



THE VOTER

THE 2008 DEMOCRACY WORKS AWARD GOES TO..... AUDREY DOEHNE!



Audrey Doehne speaks after accepting her award.

Over sixty people attended the 3rd annual Democracy Works Award Dinner last month to honor League member Audrey Doehne. Audrey was chosen as this year's recipient for her dedication to peace, foreign policy education and long-time support of the League's annual State of the Community Luncheon.

Before the war in Iraq began, Audrey brought together a group of citizens who made it their responsibility and duty to hold a midday vigil in front of the Yolo County Courthouse, every 4th Saturday for the last four years. Under Audrey's unassuming and determined leadership, this group quietly displays a peace banner and "No War" sign each month. As a result of Audrey's encouragement the group has grown and is now embarking on a 5th year of this monthly rain or shine vigil of peace. In the early years of the peace effort, Audrey and her group met with some anger from passersby. Now the group is acknowledged by cars honking encouragement and the "thumbs up" sign from people

passing.

About 10 years ago, Audrey brought together a small group of women to meet monthly to study essays prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. The annual collection of essays, known as "Great Decisions" is distributed in February of each year. On a monthly schedule, the group reads the essays independently, then meet to discuss the topic using questions prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. Some of the topics have included: missile defense systems, AIDS in Africa, the euro vs. the dollar, U.S. intelligence, outsourcing jobs and water issues. The members read the essay individually and then come together for discussion before answering prepared questions. At the end of each year, each member fills out a ballot which is returned to the Foreign Policy Association for tabulation and is used to effect decision making on Capitol Hill.. Once again with Audrey's gentle hand, the group has doubled in size.

And, finally, Audrey is the League connection in seeing that enough pots of soup are made by members to feed 150 people at the annual LWV State of the Community Luncheon.

Past winners of the Democracy Works award include Michael Brady in 2007, and Woodlanders for Responsible Government in 2006.



Ed and Audrey Doehne at the League's 07 Holiday Party

LWV Board of Directors

2008-09

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

President

Debra Chase 530.400.4118

dchase@tuleyome.org

1st Vice-president

Eileen Racki 666.1811

edrack@dcn.davis.ca.us

Publicity

2nd Vice-president

Nancy Rice 662.9766

nrice@sbcglobal.net

Membership

Loretta Hansen 669.6669

lhansen1226@sbcglobal.net

Recording Secretary

vacant

Treasurer

Judy Simas

662.1343

jsimas@wjusd.org

Voters Service &

Publications

Pat Butler 530.525.0641

tahoebutler@sbcglobal.net

Legislation

Bj Ford 662.0952

bjford@pacbell.net

Natural Resources Director

Finance Directors

Lucinda Talkington 662.0535

lucbobtalk@sbcglobal.net

Sadie Barga 662.5136

Voter Editor

Carol Souza Cole 666.2097

carolsouzacole@cal.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Debra Chase

Dear League Members,

It is a great privilege to be the President of the Woodland League of Women Voters. I am following in some strong footsteps and I only hope that I can do justice to those that have served before me. Thank you for the honor of serving.



As you all know there are many issues that need to be resolved in our country, in our state and in our local community. There is a financial crisis resulting in loss of homes, jobs, retirement, and loss of lives due to the on-going war. There are many Americans that still cannot afford healthcare, there are problems with immigration, and our planet is in terrible trouble from global warming.

The League of Women Voters has had an impact on national, state and local issues like these for decades. As a member of the League you continue to support our mission to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We look forward to another productive year.

In 2009 we will have our annual State of the Community Luncheon on February 18th and we plan on building our local membership and continuing to educate and inform through other forums, and speaking engagements. You will be kept informed as our planning progresses.

Your membership in the League and your participation in League issues is important and we thank you for a great 2008 and an even better year to come.

Sincerely,
Debra Chase

“The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.”

- John F. Kennedy

LWV BOARD MEETING NOTES

by Bj Ford, secretary

November 12, 2008

- Membership chair Loretta Hansen has contacted members who still need to renew. She will develop the telephone tree once the membership list is finalized.
- Lucinda Talkington contacted members to determine attendance at the Nov. 18th Democracy Works dinner. Freddie Oakley will be the guest speaker at the event honoring Audrey Doehne. Arrangements have been made to hold the dinner at Silvina's Basket.
- The State of the Community Luncheon will be held on February 18 at the Methodist Church. Debra Chase will be contacting prospective speakers.
- When the League holds events, a list for collecting attendees email addresses needs to be maintained in order to make a connection with those interested in League activities. LWV



SAVE THE DATE!

