

NOVEMBER UNITS: IMMIGRATION - PART II

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Channel Voter Editor Anne Heck (2009) We've saved the best for the last! Come! Be part of this National Consensus! We need your input!!

Find your special edition of the *Channel Voter* on Immigration, select your UNIT of choice (see back page) and join us in this truly stimulating discussion of one of the hottest issues around. October's unit discussions covered *criteria for immigration law, immigration system improvement and family reunification,* and *balancing of financial costs between federal government and states.* November's unit discussions will deal with consensus questions 2, 4, and 6, which deal with:

- Treatment of unauthorized immigrants currently in U.S.;
- Use of Social Security Card or other national identification for <u>all</u> persons in U.S.; Enforcement provisions;
- and coordination of U.S. foreign policy with immigration law to proactively help improve economies, job opportunities, etc. of nations with large emigrating populations.

If time permits we will take a look at the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury's findings, which are in the special immigration edition of your *Voter*.

Come! Be part of the ACTION!

Jessica Dean Immigration Study Committee Chair

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM: THINK GLOBAL (WARMING), ACT LOCAL

Wednesday, November 28, 12:15 to 2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Community Center De La Vina & Victoria Streets

Our November community forum will focus on local policies that address climate change and global warming. What are our local jurisdictions doing? Could what we do here actually have an effect on the climate in the rest of the world? What can you do as an individual? And what is the role of LWV?

Please join us for this timely and important discussion. Our speakers will include:

Mark Schleich, Deputy Director, Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, will explain the feasibility study on waste conversion technology at the Tajiguas landfill. The contract for this study has just been awarded; it is a joint effort of the County and the City of Santa Barbara.

Tam Hunt, Energy Program Director of the Community Environmental Council, will discuss CEC's energy blueprint for Santa Barbara County, a bold plan which maps out the steps this region would need to take to reduce our carbon emissions and satisfy all our energy needs using sustainable energy resources.

Marty Blum, Mayor, Santa Barbara, (invited) will tell us about the city's measures to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as reporting on the recent U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Summit.

We will also hear about green buildings and the "Architecture 2030 Challenge"- a national movement with strong local support.

LWV policy on climate change

Earlier this year, LWVUS adopted an Advocacy Statement on Climate Change, which summarized our positions related to the issue. In turn, at the LWV California convention in May, delegates overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling

From the President's Desk...

LWVSB's Community Forum in October was packed by both League members and guests from the wider community. We heard about the local Ten-Year Plan to end chronic homelessness - one of many throughout the country. Several homeless people were in the audience, and their questions and statements really afforded insights into this difficult problem.

We also had the rare opportunity to tie in with a worldwide movement to remind national governments of their

commitment to eradicate poverty. In the 24-hour period that ended at 2 p.m. PDT - just at the end of our meeting - nearly 44 million people in 127 countries participated in "STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY." At our own meeting, thanks to suggestions from the audience, we sang "We Shall Overcome" during our one minute of standing. It was a powerful moment, made more powerful by the connection with the meeting's topic.

Leagues throughout the country are working to support the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals outlined by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan at the September 2000 Millennium Summit and adopted by 191 states. One of the historic promises made at the Millennium Summit was to end poverty by 2015. For the first time, there is an agreed global compact in which rich and poor countries recognize that they share the responsibility to end poverty and its root causes. The world has the money, resources, and technology to achieve these Goals. But only if governments take urgent and concrete action now.



LWVSB member Emily Allen organized and moderated last month's extremely well-attended community forum on Santa Barbara County's 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. (Photo credit: Tom Heck)



Commenting on the success of "Stand Up Against Poverty," the UN Millennium Campaign's Executive Coordinator Eveline Herfkens said: "Together we have broken the incredible record for the largest number of people standing up to demand action on poverty. But the record we really want to break is the world's record of breaking promises and ignoring the poor. We don't want record numbers of people dying of poverty every year. This is the great issue of our times, let

us become great by dealing with it decisively."

