



THE VOTER

HEALTHCARE FOR ALL IN CALIFORNIA and in Woodland on March 8

Nearly seven million Californians lack health insurance during all or part of the year. About 70% of these people are employed but do not receive employer-based insurance. In addition, many people are under insured with policies providing only partial coverage, such as the exclusion of coverage for preexisting conditions. Runaway health insurance premiums, rising deductibles and co-payments all contribute to a health care system that could do so much more in providing effective, affordable health-care.

"Of all the forms of inequity, injustice in health care is the most shocking and the most inhumane."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

In an effort to engage Woodland on this important issue, the League will be hosting an educational forum on **March 8 at 7 p.m. in the Leake Room of the Woodland Public Library**. The evening's program will include a four person panel: Dr. Bette Hinton, Yolo County Health Officer, Dennis Lindsay, CEO of Nugget Markets Robert Clarkson, Chief Deputy Director with Yolo County Health, and Tom Pinizzotto, Director of the Yolo County Department of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services. After a 45 minute presentation by the panel, the floor will be open to the public for questions and further discussion.

This educational forum is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Woodland and the Yolo Chapter of Health Care for All, a statewide advocacy group that supports universal health insurance.

"We have lots of data to support a single payer insurance system (Senate Bill 840, Kuehl) as a solution to the crisis, but first we need to discuss the problem and educate voters," said Dan Braunstein, Ph.D., chair of Yolo Health Care for All. "This is an issue whose time has come," he added.

This forum is part of a statewide effort to hold a local event in a different city each day across California for 365 days beginning August 2006.

The first forum in Yolo County was held in West Sacramento the day after Christmas. A forum will be held in Davis on April 20th. For more information contact Barbara Fleck at the Woodland League of Women Voters, 530-867-2728, or Dan Braunstein, at 530-747-0380.

Visit www.healthcareforall.org for more information.



LWV Board of Directors

2006-07

Please contact any member of the board with your ideas and questions.

Co-presidents

Pat Murray 662.9092

phmur695@sbcglobal.net

Bj Ford 662.0952

bjford@pacbell.net

1st Vice-president

Publicity

2nd Vice-president

Membership

Debbie Peterson 662.9510

debbiepeterson@emalab.com

Recording Secretary

Kathy Harryman

662.2189

rosekay@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Judy Simas

662.1343

jsimas@wjusd.org

Voter Services

Meg Stallard

666.0154

megstallard@yahoo.com

Publications

Pat Butler 530.525.0641

tahoebutler@sbcglobal.net

Finance Directors

Lucinda Talkington 662.0535

lucbobtalk@sbcglobal.net

Sadie Barga 662.5136

Voter Editor

Carol Souza Cole 666.2097

redwood@cal.net

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bj Ford

Dear Fellow Members,

The night before the State of the Community Luncheon there was concern that for the first time in 13 years we were going to be short on attendees.

Boy were we wrong! The successful event was earmarked by a full house due to great food and our excellent speaker, Assemblymember Lois Wolk. What more could be asked. With the outstanding leadership of event chairperson, Lucinda Talkington, and her supporting committee members the event was yet again a success. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it happen and to our generous sponsors.

This event also inspired several folks to join the League, and one of these new members has stepped in to organize an event on March 26 about global warming.

Annually, local Leagues meet with their state senators and assembly representatives, in order to conduct an interview regarding timely issues. The questions we will be asking Lois Wolk (the week of Feb. 26) will cover: health care reform measures pending in the state legislature; California's estimated population increase of 20 million over the next two decades; opinions on the legislature's approach on the

state's fiscal problems; and her position on the establishment of an independent citizens' commission on redistricting.

Finally, it is time to start thinking about our officers and board members for next year (our League year begins July 1). If you are interested in serving on the board please contact Pat or me. Actively participating in the League as a leader is the best way to gain all the there is to offer in the League.

