



Bakersfield Voter

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KERN COUNTY

MAY/JUNE 2008

President's message

After the record turnout of voters for the February Presidential primary election, a tremendous opportunity opened up for the League to capture this excitement and make sure voters rely on the League as their first choice for nonpartisan information on issues. Elections are keeping us busy and our Board is proud to serve you.

I want to remind you that it is time for the annual meeting, and we need your vote to approve the program and elect board members. Here is what we are doing in the next few months:

The LWV of Kern County's planning meeting is scheduled for June. We want to hear from you! Are we meeting your expectations? Are we focusing on the issues that are important to you? What ideas would you like to share? We will be asking members to participate in small focus groups to discuss these important questions. We will contact members over the next couple of weeks. If you don't hear from us, please e-mail me and let me know that you want to attend. My e-mail address is dianewilliams.cht5@statefarm.com. I encourage your participation and honest input; we want to serve you.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 5:45 pm at the Petroleum Club. We will vote on next year's program followed by a presentation from representatives of the Kern County Elections Office. League members will elect officers and directors, adopt issues of emphasis and a budget, and vote on proposed bylaw amendments for the next year. The guest speakers, Sandra

Brockman, Chief Deputy Registrar of Kern County, and Ann Barnett, Auditor–Controller–County Clerk from the Kern County Elections Office, will discuss crossover voting, voter outreach, and the purpose of the primary election.

Important June Election Dates:

Request Absentee Ballot: May 5th

Registration Deadline: May 19th

Statewide Election: June 3rd

There are two propositions on the June ballot. For more information on these issues and the contests, see page 3 and visit www.smartvoter.org.

As a member of the LWV, you are part of an organization in which smart, active leaders work to create change in their communities. Thank you for your membership! –Diane Williams

May/June 2008 Calendar

May 7—Wednesday, 11:30 am. Unit meeting on Universal Healthcare and lunch at the Guild House, 1905 18th Street. Cost of luncheon is \$14. RSVP ASAP to the League Line.*

May 13—Tuesday, 6:30 pm. LWVB Board meeting, Merced Center, 2000 K Street, Room UC–2.

May 21 —Wednesday, 5:45 pm. **ANNUAL DINNER MEETING** at the Petroleum Club, 5060 California Avenue, 12th floor. Ann K. Barnett, Auditor–Controller–County Clerk of the County of Kern, and Chief Deputy Registrar Sandra Brockman will speak about the election process. Election of officers and special awards and recognitions. Cost is \$22. Dinner reservations required; call the League Line.*

June 18—Wednesday, 5:45 pm. General meeting at the Petroleum Club, 5060 California Avenue with speakers Candi Easter and Cathrine Mills, “Behind the Scenes at National Political Conventions.” Cost is \$22. Dinner reservations required; call the League Line.*

June 21— Saturday, 10 am to 1 pm. LWV Kern County Board Orientation at Marie Callendars, 3801 California Avenue

August 23—Saturday at the Petroleum Club. We will share **WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY** with the Girl Scouts. Watch for invitations in the mail.

Focus groups will meet May 9, May 12 and May 29.

**Reservations are required for dinner and luncheon meetings and special events. Please call the League Line, 634-3773, by Monday noon prior to the Wednesday event. No charge for attendance at program only. Thank you.*

Ann Barnett and Sandra Brockman will address annual meeting

Mark May 21st on your calendar and plan to attend the League of Women Voters of Kern County's Annual Meeting. Did that sentence make you pause? If so, you noticed that our local League has a new name. At last year's Annual Meeting we accepted the name change from LWV of Bakersfield to LWV of Kern County. The state League and the LWVUS have approved the change, and it is now official. By increasing our scope of service, we are challenging ourselves to be more cognizant of county-wide issues and more inclusive of members from towns other than Bakersfield.

Ann K. Barnett, Auditor-Controller-County Clerk of the County of Kern, and Chief Deputy Registrar Sandra Brockman will be the featured speakers at the Annual Meeting which will be held at the Petroleum Club. They will discuss the importance of poll worker training, crossover voting, voter outreach, and the purpose of primary elections. They will explain the significance of registering *non-partisan* since there has been an increase in Kern County of voters registering in this category. This will be an opportunity for us to ask questions about voting machines and the vote-counting process, as well.

Election of officers and directors will be one of the main orders of business. Continuing President Diane Williams and Second Vice President Terri Stanton as well as Director Del Gardner are in the middle of two year terms which conclude in 2009. Nominated for terms ending in 2010 are Barbara Lovell, First Vice President; Pat Stagler, Treasurer; and Lynne Rosenstein, Voter Editor. Margo Perry is the nominee for Secretary. Directors nominated for two year terms are

Carolyn Dixon, Kathleen Kress, and Leslie Watson. Jackie Rudnick and Janis Jones are nominated for one year terms as Directors.