The League has consistently supported the UN ever since before its founding. As a result of our support, we were invited by President Truman to the UN Charter Conference, as consultants to the US delegation. At the Charter Conference, we were asked to take the lead in the formation of the Committee on the Status of Women. League member Eleanor Roosevelt was also very involved in the history of the UN and chaired the UN's Commission on Human Rights, which drafted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. More recently, LWV has joined coalitions for full payment by the US of UN dues and other money owed to the UN and has supported ratification of UN treaties in the public and before Congress.

UN Day is officially October 24 this year. LWVSB is an active member of the Coalition for Global Dialogue, whose UN Day program will be on Saturday, November 10, at SBCC's Garvin Theater. You can read the details elsewhere in this *Voter*.

I urge you to attend this forum, which features a rare opportunity to hear an outstanding young African advocate for youth. Kimmie Weeks has dedicated his life to supporting the needs of children affected by war. He is a recipient of the 2007 BRICK award, which CNN calls "The Oscars of youth service awards" - for those who have changed the world before the age of 25.

We stood up for a mere 60 seconds to urge governments to end poverty. Kimmie Weeks shows us how much one person can do - by himself, and by mobilizing others - towards that goal.

Linda Phillips, President

The Channel Voter is published eight times a year, monthly except for January, June, July, and August, by the Santa Barbara League of Women Voters, 328A E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

YOUTH IN PERIL: FROM CHILD SOLDIERS TO STREET GANGS

Around the globe, especially in areas of conflict, children are being lured or coerced into becoming child soldiers, child prostitutes, and slave laborers, or they are abandoned to life on the streets. In many American cities, our children are joining gangs at a steadily rising rate, driven by poverty, parental drug use, the absence of adult guidance and love, and a need to belong to whatever group will give them acceptance.

Violence, experienced by these children as unavoidable, is being passed down from generation to generation here at home and around the world. This creates a breeding ground for terrorism on the international stage and for the "neighborhood terrorism" of gangs in our own country. How can we come together as communities to find ways to empower and support our youth, meet their needs, and give them new role models and options? How can we be more effective in providing our children with food, shelter, education, and security, so that they can grow into adults, achieve their full potential, and contribute to a peaceful and thriving global community?

In celebration of UN Day, the Santa Barbara Coalition for Global Dialogue, of which the League is a member, is presenting its Fall Forum on this topic, in conjunction with SBCC's Adult Education Program. The keynote speaker, Kimmie Weeks, survived the Liberian civil war as a 10-year-old, and is now an acclaimed youth activist. Kimmie is the founder and director of Youth Action International, a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding communities in Africa.

A panel of local and international experts will provide their perspectives and discuss possible solutions, with active participation from the audience. The panelists will include former S.B. City Council member Babatunde Folayemi, whose work as a mentor for youth is well respected; Mary Jo Terrill, a nurse and social worker at Cottage Hospital who is involved in several programs to assist trauma victims and genocide survivors in Rwanda, and Dr. Marisela Marquez, Executive Director of Associated Students at UCSB, who also serves as president of La Casa de la Raza and as a member of the Santa Barbara County Human Rights Commission.

November 10, 2007, Garvin Theatre 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Santa Barbara Global Networking Hour 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Program with keynote speaker and panel

Anne Heck, International Relations Committee

VOTERS SERVICE

LEAGUE VOTERS SERVICE BUSY DURING CITY ELECTION SEASON

Our local League has had a high profile this Santa Barbara City election season. As in past elections, the LWVSB Education Fund sponsored a *Touring with the Candidates* program, produced by Larry Nimmer. All eight city council candidates participated, and **Irene Stone**, president of the Education Fund, introduced each one. The program, partially underwritten by Community West Bank, has been shown frequently on Channel 21 and has been the subject of an appreciative letter to the editor of the Santa Barbara News-Press, plus appreciative telephone calls to the office. If you haven't already seen *Touring*, you might want to do so. It is a unique and revealing way for candidates to present themselves.

