



# The Placer County Voter

The League of Women Voters of Placer County  
Vol. 2, Issue 1  
July, 2008

## A Message from President Kathy Souza



This is typically the time of year when Leagues “take a break” to enjoy the summer before getting back to business in the Fall. However, our League board and committees will still remain active throughout the summer. We will be contemplating a vision for our organization and determining the steps we need to take to get us there.

We will be working with other organizations to plan voter education events for the busy November election. At the time I wrote this article, nine initiatives had already qualified for the November election, 6 more are pending raw count and signature verification, and petitions were being circulated for 22 more!. With a high volume of potential ballot measures and the highly publicized candidate races, we have a lot of opportunity to provide voter education this fall. So planning must begin now.

We also need to plan our calendar for the coming year and begin planning the meetings and forums for the education program we adopted at our Annual Meeting.

So you can see, there will be a lot of activity taking place during our summer “break”. Look forward to the events that we will be lining up for our organization—and the community—this year.

Introducing the 2008-2009 LWV of Placer County Board Members elected May 31, 2008 at the Annual Meeting . From left to right front row: Judy Marston, Margie Spalding, Kathy Souza, Betty Green-Heffern,



and Candace Massey. Back row, left to right: Karen Tajble, Darlis Beale, Daphne Lake, Bernadette O’Keefe, Alexis Winter and Karen Fleming.

### Note the Dates:

**August 23rd, Saturday. 3rd Annual California Women’s Equality Day.** (For more info go to: [www.lwvsacramento.org](http://www.lwvsacramento.org))

**October 11th, Saturday, Voter Forum and Pros and Cons of the ballot measures for November 4th ballot.** 9:30-11:30a.m. Sierra College: 5000 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin, CA. (More info will follow.)

**You must register to Vote by October 20th, for the November 4th election.**

**League of Women Voters of Placer County (LWV) Board of Directors 2008-2009.**

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## May 31, 2008 Annual Meeting. Kathy Souza

By all measures, our first Annual Meeting was a huge success. With 25 members in attendance—nearly half of our membership! We celebrated our successes and recognized the efforts of those who made them happen. This was a big year for “firsts”:

- First public meeting—Jan. 5th kickoff at Maidu Community Center, Roseville
- First candidate forum—April 19th at Placer High School
- First Pros and Cons presentation—Jan. 5th kickoff
- First fundraiser—staffing Roseville polling precinct for February 8 election
- First newsletter- February; First release of Website - March
- First Annual Meeting—May 31st

Supervisor Robert Weygandt addressed our group and highlighted some of the recent accomplishments of the County, as well as some of the new developments that are in the works. He pointed out that in our current economy, contractors are bidding more competitively, and many projects are being bid below the amount the County has budgeted. As a result, they are trying to begin as many projects as possible to take advantage of this unusual situation.

We elected our new officers and directors for the coming year (see front page and left column of this page) and adopted our budget and program. We decided to concentrate on education this year with the following projects:

- Know Your Community Publication—a compilation of information about the various government agencies, districts and services in our county
- Health Care Education Forum—a public forum featuring guest speakers discussing our health care system and alternatives
- Placer County General Plan—an educational meeting to learn more about our general plan and how the county is executing it.

Thank you to all who attended and helped set the direction of our organization for the coming year.

Introducing President, Kathy Souza. Kathy has been a League Member for 27 years. Her League resume includes past President of the Sacramento County League, Management Training Advisor for several neighboring Leagues, as well as speaker and candidate forum moderator. Now retired from a long career in Information Technology and health care, Kathy has been married for 34 years to Rod Souza, who is also a League member. Kathy enjoys travel, golf, cooking and wine tasting.

## LWV Approves Immigration Policy. Betty Green-Heffern.

On April 1, 2008 in Washington DC, the League of Women Voters announced its official position on immigration reform policy. The current national League President, Mary G. Wilson, stated that "...the League's position calls for a path to citizenship for current unauthorized immigrants. As part of an overall immigration reform, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria". The full immigration policy also includes support for increased enforcement personnel at borders, more effective tracking of individuals who enter the U.S., significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers, due process for all persons, and criteria for legal admission to the U.S. which include family reunification as well as national economic needs. **The League will use this recently adopted position to guide advocacy work on federal legislation.**

In conjunction with this announcement, the Placer County League of Women Voters hosted a public informational presentation on immigration, May 1, at Sierra College.

Betty Green-Heffern currently serves on the board as 1st VP. Prior to formation of the Placer League, Betty belonged to the Sacramento County League where she was a member of the local immigration study committee. Betty worked for Hewlett Packard for many years and she most recently worked in the financial sector. Betty has served in numerous leadership capacities for various educational and non-profit organizations. A few years ago, Betty and her husband relocated back to No. California after raising two daughters in Colorado.

The Placer County League operates with two Vice Presidents. The 1st VP is responsible for Communications which includes: PR, Newsletter, Voter Service, Speakers Bureau, Training, Publications

and Website. The 2nd VP is responsible for Administration which includes: Secretary, Membership, Financial, Units, Nominating Committee, Study Groups and Programs.

