



Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage

by Cate White and Bea Lingenfelter

In celebration of International Women's Day and the on the one hundredth anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, it seemed appropriate to review a little history.

On March 31, 1776, while our founding fathers were forming the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Abigail Adams sent a note to her husband John including this message: "...in the new code of law which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors....If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation."

It took almost 150 years before her request was realized, when the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified August 18, 1920. This was not accomplished without a long struggle and many hard working and devoted champions. The movement began to capture public attention with the Seneca Falls Convention in Seneca Falls, New York, which passed a resolution in favor of women's right to vote in July 1848. This was followed by several

national women's conventions, and finally the formation of two organizations promoting women's rights, one led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and the other by Lucy Stone. In 1890, these two organizations combined as the National American Woman Suffrage Association, led by Susan B. Anthony. Abolitionist and Temperance organizations also joined in the fight.

In 1875, the Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. Constitution did not guarantee women the right to vote, and so the campaign for a Constitutional Amendment began. An amendment was first introduced in the U.S. Senate in 1878, but failed to pass. Forty years later, after being introduced and meeting failure several more times, the amendment was finally passed by the Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified by the required three fourths of the states on Aug. 28, 1920. The wording of the amendment never changed. It was essentially the same as the 15th Amendment, which guaranteed that the right to vote would not be denied due to "race, color and previous condition of servitude". These words were simply replaced by the word "sex", at long last granting the right to vote to "the ladies".

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KATHY CASENAVE LWVSJC President



February was a very busy month for our League: we organized 8 candidates' forums with a total of 23 candidates! It was a remarkable endeavor and I am thankful that so many candidates were willing to participate. We had many League members who volunteered as moderators, panelists, timers, and greeters: Susan Mora Loyko, Ronda Sanders, Daphne Shaw, Bill Loyko, Bea Lingenfelter, Margo Praus, Julie Schardt, Lauren Ah Tye, Angelica Lizarraga, Jeri Bigbee, Jane Wagner-Tyack, Patti Williams, Ed Almaas, Colleen Foster, Cate White, and Gretchen Newby. Thank you all.

Six of the forums took place at San Joaquin Delta College over two days: County Supervisor Districts 1 and 3, State Assembly District 13, State Senate District 5, Stockton City Council District 2, and Stockton Mayor.

We received tremendous assistance from the Delta College staff and student volunteers from the Multimedia Department and the Politics, Law and Society Club. We also partnered with the Tracy Library for the County Supervisor District 5 forum and with Faith in the Valley for the Stockton City Council District 6 forum.

For 100 years League members have registered voters and provided election information through candidates' forums and discussions of public policy issues. Our vision is to have "a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate."

I think that is a worthwhile vision.



President Kathy Casenave (right) and volunteer Julie Weldon with Lincoln High School students at a high school voter registration event.

MY LEAGUE STORY

Dee Matteucci

When Frances “Dee” Matteucci moved to Stockton from the University of Kentucky with her first husband and three children in 1970, she was already a League member. A neighbor in Kentucky had gotten her involved in a League effort to advocate for the first audit of state government. Kentucky was heavily under the influence of a powerful political family, and good government organizations were concerned about duplication of services and inefficiency in operations resulting from a decades-long expansion of public services and government programs.

Dee’s interest in government goes back to high school in her native Iowa, when her debate team went to the Iowa state and then to the national debate competition. The still-timely topic: Should the electoral College be replaced with popular voting for the president?

A graduate of Iowa State University with a major in zoology, Dee used her degree as a clinical laboratory scientist after she arrived in California with an infant son and two children in grade school. She went to work at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Stockton as a clinical lab scientist, a job that she held for 42 years. “It was a wonderful job,” says Dee. “I loved going to work there.” She was able to work evening or night shifts and be with her children during the day.

Dee joined the local League right away, eventually becoming involved in what she says has been her

favorite League job: doing Pros and Cons presentations before elections. “Some people are reticent about speaking in front of an audience, but I never was. I enjoyed studying the issues and being able to give back and share what I knew.

Many voters are just not going to do that research themselves.” Some of Dee’s most memorable League experiences are of the different organizations where she went to explain ballot propositions, always to appreciative audiences.