On October 11, our Education Fund, together with the Citizens Planning Foundation, sponsored a forum for the eight city council candidates at the Faulkner Gallery of the Santa Barbara Public Library. The forum was well attended (with more than 125 in the audience), and it has been shown repeatedly on Channel 21 in both English and Spanish. Janet Graham was chief organizer, Jean Reiche did an excellent job of moderating, and several League members volunteered, including Jean Bauman, Jean Holmes, Sheila Kamhi, Susan Shank and her daughter Jennifer, and Irene Stone. Publicity for the forum was a joint effort of Bonnie Jensen, Naomi Kovaks of the Citizens Planning Foundation, and Janet Graham. The

forum received good media attention on the day, which may have boosted the attendance.

Jan O'Dowd has been working on election day poll coverage for the city election. For this election, we have only one precinct, so the League will provide six half-time clerks (Jane Honikman, Bill and Carole Marks, Claudette Nadra, and Jan and Don O'Dowd); Irene Stone and Lessie Nixon will split the inspector positions. Appointment letters have been sent to all of our team. Our poll workers are providing their time and effort not only as a public service but as a fund-raising activity for the League.

Meanwhile, since the beginning of the election season Lesley Alexander has worked to keep our local League Web sites up to date. She has listed the precincts and polling places for this election on our www.lwvsantabarbara.org Web site and has posted other election information on the nonpartisan Smart Voter Web site (www.smartvoter.org), including candidate biographies and other election material. Lesley went to Santa Barbara City Hall personally to persuade the incumbents to participate. As of this writing, seven out of the eight candidates had submitted information. She has also posted Measure A on the Web site, plus some pro and con material

Janet Graham, Election Services

LWVACTION

UPDATE ON COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA ISSUES

Uniform Rules

Santa Barbara County passed most of the proposed amendments to the Uniform Rules governing the Williamson Act. The amendments most threatening to the preservation of agriculture were defeated. This was a partial victory, but a significant one. The proposed amendments to allow guest ranches on agricultural lands and the Industrial Overlay for agricultural parcels were not passed. The League and others had opposed these amendments. We lost on other items, however, such as allowing three principal residences on agricultural parcels. This was a very controversial issue, and sad stories about the need for multi-generational housing trumped environmental impacts.

The hearing went on for a long time before a compromise motion was approved. Supervisor Firestone could not vote because of a conflict of interest, which left a two to two split. In order to get anything passed there had to be some compromises.

County Oversight Committee

The Board of Supervisors voted four to one (with Supervisor Wolf voting no) to continue this very controversial committee, whose future has come into question. It is also frequently referred to as the "process improvement committee." The League is concerned that the process be fair and that the public not be excluded from important decisions. This committee is different from any other in that it has a very loose structure and no bylaws or obvious rules. The committee will continue to exist, including a representative from LWVSB, and the hope is that some of its problems will be resolved.

Cathie McCammon, LWVSB, Land Use Consultant

REPORT ON THE ROUNDTABLE MEETING OF LAND USE AND NEIGHBORHOOD CITIZENS GROUPS

A meeting sponsored by the Homeowners Defense Fund and the Coalition of California Neighborhoods was held at a wonderful location, a remodeled barn at the restored Montanarro Farm in Los Olivos. The guest speaker was Monica Norton Miller, the lobbyist for Santa Barbara County in Sacramento.

A major topic was the numbers provided by the state housing mandates, otherwise known as RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Assessment). Miller described how the state Department of Finance meets with Housing and Community Development (HCD) to determine the number of housing units each county must plan for in their housing elements. (Note: we are talking about land that must be zoned for housing, not the units themselves.) These numbers are based on the census and how much an area has grown in the past. They are then sent to the regional governing body, which for us is SBCAG (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments). SBCAG can negotiate further with HCD. Miller, our lobbyist, is trying to get HCD to recognize that Santa Barbara County has a great deal of federal land (Los Padres National Forest, Vandenburg Air Force Base) and coastal lands that are not suitable for housing development.