Peace,
Bj



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

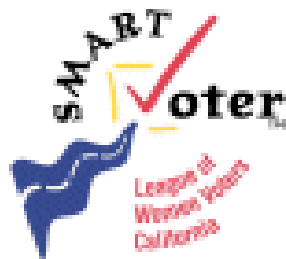
A big thank you to those members who renewed their memberships in January and February:

- Jacki Cottingim
- Evelia Genera
- Sue Hansen
- Grace Hefner

And WELCOME to new members:

- Lyn Bigelow
- Debra Chase
- Bette Racki
- Phyllis Simeroth
- Susan & Megan Slover-Murphy

In this, and each edition of The Voter, a membership form is published. Please forward this Voter and encourage your friends and colleagues to become a member of the League.



GLOBAL WARMING:

LEARN MORE WITH THE LEAGUE MARCH 26, 2007

Automobiles produce 90% of all carbon emissions due to travel. Reducing your weekly car mileage by just 20 miles can decrease your carbon dioxide emissions by 1,000 pounds per year. Lighting accounts for one-fifth of all electricity consumed in the United States. Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) use 66% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs, and still give off the same warm light, and will last 10 times longer than standard incandescent bulbs.

Energy consumption worldwide is contributing to global warming, and global warming is causing unprecedented environmental changes - here and now.

On Monday, March 26, the League of Women Voters will co-host a presentation on global warming accompanied by a discussion of solutions. The multi-media slideshow will be presented at 7 p.m. at the Leake Room of the Woodland Public Library.

The presenter will be Carl Zichella who has been trained by The Climate Project to deliver this science-based presentation. Zichella, one of nearly a thousand American citizens trained by The Climate Project,

is also a regional director for the Sierra Club. The presentation includes the slide show developed by Al Gore for the Academy Award winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Co-sponsor of the event is Tuleyome, a advocacy oriented nonprofit organization focused on protecting the wild and agricultural heritages of the Putah-Cache bioregion that includes parts of Yolo, Lake, napa, Colusa, and Solano counties.

For more information about the event, phone Pat Murray at 662-9092. To learn more about partner organization Tuleyome, visit <http://tuleyome.org>. To find out about The Climate Project go to www.theclimateproject.org.

LWVUS WANTS TO HEAR YOUR LEAGUE STORY

Do you have a League story to tell? As part of the *Membership Recruitment Initiative*, LWVUS has developed a "Storybank" to collect and house personal stories of achievement from League members across the country. There is no better way to explain the benefits of membership to potential members than to share stories from current LWV members. Submit a story now [http://www.lwv.org/Storybank/!](http://www.lwv.org/Storybank/) For more information about the Storybank and how your story may be used, contact storybank@lwv.org. Stories already submitted can be read at www.lwv.org.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

Next Wednesday, March 8, is the 20th Annual Yolo County Women's History Month Luncheon. It will be held at the Holy Rosary Community Center on California Street in Woodland beginning at 11:30 am. This year's anniversary event will feature a dramatic presentation of the lives of twelve Yolo County pioneering women. Local historian Shipley Walters will narrate the program and is the author of the script.

Retired Yolo County librarian Mary Stephens DeWall will serve as the honorary chair of the event.

Reservations are still available and cost for the luncheon is \$20. Call or email 662-0952/bjford@pacbell.net to reserve your seat.

FROM LWVC SOCIAL POLICY DIRECTOR

Leagues will continue to participate in the OneCareNow campaign of daily city events, petition gathering, health care forums, and educating our elected officials on the benefits of SB 840. It will be a hot topic, and will provide an opportunity for League members to do what they can do so well--educate, educate, educate. - Julie Rajan, social_policy@lwvc.org