Dee believes that many people have misconceptions about the League. “We’re not know-it-alls,” she says. “We’re just ordinary people giving back what we know.” Engaging that way with the public has always felt to her like a sort of very satisfying civic ministry. Many LWVSJC members have benefitted from Dee’s trainings in presenting Pros and Cons and from her life-long model of public engagement.



LWVC and Delta Conveyance

by Jane Wagner-Tyack

The League of Women Voters of California has long-standing policies supporting nonstructural alternatives for water supply in this state. As Program Co-Director for Water for LWVC, I have been able to contribute over the years to League water policy analyses of a series of plans by the Department of Water Resources to move Sacramento River water under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the state and federal water project export pumps at Tracy.

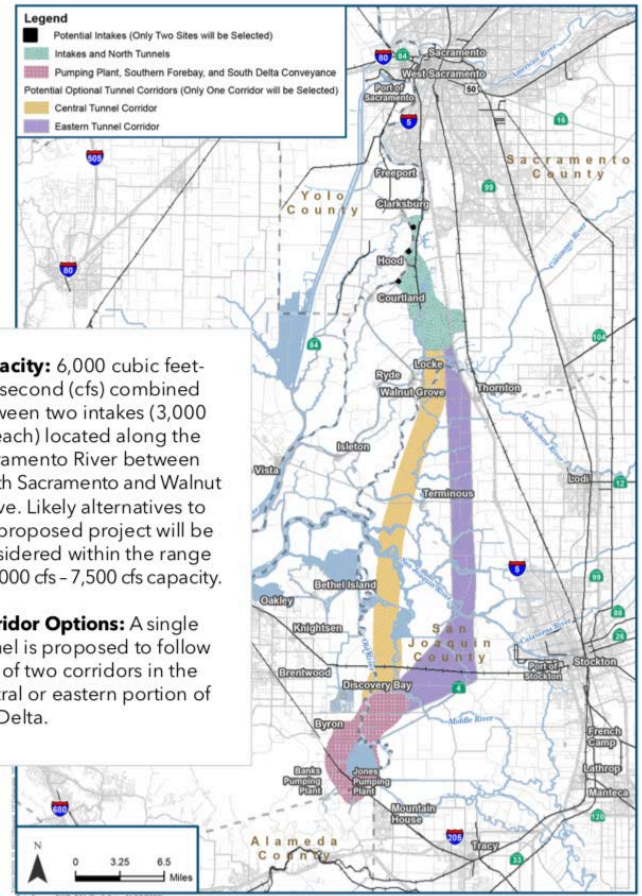
In February, DWR held a scoping meeting in Stockton to take public comments on a single tunnel, the latest proposal for Delta water conveyance. On behalf of LWVC, I told DWR that despite the substitution of a single tunnel for two tunnels, the League does not see important changes in the conveyance plan since 2015. Specifically:

- We do not see that realistic limits have been placed on the amount of water to be exported, in recognition of the fact that the State has approved at least five acre feet of consumptive water rights claims for every acre foot of unimpaired flow in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins. Under these circumstances, protecting existing supplies consistent with existing water rights is not a sustainable strategy.
- We do not see that strategies such as water conservation and wastewater reclamation have been employed to the fullest extent possible by export users to minimize reliance on the Delta, as required by the Delta Reform Act.
- We do not see that high water quality standards will be protected in the Delta and the estuary, or that strong, binding environmental safeguards will protect all in-stream uses.
- We do not see that the full economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the project have been fully assessed for areas of water origin. It is significant that no public hearings or scoping meetings were scheduled north of the Delta in the Trinity, Klamath, and Sacramento River watersheds.*

Finally, LWVC has not seen any good-faith effort on the part of those promoting Delta conveyance to consider alternatives to conveyance for meeting the state’s 21st century water challenges.

*Note: After criticisms about lack of outreach in the north state, DWR added a scoping meeting in Redding.

PROPOSED DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT FACILITIES



HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION

The LWVSJC high school voter registration project has continued as students look forward to voting in this year's elections. On January 27, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla visited Lincoln High School in Stockton, and the League was on hand.

For four days at the beginning of February, League members registered students at Lodi High School during lunches and in classrooms.

With so much interest in the March 3 Primary, this has been an exciting season to engage students in voter registration activities.



