League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County THE VOTER



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Be sure to check out the 2010-2011 Annual Report, now available <u>online</u>. Included in the Annual Report are proposed bylaws amendments and revisions to our local League policies and positions.

LWVSJC Calendar and Members Only website

For details about upcoming local league events, including voter service activities scheduled for this month, see the calendar on our website, <u>http://sjc.ca.lwvnet.org/</u>

Also, check out our Members Only website at http://lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/sjcmembers/ to see local league reference documents such as our bylaws and our nonpartisan policy.

Small change wanted

As we've done for several years, we'll be collecting

Invitation to the Annual Meeting

Members should now have received their Annual Meeting Kit with information about the Annual Meeting on June 9 at Le Bistro in Stockton. We have interesting matters to discuss, including local policies and positions, and we encourage all members to attend.

The Kit includes a dinner reservation form which you can mail to the League's post office box. You can also contact Lauren Ah Tye to make your reservation.

The cost is \$35. You may pay at the door, but you MUST have a reservation. The reservation deadline is June 4. That is also the last day for canceling a reservation.

It's time to renew your membership in LWVSJC

Included in the Annual Meeting Kit is a membership renewal form. Our dues year is July 1 to June 30, and dues are delinquent after June 30. Renewing now will save your League the cost of mailing reminders.

County planning for improved public health

Our speaker for our April 30th meeting was Shené Bowie, public information officer for San Joaquin County Public Health Services, and manager of the county's Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention program. She spoke on the need for health pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters at the Annual Meeting. This is your chance to clean out all that small change that has been accumulating. Contributions this year will go toward a laptop computer on which we can store important League financial and other records and which we can pass along easily from one officer to the next.

Of course, we will also gladly accept more substantial donations toward purchase of a laptop. specific ideas as part of the San Joaquin General Plan.

Our County General Plan should support and enable individuals to lead healthy and active lives. Chronic diseases such as diabetes, asthma, and heart conditions are more prevalent in city/county areas with lower education rates and higher poverty rates.

For example, there are more fast food restaurants and fewer grocery stores in low-income areas.

Some examples of how the community, through the General Plan, can encourage a more healthy life style are:

- have a policy that sets limits on permits for fast food restaurants, especially in areas that already have a surplus.
- consider bike lanes and walking paths as part of street plans. Streets should no longer be planned for car traffic alone.
- eliminate need for city permit process to install community gardens. (Stockton already has such a policy)
- encourage planning that adopts mixed use residential, commercial and office zoning where appropriate to encourage walking
- prioritize efforts to keep water clean

During lunch, League members discussed the San Joaquin County General Plan Update. Click <u>here</u> to access a newsletter outlining the alternative plans being considered.

The County General Plan guides growth and development: where future jobs, homes and transportation investments will go in unincorporated areas. It is a responsibility of the County Board of Supervisors.

--Mary Lois Thompson