MANY THANKS TO OUR LUNCHEON SPONSORS

- B&B Party Rentals
 - Baker's Delight
 - Sadie Barga
 - Joel Butler,
- Yolo County Assessor
 - Patricia Butler
 - Glenn Cole and Carol Souza Cole
- Delta Hearing Aid Center
 - EMA Labs, Inc. – Don Peterson
- Dr. Angela Fairchilds – Woodland Community College
 - Bj and Leroy Ford
 - Law Offices of Roger Hahn
 - Suzanne Hansen
 - Kathy Harryman
 - Mary E. Lacky
- Bill and Lois Linford
 - Holiday Matchett
 - Patricia H. Murray
- Outa Sight Group, Inc.
 - Beverly Peppers
 - Matt Rexroad,
- Yolo County Supervisor, Third District
 - Nancy Rice
 - Richter Ranch
- Rose Colored Glass Company
- Gary and Mary Sandy
- Judy and Bob Simas
- Cass Sylvia, Yolo County Public Guardian
 - Congressman Mike Thompson
 - Woodlanders for Responsible Government
 - Mariko Yamada, Yolo County Supervisor, Fourth District
 - Youngmark Nursery

From LWVC: LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS

The 2007- 08 legislative session has started, and the LWVC is actively working to promote a legislative solution to redistricting reform. We have met with legislative leaders and staff and with representatives of the Governor to lobby for putting a citizens redistricting commission proposal before the voters in 2008. Discussions are continuing with our coalition partners about an initiative, in case the legislature fails to act. The situation is complicated by the possibility that the 2008 presidential primary election will be moved to February 2008, and term limits reform may be part of any package that is negotiated.

We are also looking at the competing proposals for expanding health care coverage. In addition, we will follow the development of the state budget and continue to focus on the question of the structural budget deficit.

-John D. Sullivan, Legislation Director, legislation@lwvc.org

WATCH - HEALTH CARE PROPOSALS

Health care is at the forefront of issues before the legislature this year. To date, more than 15 health care coverage bills have been introduced. The chief new contenders are bills introduced by Senate President pro Tem Don Perata and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan.

The Governor is currently seeking a legislator to author his plan.

Update on the Kuehl bill. Senator Sheila Kuehl will reintroduce her single payer bill (SB 840 of 2005-2006), which was vetoed by the Governor last September. According to a staff member, the senator is still "enthusiastic and committed" to the single payer bill and hopes to keep the same bill number for the 2007-2008 legislative session. As chair of the Senate Health Committee, she also will sign on to some bills that are, in effect, competing with SB 840. Kuehl sees the competition as an opportunity to contrast the benefits, costs and savings of SB 840 with those of the new reform proposals.

Kuehl plans to release a set of principles as a guide to judging all health care bills and will provide a comparison of the new reform proposals to SB 840. To date, she has released two essays that comment on some differences between SB 840 and other health care bills or plans. Visit her Web site, www.sen.ca.gov/kuehl, to read her essays.

The Perata bill. Kuehl is a co-author of Perata's bill, SB 48, that calls for mandated purchase of insurance by both employers and employees. Employers, sole proprietors, and independent contractors would be required to buy commercial insurance or pay into a state trust fund (a "pay or play" model). Workers would pay through mandatory payroll deductions and would have to offer proof of health insurance when they pay their taxes. Undocumented immigrants and the unemployed would not be covered. Cost estimates for the program are five to seven billion dollars, which would be raised from employers and employees. There is no indication

yet of what the employer/employee cost split would be. Perata's plan also seeks an expansion of Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program to cover parents and children up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL); this would need federal approval. His plan would insure an estimated 4.2 million of the 6.6 uninsured Californians.

The Nunez bill. Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez has introduced AB 8, designed to provide coverage to almost all Californians with a focus on cost containment and prevention. In this "pay or play" model, coverage would be required for all workers and their dependents in firms with two or more employees; coverage for self-employed workers would be provided through a purchasing cooperative or reformed private insurance market. Coverage for employees and dependents eligible for Medi-Cal/Healthy Families would be covered through employer plans.

All employees offered coverage at work would be required to accept the coverage for themselves and their dependents if their fair share of the costs (premium plus out-of-pocket costs) does not exceed a reasonable percentage of their income. Employees whose employers pay into the state's purchasing program would pay a defined percentage of their income. Employees at or below 300 percent of the FPL would be subsidized by the state and the Medi-Cal/Healthy Families programs.

