



The Placer County Voter

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



A Message from President Kathy Souza

We've come a long way, baby! We have made so much progress over the past few months, I just have to brag. Since our initial meeting in September, 2007, we have:

- recruited 51 members
- established a very enthusiastic, hard-working board of directors
- published a very beautiful newsletter
- launched a great website
- adopted bylaws
- presented pros and cons of the ballot measures throughout the community
- earned money for our voter education projects by staffing a polling precinct

I officially submitted our Application for League Recognition on April 10th. We have completed all of the components required for recognition, and I am hoping that we will be able to obtain official recognition in time for me to be able to attend the LWVUS convention in June as a voting delegate. We may just break a record for League formation! Thank you to everyone who has helped us along the way by attending member meetings and volunteering your time and energy.

We've made a lot of progress over the past few months. I can't wait to see what new milestones we will achieve.

Annual Meeting 2008. Kathy Souza

Our first official Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, May 31, from 9 AM to noon, at the Solarium Room of the Orchard Creek Lodge in Sun City Lincoln Hills.** A call to Annual Meeting kit will be mailed to members soon containing the agenda and information regarding the items that we will be voting on.

The Annual Meeting is held at the end of each fiscal year to celebrate the accomplishments of the current year and plan for the next. The agenda will include adopting our new budget and electing new officers and directors. This is a time to celebrate our new organization and meet fellow members. Our guest speaker for the event will be Placer County Supervisor, Robert Weygandt, who will discuss current issues in Placer County.

Please join us for this important business meeting. Anyone is welcome, but only members who have joined 30 days prior to the meeting will be eligible to vote.

Upcoming Programs:

Next General Meeting:

Date: Thursday, May 1

Time: 7:00PM

Immigration Study

Betty Green-Heffern

Place: Sierra Community College (Details page 2.)

Leadership Council:

Date: May 16-18 in Sacramento. (For more information go to: <http://www.lwvc.org>)

First Annual Meeting:

Date: Saturday, May 31

Time: 9:00AM-Noon

Place: Lincoln Hills

Speaker: Placer County Supervisor Weygandt. (More details this page.)

League of Women Voters of Placer County (LWV) Board of Directors 2007—2008.

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LWV Mission Statement: “To encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.”

See our new website:
<http://www.lwvplacercounty.org>

How Do Leagues Determine and Reach Positions to Advocate. Alexis Winter

The League of Women Voters attempts to influence public policy through education and advocacy. During our April 1st Membership meeting, members suggested several possible areas for study. This is the first step toward advocacy.

After the Board discusses the feasibility of the suggested topics for programs, the membership will decide which program(s) to adopt at the Annual Meeting. A study committee will then be created to research the selected issue(s) and to present information to League members. During discussion, the facts are presented, pros and cons discussed and ultimately consensus agreement is reached on the issue. From that point, a “position” is taken, and the League then begins to lobby and advocate for its implementation.

The League study is a major part of the process to select positions for advocacy and is integral to the organization’s core mission. If you are interested in participating in our first study committee, contact any board member about your interest.

Immigration Study Presentation. Betty Green-Heffern

Join the League of women Voters of Placer County for a presentation highlighting the recent National Immigration Study by the League of Women Voters, **Thursday, May 1st at 7:00PM at Sierra Community College, Library Room, LRC-133, 5000 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA.**

The League of Women Voters recently completed a two-year Immigration Study aimed at helping communities understand the implications of immigration at the local, state and federal level. As part of the project, League members and leaders explored the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration in American society.

You are invited to attend our immigration presentation to learn about the history of immigration in the United States and hear summaries of background papers which include an overview of Federal Immigration policy, what motivates immigration to America, immigration and the economy, economic aspects of authorized and unauthorized immigration, the effects of global interdependence on migration, border enforcement issues, family reunification, immigrant diversity, and inclusion. We will also review the recently released League of Women Voters United States immigration position statement.

The League of Women Voters: An Historical View.

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt, one of the original suffragists, during the National American Woman Suffrage Association's convention. The organization was designed to help women carry out their new responsibilities as voters, and that remains one of their main missions today.

At its inception, the League adopted a non-partisan policy. An important choice was made to neither support nor oppose political parties or candidates. This does not mean that the League is a completely "neutral" organization. We do, after careful study and discussion, form positions on issues important to our community. We then use these "positions" to advocate policy.

The League's nonpartisan policy has added strength to the League's position on issues and has made possible wide acceptance of League voter service and other educational activities. Although the League is nonpartisan, it is a political organization and encourages members to become active in government and participate in the party of their choice.

From the very beginning, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League were not exclusively focused on women's issues and that citizen education aimed at all of the electorate was in order. For more than 80 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government.

The League offers members a wide range of opportunities to learn about and influence their community. It provides an excellent training ground for involvement in government and personal growth. We strongly encourage you to get involved and make the most of your citizenship.

Voter Forum, April 19th, 2008. Kathy Souza

Our League teamed up with the Auburn and Roseville/South Placer chapters of the American Association of University Women and the Placer County Elections Division for a very successful voter forum on April 19 at the Placer High School Auditorium. Approximately 100 people attended the event.

Jim McCauley, Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters, performed the role of master of ceremonies. Ryan Ronco, Assistant Recorder-Registrar of Voters, gave a brief presentation on the June 3rd elections, including the fact that there are 182 different ballots for our county this election. Randi Swisley presented information on propositions 98 and 99 and deftly responded to questions on the two measures that deal with the issue of eminent domain.

Kathy Souza moderated a forum for candidates running for Placer County Supervisor. Participating were Jim Holmes, candidate for District 3, and Bruce Kranz, Jennifer Montgomery and Robert Houston, candidates for District 5. Kirk Uhler, candidate for District 4 had to coach his son's t-ball team and was unable to attend.

The event was well received and was a very successful collaboration between our two organizations.

To learn more about the [Placer County League](http://www.lwvplacercounty.org), view our new [Placer County website](http://www.lwvplacercounty.org) at: <http://www.lwvplacercounty.org> It contains information about our League, a calendar of events, contact information, and links to other League websites. We will be updating it periodically and using it as a communication tool.

Things you didn't learn if you missed Jim McCauley's talk in March. Jean Ebenholtz

- In Placer County, 48% of voters are registered to vote by mail.
- Absentee ballots cost more to process than voting at the poll, (postage) —but results in more voter participation.
- There are 261 Voter Precincts in Placer County
- Each voting place must have at least one touch screen voting machine (with a paper audit trail) for use by disabled voters.
- 1500 people "work" on election day in Placer County
- By law, the county recorder's office has 28 days after the actual election to complete the count.

