



# THE VOTER

## Co-Presidents' Message

by Eileen Racki and Nancy Rice

### A conversation featuring your new co-presidents:

At the LWV Woodland annual meeting in June, officers for the year were elected. they are:

**Nancy Rice &**

**Eileen Racki,**

Co-presidents

**Barbara Fleck,**

1st Vice-president publicity

**Loretta Hansen,** 2nd Vice-president, membership

**Kathy Harryman,**

Recording Secretary

**Judy Simas,** Treasurer

**Pat Butler,** Publications

**Lucinda Talkington**

Finance Director

**Carol Souza Cole**

Voter Editor

**Nancy:** Eileen, what are we doing here?

**Eileen:** We're the new co-presidents, and we have to write a column for the newsletter.

**Nancy:** Oh--well, we're both re-cycled co-presidents, just not with each other. So I am looking forward to this year.

**Eileen:** When were you president? What brought you into League in the first place?

**Nancy:** In the late 1970's I served with Lois Linford as co-president after having joined the League two or three years after the Woodland chapter was formed. I wanted to better understand how society's needs give rise to laws and regulations, and what some of the effects of these laws and regulations have. I have found participating on study committees and at candidate forums especially educational. The study that influenced my thinking the most over time was the LWV State Water study. Oh, that one was really fun. And you, Eileen?

**Eileen:** Well, I was president of the League in the late 1980's. Seems like a long time ago. My interest in the League is similar to yours. I joined the League as a charter member and was on the first board when Cleo Gibson was president. After that I participated in local, countywide and state studies such as transportation and ground water. The first local study was the Woodland City Library which was a win-win solution after much debate.

League has been a wonderful educational experience for me, both professionally and personally.

**Nancy:** So that's us, our past. How about THIS YEAR?

**Eileen:** My interest this year is with voter service, getting citizens to understand how important it is to vote. This interest has even informed my career (*Editor's note: Eileen is the former Davis city clerk*).

**Nancy:** We have tremendous opportunities for voter service now simply because there will be three VERY important elections in the next year. So, it's a natural, right?

**Eileen:** Yes. And we must mention our board, a group of active, intelligent, talented women who contribute to the community's welfare.

**Nancy:** With such a great board and active membership it should be an exciting year of achievement for the Woodland LWV!

**LWV Board of Directors**

**2007-08**

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

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## “DEMOCRACY WORKS” AWARD

Last year, the League of Women Voters of Woodland presented the first ever “Democracy Works” award to *Woodlanders for Responsible Government*. The organization’s co-founder, Dotty Pritchard Huber, accepted the honor on behalf of WRG. . Nominations for this year’s recipient of the “Democracy Works” award are now being accepted. We are seeking nominees who through their positive actions have furthered the democratic process in tangible ways; keeping democracy working for citizens in our community and area.

To nominate an individual or organization for this honor please send in a one page summary of why you think this person or organization exemplifies **democracy in action** in and around Woodland. The nominations will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the honoree will be announced at our annual fall membership event.

Nominations should be sent to LWV Woodland, **Democracy Works**, P.O. Box 2463, Woodland CA 95776, or by email to:

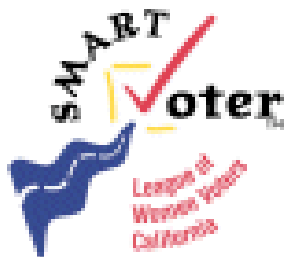
[bjford@pacbell.net](mailto:bjford@pacbell.net) by **September 10, 2007**

## The Mama Vote

Mamas are problem solvers, peacemakers and promoters of the public good-not just at home, but in the political world. Mamas hold offices from school boards to senate seats. Analysts credit women with election-deciding swing votes. Visit the website for this LWV partner often [www.todaysmama.com](http://www.todaysmama.com) to remain informed - and inspired. Because the world's a better place when Mamas get involved.