The first step in this phased plan would be to cover all California children in households with incomes up to 300 percent of FPL.

Governor Schwarzenegger's plan. Governor Schwarzenegger's plan requires integrating the following building blocks: prevention,

health promotion and wellness; coverage for all Californians; and affordability and cost containment.

To achieve coverage for all Californians, the Governor's plan include requiring all uninsured individuals to have a minimum level of coverage (individual mandate); providing affordable coverage for low-income individuals; requiring insurers to issue health insurance regardless of pre-existing conditions, etc.; increasing Medi-Cal rates of payment to providers, hospitals and health plans; and facilitating and enforcing the individual mandate. Financing would be achieved through required payments from employers with 10 or more employees who choose not to offer health coverage; requiring payments from hospitals and physicians; redirecting a portion of the existing funding for medically indigent care; and additional federal reimbursements.

To achieve affordability and cost containment, the Governor's plan calls for Health Savings Accounts; requiring health plans, insurers and hospitals to spend at least 85 percent of health care dollars on patient care; reducing regulatory barriers; reducing the cost for delivering HMO products to employers and individuals; and advancing the adoption of Health Information Technology. *Julie Rajan, Social Policy Director,* social_policy@lwvc.org

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION BLUEPRINT AND VMT: VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED

The Transportation Blueprint for the 21st Century approved by California voters in 1990 laid out a ten-year spending plan for increased gas taxes and bond funding of rail transit projects. It's worthy of a re-read. The full report can be found at

www.lao.ca.gov/1998/030598_trans_blueprint/030598_after_transportation_blueprint.pdf.

Over the intervening years, a number of cities and regional agencies developed transportation plans based on the Blueprint, and on September 30, 2005. The full report, including citations of authorizing legislation, is at

www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/orip/Regional%20Blueprint%20Grant%20Application.pdf.

One aspect of regional blueprints involves Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). VMT affects a broad range of environmental concerns, and reducing vehicle miles traveled per household could make a significant reduction to highway congestion and greatly improve air quality. Regional blueprints developed for reducing the metric tons of air pollutants caused by VMT per household by 2020 were intended to be distributed from regional levels to the local levels. However, this wider dissemination of information has not taken place. To learn more about VMT and related environmental concerns, go to:

www.ccap.org. Click on Clean Air and Energy in the header, cursor down to "Transportation" to view and/or download PowerPoint presentations by Steve Winkelman.

<http://roadeology.ucdavis.edu>. Click on "Meetings and Seminars" to find a presentation by Fraser Shilling, Discussion of Indicators for Measuring Integrated Planning Success, given at a workshop on November 3, 2006.

www.energy.ca.gov/2007_energypolicy/documents/2006-09-22_workshop/presentations/Nevai.pdf

- Charolette Fox, *Natural Resources Director,* natural_resources@lwvc.org



Become a member today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

email address: _____

I would prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, *The Voter*, by:

_____ email _____ USPS mail _____ both

Dues: \$45 individual, \$60 for a family. Voluntary contributions of \$5 are welcome to cover recent state dues increases. While dues to LWV are not tax deductible, contributions to our Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Education Fund contributions are needed and used for voter outreach and education.

WWW.WOODLAND.CA.LWVNET.ORG

**MAIL
MEMBERSHIP
FORM TO:
LWV WOODLAND
P.O. BOX 2463
WOODLAND CA
95776**



LWV WOODLAND
P.O. BOX 2463 Woodland 95776

Calendar 2007

March 8 Women's History Month Luncheon
11:30 am Holy Rosary Community Center

March 8 Health Care for All Forum 7 pm
Leake Room, Woodland Public Library

March 13 Board Meeting 7 pm Members welcome. Call 662-0952 for location

March 26 Global Warming Presentation 7 pm
Leake Room, Woodland Public Library

March 27 Reproductive Freedom Day
Sacramento Convention Center, 9 am-4pm