We were interested to hear that the more populous counties go through the process first. The City/County of San Francisco is now responsible for 40,000 new housing units. "Small" counties like Santa Barbara come near the end of the process, which is why we are still in the negotiating phase. As soon as the numbers are determined,

SBCAG will allocate them to the different areas of the county and the cities.

For those of you who hope the state housing mandates will go away, don't hold your breath. As Miller described the situation, both the realtors and the housing advocates want more housing. Between these two interest groups, both major political parties are being lobbied in favor of the mandates, and opposing opinions are not heard.

There was also discussion about how to lobby our state legislators successfully: Local people can make a difference, but never send form letters! The ideal is to establish a local relationship with our legislators and then pick a date, set up meetings, and go to Sacramento. Our county does reasonably well with this, since Supervisors Firestone and Carbajal, representing both major parties, go to Sacramento on our behalf.

Miller suggested we might want to follow how Santa Barbara County uses its lobbyist. The Legislative Committee, which meets on the third Monday of the month, sets a priority list of bills that they will follow, working on these items throughout the year. The next meeting is on November 19, at 2:30, in the Board of Supervisors Conference Room (adjacent to the Board Hearing Room, on the fourth floor of the County Administrative Building). It would be very interesting to have someone attend these meetings and then report back through the *Channel Voter*.

Cathie McCammon, LWVSB Land Use Consultant

GOLETA REVISITS ITS HOUSING ELEMENT

In addition to the 80 proposed amendments to its new General Plan (see the October *Voter* for details), the Goleta City Council is also considering how to revise its Housing Element to get certification from the State of California. The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has so far failed to certify Goleta's plan, because they feel that it contains some "constraints" to building more housing. One of these was the requirement that 55% be affordable on sites that were being rezoned from commercial to residential. This was designed to provide some of the large unmet need for affordable housing.

On October 5 the City of Goleta held an all day workshop to consider possible changes. In the morning, three members of HCD, including the new director, Lynn Jacobs, came from Sacramento to join local people on a bus tour of the affordable housing sites designated in the

Housing Element. These included one site that has a project nearing approval, the Villages at Los Carneros. Several League members participated in the tour and the workshop.

During the afternoon, local participants were presented with a series of stations listing possible ways to change the plan. (This is the latest fad for taking public input, and if the public does not know a great deal about the subject, it can produce very poor results.) Many of the people attending this workshop were housing advocates, so they had some idea what the relevant suggestions would be. In addition, people with a direct financial interest could also participate. We do not yet know when the results of that meeting will be made public.

Connie Hannah, First Vice-President for Action

VENOCO PROJECTS IN GOLETA ENTER THE HEARING STAGE

Along with the problems with its General Plan and its Housing Element amendments, Goleta must also gear up to deal with three separate projects initiated by Venoco for the Ellwood facilities. The first hearing took place on October 10, when the California State Lands Commission came to Goleta to discuss the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the recommissioning of Piers 421-1 and 2. These two well drilling installations are located on the shoreline below the Ellwood Processing Facility.

These two old wells were shut down in 1991 following leaks, so they should now be regarded as new development. No one would permit new oil drilling in such a shoreline location. The League believes that these deteriorating piers should not be recommissioned, and we said so at the hearing.

The next major hearing was expected to be held by the State Lands Commission in San Diego on October 30, but it has not appeared on their agenda. It has apparently been postponed. That hearing will discuss the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Ellwood Marine Terminal (EMT) project, which lists 11 Class I impacts. Those are impacts that cannot be mitigated, and almost all of them relate to possibilities for oil spills using the current barge

and storage tanks. The two large oil tanks were constructed and the single hull oil barging operation began in 1929. The League has been asking for many years that tanks be removed and the barging discontinued.