The 2nd VP, Margie Spalding, has been a life long resident of Placer County. As a mother of four, Margie has been on a journey of volunteer work in local youth development agencies. She has served on a variety of committees and boards including the 21st Century Committee for Auburn Union School, Boys and Girls Club Auburn, Friends of Placer High School, and Mentors for Youth. Margie is considered a local education activist and has charted local government organizations.

## Voter Service and League Activities. Bernadette O'Keefe.

**Your Placer League has been busy during its initial year carrying out our voter service role.** We educated voters through nonpartisan voter registration at numerous locations around south Placer County, worked at polls during elections (see article page 4), presented information on ballot measures to community groups and conducted a candidate forum. Placer High School was the setting of our first Candidate Forum, co-hosted by two AAUW chapters. We were also available to present the pros and cons of local ballot measures at Maidu Center, Roseville, Sierra College in Rocklin, and Auburn's Daybreak Rotary Club. All this activity gave your Placer League the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the community. **If you are interested in volunteering for Voter Service work for the November election you can email Committee Chair Bernadette O'Keefe at [bgog@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bgog@sbcglobal.net).**

Bernadette O'Keefe comes to Placer County from Monterey County where she served on numerous boards of directors and worked in non-profit administration for 25 years. She held positions in finance, development, public affairs and in her last as executive director. Bernadette has a degree in Sociology and an MS Degree in Public Administration. A native San Franciscan and raised in the Bay Area, Bernadette has two sons and three grandchildren.

## LWV Placer County Adopts Programs for 2008-2009. Alexis Winter.

After receiving ideas for programs at the April 1st membership meeting and reaching a consensus of the board members on April 15th, a formal adoption was made at the Annual Meeting on May 31st to do a "Know Your Community" paper as our first program. This "Know Your Community" project will provide us with an educational base to use for future programs and it will provide a useful document to serve our communities. **We will be determining the scope of the document and are looking for members to join us on the committee.**

We will also be doing a review of the League's positions on healthcare, and are planning to have a county representative do a presentation on the Placer County Plan, which covers many of the ideas and issues in which the membership showed an interest.

**Please communicate with any one on the board about your desire to participate. We want everyone to get involved!**

Alexis Winter is Program Chair of the Placer County League. A native Californian, she currently lives in the Roseville area with Randy and her two miniature dachshunds, Sadie & Sophie. As a new LWV member Alexis is counting the months when she will not be working 50 hours a week and will be able to devote more time to LWV, and to travel, read, cook, and maybe find time for some exercise as well.

**There are several ways to contact the Board. Email addresses are printed on page 2 of this Newsletter, or go to the LWV Placer website at [www.lwvplacercounty.org](http://www.lwvplacercounty.org) or finally, you can use snail mail addressed to League of Women Voters of Placer County, PO Box 836, Loomis, CA 95650. We encourage your participation! We want to hear from you!**

## Voter Service-Good Food-Fellowship. Daphne Lake/Kathy Souza.

"Working the Polls" on June 3 was all of the above and more. Members of the LWV of Placer County worked at two polling places—one in Roseville and the other in Auburn. It was a first for some and they were impressed with the organization of the Elections Division and the measures they go through to assure that security, privacy, accessibility and accuracy in voting occur. In addition, there was good food, and lots of good conversation.

Neither location reported a heavy turnout—this may be because it is considered a "light election" - a primary election without many ballot issues, and of course Placer County always has a record number of absentee ballots mailed in. The polls will be much busier for the November 4th election and so we are looking for a few more volunteers. This is not only service but a great fund raiser for the Chapter.

Members who participated were: Diane Eillers, Marian Faustman, Karen Flemming, Margot Fulmer, Agnes Glover, Daphne Lake, Barbara Morgan, Alexis Smith, Kathy and Rod Souza, Margie Spalding, Michele Stark, Randi Swisley and Linda Theodore.

**If interested in joining the group at the polls, contact Daphne Lake or Kathy Souza.**

We will end our "board bios" for this issue with that of Daphne Lake, Membership Chairperson. Born in South Africa, Daphne moved to the U.S. in 1981, and became a U.S. Citizen in 1987. She first settled in the East Coast and arrived in So. CA in 1997 where she joined the LA City League. Since becoming a citizen, Daphne has worked for various election boards. She is interested in the democratic process, would love elected officials to be more independent thinkers, accountable to the voters and not to special interests. Her dream is that in November 2008, there will be an historic high voter turnout of well informed voters.



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

## JOIN THE LEAGUE

- Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters of Placer County.
- Individual Membership \$60.00       Household Membership (2 people) \$90  
(\$30 for each additional family member)
- I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day/eve): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### *My interests include:*

- Program/Action
- Voter Service
- Fundraising for League projects
- Study Committees
- Special Projects

### *The League will help you...*

- Be more informed about decisions you need to make that shape your community and your future
- Work on issues that directly affect you, your family and your community
- Become a problem solver
- Vote smart by being a smart voter through understanding the issues and how they affect your life

### *Print this page, fill it out, and mail it with your check to:*

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*Because we lobby on public policy issues, membership dues and contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.*