To read “Debate Watching 101” an article written by the LWVUS go to:

[www.todaysmama.com/expand-articles.php?view=148&apg=4](http://www.todaysmama.com/expand-articles.php?view=148&apg=4)



## Climate Change and Energy In County Government

by: **Debra Chase & John Mott Smith**

*(Executive director, and board member of Tuleyome, respectively. Debra is also the Natural Resources director for the LWV Woodland)*

The Ad Council, in conjunction with the Natural Resources Defense Council, recently produced a television ad in which a man is standing on railroad tracks, facing the camera. Behind him a train is coming. "Global warming?" he says, as the train comes closer and closer. "Some say irreversible consequences are 30 years away. Thirty years. That won't affect me." As he steps off the tracks to barely avoid being run over by the train, we see for the first time a young girl who was behind him on the tracks, and who remains in front of the oncoming train. The screen goes black and a message appears:

**"There is still time."**

Where climate change and energy are concerned, our federal government seems to have adopted the attitude of the "man" leaving in his wake the state, county and city governments as the "little girl" left behind to deal with the consequences of the oncoming train. As a result of the lack of initiative from the federal government, many states, cities and counties are stepping up to take the challenge, implementing policies to help combat the oncoming train of global warming and its inevitable consequences.

As individuals it is more than apparent that we are ready to take up the challenge, and indeed many have. But it is also important that our leaders at all levels of governance examine the issues at hand and take actions individuals cannot do on their own.

In fact, in a recent report by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) 54% of Californians believe global warming is a very serious threat and 66% believe that the effects of global warming have already begun. A whopping 81% of Californians believe that it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of global warming right away.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), signed into law in September, 2006, is a step in the right direction and is leading other states to adopt similar acts. The state budget was held up, in part over the issue of climate change, with the Senate Republican caucus advocating language preventing the attorney general from suing, or threaten-

ing to sue, local governments that do not address climate change in their environmental documents.

We now know the potentially dramatic impact global warming can have on local planning. Whether Yolo County citizens agree or disagree about its causes, the science is now undeniable. That it is occurring, and the results are upon us. What we do know is that while some of the solutions to global warming will clearly require the actions of nations and large multinational corporations, there are also critical roles for local governments to play. Yolo County can, of course, audit its energy use and greenhouse gas emission, and take action to reduce both of these. But they can do more.

Approached earlier this year by local environmental advocacy organization, Tuleyome, Yolo County Board of Supervisors were asked to form a Committee on Climate Change. This committee would be tasked with gathering public opinion and making recommendations to the Board regarding various issues that surround climate change and energy. At the time this was proposed the Board couldn't immediately agree on forming the committee. They asked for more information and appointed the Deputy County Administrator, Dirk Brazil, to work with Tuleyome board member, John Mott-Smith and 3rd District Supervisor Matt Rexroad to gather up additional data and report back to the Board with their findings. A "working group" for the County was formed. Since that time the County has joined the California Climate Action Registry, thereby committing to a rigorous inventory of energy use and greenhouse gas production, as well as annual updates. The three member working group has continued to meet and work on the issues of climate change and energy in Yolo County. They have been gathering information from other jurisdictions to determine possible approaches to climate change in terms of the general plan process, and the environmental review process. This information gathering has yet to be coordinated with the general plan update process.

If you would like to see Yolo County do more, let them know. Continue the work as an inspiring individual and write them a letter or give them a call, let them know that while you are happy to do your part you need their help to make significant and long-lasting changes to combat global warming.

**"There is still time."**



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](http://WWW.WOODLAND.CA.LWVNET.ORG)

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

**Calendar  
2007**

**September 11**

Board Meeting 7pm  
Call 662-9766 for location

**October 15**

School Board Candidates' Night 7 pm  
Woodland City Council Chambers. Yolo County Board of Education and Woodland Joint Unified School District Trustee candidates

**November 6**

Election Day

**December 14**

LWV Holiday Party

LWV WOODLAND • P.O. BOX 2463 Woodland 95776



**NOTE TO MEMBERS:**

Due to the rising cost of postage, and the fact that over half of the membership prefers an electronic copy of the Voter, at its July meeting the LWV Woodland board made the decision to have an e-Voter only. For the few members without email, a paper copy will continue to be mailed.

**NEW LWVC Bill Status  
Report Available Online**

**Do you know where the LWVC stands on issues?**

**NEW Bill Status Report online now! The CURRENT Bill Status Report featuring bills on which the LWVC has taken a position this year is now available on our web site by [clicking here](http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/bsr/bsr.html)**

**<http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/bsr/bsr.html>**