The League will present the first annual Citizenship Award to an outstanding woman with exemplary community involvement. Arvin High School principal Blanca Cavazos has been selected as the initial recipient. Blanca's list of activities is extensive. She was a founding member of the Arvin High Alumni Association, president of CSU Hispanic Excellence Scholarship Foundation, and president of the Kern County Hispanic Educators. Blanca was a member of the CSUB Admissions Advisory Committee, the CSUB Bilingual Cross-Cultural Education Advisory Committee, and the CSUB Educational Administration Advisory Committee. A member of the American Cancer Society's Community Board, she also was team coordinator for the Society's Relay for Life. Blanca has coached AYSO soccer and YMCA basketball and is a board member of the Association of California School Administrators. This partial list is just some of her community and educational involvements.

Other finalists include Sue Benham, Ginger Morehouse, Jeanette Richardson, Sandra Serrano, and Josephine Herring Triplett. All have been invited to the Annual Meeting.

Our own beloved Julia Linfesty will receive her 50 year pin at this event. In addition, a well-deserved special honor will be bestowed upon her.

Call the League Line, 634-3773, to make your reservation for the Annual Meeting. The event begins at 5:45 pm. The Petroleum Club is located at 5060 California Avenue. Cost of dinner is \$22.—Lynne Rosenstein



Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but ro



Prop 98 OPPOSE Deceptive Measure Would Rent Control and Harm

Californians deserve protection from eminent Proposition 98 is a radical

proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would eliminate rent control and other renter protection laws; that is why wealthy apartment and mobile home park owners have contributed most of the money to qualify Proposition 98 for the ballot. Proposition 98 contains language that would make it difficult to protect the environment and regulate land use, growth and development. This hidden agenda would threaten water quality, hurt the environment, and thwart regulations that protect our neighborhoods.

Prop 99 **SUPPORT** **Eminent Domain. Acquisition of Owner-Occupied Residence**

This measure is a real eminent domain reform measure that will protect homeowners without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Proposition 98. Proposition 99 will prohibit the government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to another private party. It is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, business, labor, cities, counties and environmentalist.—LWVC

What issues concern you?

You, our members, are the key to the success of the League of Women Voters of Kern County. In an effort to discover what local and state topics are important to you and what areas deserve our attention, three focus group meetings are scheduled in May. These meetings will be small so that those present will have the opportunity to share opinions and be heard.

One or two board members will be present at each gathering to actively listen to comments and suggestions. If you joined the League to get involved and are still waiting to be asked or if your expectations of League membership have not been fulfilled, we really want to hear from you.

Focus groups will meet

- Friday, May 9, 10 am at the home of Leslie Watson

• Monday, May 12, 2 pm at the home of Lynne Rosenstein • Thursday, May 29, 7 pm at the home of Diane Williams

Please call Lynne Rosenstein, 588-5566 or e-mail Diane Williams, dianewilliams.cht5@statefarm.com. if you would like to attend one of the meetings and indicate which date works for you. We are eager to listen!—Editor

Learn how national conventions work at June 18 meeting

Most of us have a general idea about what happens at a political convention. We also know the differences between the two major political parties. Yet few of us know the behind-the-scenes workings of the conventions and how each party formulates its platform. We may not know much about super delegates, how they achieved that status, and why they are so important in the coming presidential election. Two very well informed women will speak at the June 18 general meeting which will take place at 5:45 pm at the Petroleum Club.

Candi Easter represents the Democratic Party. Candi has served as treasurer, vice president and media advisor for Democratic Women of Kern. She has been a member of the Kern County Central Committee for 13 years and currently serves as its chair. A member of the California Democratic Party and a state convention delegate for 12 years, Candi was elected as a Regional Director for Region 8 in 2007. She has been awarded numerous honors including the Dorothy Donohoe award for outstanding Democrat of the Year in 2001 and the California State Democratic Party Volunteer of the Year for Region 8 in 2003. Currently she appears with Dr. Mark Martinez on the *Mark Martinez* radio show on KGEO.

Cathrine Mills will represent the Republican Party. Unfortunately, at press time her biographical information was unavailable.

Please make your reservation by calling the League Line, 634-3773, by noon on Monday, June 16.

**REMINDER — THERE IS NO MEETING IN JULY. HAVE A PLEASANT
SUMMER.**

League of Women Voters of Kern County

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