Health Care leaders:

Kim Roberts, CEO, Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System

Leona Butler, CEO, Santa Clara Family Health Plan

Nancy Pena, PhD, Director Mental Health Department, SCVHHS

Sponsored by the Peninsula Democratic Coalition, Health Care for All-Santa Clara County chapter, HCA-SF Mid-Peninsula Chapter, the Santa Clara County Single Payer Coalition

6:30PM Refreshments will be served

Parking: under City Hall

Join the League of Women Voters

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check to LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, P.O. Box 2923, Sunnyvale, CA 94087.

____ \$50 Individual member

Name: _____

____ \$75 Two members in a household

Address: _____

____ Contribution \$ _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Checks made out to LWVCS are not tax deductible.