LWV 15th Annual State of the Community Luncheon

February 18, 2009

11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Woodland United

**Methodist Church, corner
of Second and North
Streets**

MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all the members who renewed their membership in a timely fashion. As soon as possible all will be receiving a copy of the new roster of members and a new telephone tree. This list of members will be used to send out important local messages via the telephone as it seems not all of us always remember to check our email messages. You don't want to miss out on something good. If you still need to renew, please use the form on the second to the last page of the Voter and mail it in.

I also want to thank the eleven members who, during the heat of the election time this fall, carried the table, chairs, materials to shopping centers and spent hours registering voters. At least 70 voters were registered as a result of this effort. This is yet another example of how the Woodland LWV is actively and visibly working for democracy. As they say, "Democracy is not a spectator sport."

- by Loretta Hansen

Our Natural Resources Climate Change and Biodiversity

by Debra Chase

As early as the 20's and 30's the League became concerned about our weakening resources and the necessity for conservation. Back then, there wasn't the concern for the environment that we have today so the League was really a pioneer in the effort to educate people about the need for conservation and protection of our natural resources.



Here we are 50 years later and we have not won the war against environmental polluters and others that would give up the health of our environment, take it away from our future generations for a few dollars. The human influence on climate change is astounding to be sure but what is

more astounding is how species are responding to the drastic changes in our global climate.

Biodiversity is the variation of life forms within a given ecosystem or on the Earth. The biodiversity found on the planet today consists of many millions of distinct biological species.

The life cycles of many plants and animals are dependent on the passing of the seasons. Drastic changes in our climate can affect the way species are interdependent. For instance a plant that normally flowers in the cooler spring climate depends on a certain insect to pollinate it that is dependent on the length of the days. If the temperature in the spring warms up too soon, the plant will flower sooner and lose the opportunity of the insect that is waiting for the longer spring days.

For example, the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly once widely seen in the serpentine soil areas around the Bay area is now only seen in a few spots. Listed as "threatened" on the Federal Endangered Species list in 1987, its decline at that time was due mostly to development, over-grazing and automobile exhaust. Now the Bay Checkerspot Butterfly has another threat - global warming. It is believed that climate change will affect the growing season of the butterfly's host plants, making it more difficult for the species to find food as it emerges from its egg.

Another phenomenon is the northern movement of species as the weather gets warmer. Birds are migrating north earlier in the season, amphibians are also moving to cooler climates. There are enumerable examples of how climate change can directly or indirectly affect a plant or animal species. Like the canary in the coal mine, nature is giving us signs that human intervention has knocked the natural world off balance. LWV

Proposition 11 by Eileen Racki

Proposition 11 was approved in the Nov. 4 election. It will amend the state Constitution and state law to change the way legislative district boundaries are redrawn beginning with the 2010 census. The California constitution currently requires the state Legislature to redraw boundary lines of the districts of members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the state Legislature (Assembly and Senate) plus the state Board of Equalization following each census, occurring every ten years. The major purpose of redistricting is to establish districts of each type that are reasonably equal in population. .

Proposition 11 authorizes the formation of a commission comprised of 14 registered California voters. Any California registered voter may apply and will be screened for qualifications and for conflict of interest. Applicants can not have been a political candidate for a state or federal office, been a lobbyist, or contributed \$2,000 or more in any year to a political candidate in the past ten years. In addition, applicants can not have changed their political party affiliation in the past five years and must have voted in at least two of the last three general elections. The composition of the 14 member body must include five registered members of each of the state's two largest political parties, plus four members who are not a member of either party.

Criteria for creating district boundaries include: that entire cities, counties, neighborhoods, to the extent possible, be included, and consideration of political parties, incumbents or political candidates be disregarded. The commission is required to hold public hearings and allow public comments on proposed redistricting plans.

Members of the Woodland LWV served as observers for Proposition 11 at the Yolo County Elections office during the processing of ballots. It was interesting to see the number of absentee ballots and provisional ballots that still needed to be counted and the mind-numbing process this takes as well as the requirement that one percent of the ballots be hand counted. I was very impressed with the Elections office staff professional attitude and respect for the voting process.



"The greater the obstacle the more glory in overcoming it."

- Molière



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**



League of
Women Voters
of
WOODLAND
P.O. BOX 2463
Woodland
95776

Calendar 2009

February 18 State of the Community Luncheon, Methodist Church, corner of Second and North Streets in Woodland.
11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.