ROSIE BACHAND

July 26, 1946 – February 1, 2020

Born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in El Cerrito, Rosetta “Rosie” Bachand lived for the past 45 years in Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County, most of that time in Stockton. Trained as an RN, she became a nurse practitioner. League member Bev Blum remembers hiring Rosie to work for Planned Parenthood, where patients loved her. She was always direct and firm about providing the highest quality medical services and supportive patient care. Her keen intellect always sought better ways to do things.

Through her church, with United Methodist Women, Rosie helped to start and support recovery programs for those who battled addiction issues, not just in the Central Valley, but as far away as Kentucky. And with her husband Jene Rong, she traveled nationally and internationally.

Rosie joined the League of Women Voters over 40 years ago when the League was doing a health-related study. She later worked on Voter Service projects, including the League’s biggest Mock Election project to date in 2000. Despite health challenges, Rosie was always cheerful and willing to pitch to get the material out to schools and help gather the results. Recently, Rosie helped with the League’s current high school registration program.

When asked once if there were any particular League work that she was proud of, Rosie mentioned presenting LWVSJC achievements to delegates at a state League convention, helping us to obtain an award. But she was not above taking on mundane tasks when the League needed her. She would staff tables at community events and was always willing to handle chores like folding, cutting, and labeling.



When health challenges made it hard for her to do things in person, she would volunteer in other ways, such as helping with the phone tree. Just this past fall, she volunteered to welcome new members and be sure they were notified of upcoming events.

Rosie quietly suffered a number of ailments but, indomitably, she rarely slowed down. Members recall her having original ideas, always being willing to tackle controversial topics, and having a playful sense of humor.

In 2019, Rosie received the Helen Pearson Award given each year by the San Joaquin County League to a member who has done exceptional work on a particular project or has served above and beyond the call of duty. Rosie’s service over the years met that standard. The League will miss her.

UPDATES ON LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

Welcome new members of the San Joaquin County
League of Women Voters!

Mary Ann Cox Martin
Diane England
Gloria Fearn
Katherine Miller

Andrew O'Neill
Nancy Snyder
Eno B. Utouko

SAVE THE DATES:

Mark your calendar for the following bi-monthly education programs, which are held at Zion Lutheran Church, 808 Porter Avenue, Stockton, unless otherwise noted. (Please note that the meeting on “Threats to Our Elections” that was scheduled for March 21 has been cancelled.)

April 18, “NAACP/Black Lives Matter – Civil Rights?”
10 a.m. – coffee and refreshments; 10:30 a.m. to noon –
program followed by Q/A session.

!!! Just added: **April 22 (50th Celebration of Earth Day)**, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., “Climate Change Crisis: Seeking Solutions,” with the film *Ice on Fire* followed by community discussion, facilitated by Alex Breitler. See the flyer on page 8.

May 16, “Child Care.” 10:30 a.m. – coffee and refreshments; 11:00 a.m. to noon – program featuring Kay Ruhstaller and Lindy Turner-Harden followed by Q/A session.

May 30, Time and location TBA – Annual Meeting

2019-2020 LWVSJC Board of Directors

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Diane Park, 2nd Vice President
Judith Buethe, Secretary
Bev Blum, Treasurer

Directors

Lauren Ah-Tye
Jeri Bigbee
Susan Mora Loyko
Dee Matteucci
Gretchen Newby
Jane Wagner-Tyack

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Bea Lingenfelter
Mary Bava
Bill Loyko
Lauren Ah-Tye
Diane Park

Portfolios

Webmaster – Walt White
Voter Services/Speakers Bureau – Dee
Matteucci, Bea Lingenfelter
Advocacy – Diane Park, Cate White

Voter Editor – Jane Wagner-Tyack

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Climate Change Crisis: Seeking Solutions



Join us for the film *Ice on Fire* focusing on seeking answers to the climate crisis facing us. It will be followed by a community discussion about what we can do and how we can participate in solutions.

50th Anniversary of Earth Day
Wednesday, April 22, 2020 @5:00pm-8:30pm
DeRosa University Center, Ballroom,
901 President's Dr, Stockton, CA 95211
Free and open to the public. Light refreshments.
Program to begin at 5:30pm

This event is hosted through the support of Sierra Club, Audubon, League of Women Voters, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Eco-Interfaith, and Restore the Delta and with the collaboration of RISE Stockton, Little Manila, Cafe Coop, EJCW and Puentes.