The League has written to ask the State Lands Commission to refuse to renew their permit, and to require them to build a new pipeline to take their oil to Los Flores Canyon for processing. This could require a two- or three-year phasing period during which the pipeline would be built. They would need to continue to barge oil or ship it by truck to Carpinteria in the meantime. Neither of those options is desirable, but the pipeline would make the remaining years of this project much safer.

In the near future, Venoco is planning to ask for Full Field Development from Platform Holly. That would involve drilling many new wells from Holly into a protected area, and it would extend the life of the Ellwood Processing Plant, the platform, and all related activities for many years. We will write more about that subject when a hearing is closer, but it means another major series of issues for the new Goleta City Council to deal with soon.

Connie Hannah, First Vice-President for Action

UPDATE ON CITY OF SANTA BARBARA HAPPENINGS

This last month has been really busy with meetings, which points to the need for more League members to help deliver statements and keep track of what is going on. We need someone who is computer savvy to monitor agendas of the Santa Barbara City Council, Planning Commission, and Architectural Board Review (ABR).

Upper State Street

Santa Barbara City Council was poised to approve a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to draft implementation measures for the recommendations that arose from the Upper State Street Study. The League made (Continued on page 6)

UPDATE ON CITY OF SANTA BARBARA HAPPENINGS Continued from Page 5

a statement of particulars that we want the consultant to keep in mind. After public comments and discussion by council members it became obvious that the city needed to consider a new transit lane for buses, trolleys, shuttles, etc. This is significant because a new lane (or lanes) will affect set-backs and other design features. As a result, the council voted to issue two RFPs, one for the Design Guidelines and Implementation Measures and another for the Transit Lane.

At this meeting it was announced that the Sandman project developer was considering doing away with the hotel part of his project. The original project was for both a hotel and condos to replace the motel. We will keep you posted.

Height Limits

As far as we know there are still plans for an initiative to limit heights to 45 feet in the commercial area of town and to 40 feet in El Pueblo Vieio (the historical district). Both of these areas have a limit of 60 feet in the Santa Barbara City Charter, so the proposed initiative would amend the charter.

Affordable Housing Policies

The city staff had proposed a number of changes, both significant and minor, to the city's policies. In an abrupt change, they withdrew some of their recommendations, including several that the League and the Citizens Planning Association (CPA) had long supported, because "they had not been vetted by the development community" first. These items will be discussed at the Housing Policy Steering Committee at a date yet to be announced.

Zoning Ordinance Amendments

At a CPA Land Use Committee Meeting a city staff person discussed a great number of Zoning Ordinance changes that were being proposed for an immediate hearing by the Council Ordinance Committee, followed by adoption by the City Council. These changes came as a surprise. Our main concern was the process. First, there was not enough time for anyone to study these changes. Most important, they were being proposed while the city is working on its General Plan Update. The usual procedure is for the Zoning Ordinance to be revised after a General Plan Update, to implement the new General Plan changes. Another concern is that a number of changes dealt with reducing open space requirements.

The League, the Citizens Planning Association, the Allied Neighborhood Association, and other concerned individuals won a partial victory. The Ordinance Committee agreed to hold more meetings on these items, and one of the most serious changes—reducing the amount of required open space in mixed use developments—was taken off the table. It will be part of the General Plan Update discussions on mixed use projects.

Cathie McCammon. Land Use Consultant

on local Leagues to work on the problem.

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM (Continued from page 1)

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE - Adopted by Delegates to the LWVC Convention, May 20, 2007

Whereas, The League of Women Voters of California has an action policy on Sustainable Communities and a newly updated position on Energy; and

Whereas, The League of Women Voters of the United States has issued an Advocacy Statement on Climate Change; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the League of Women Voters of California leadership, with the support of the Energy Committee, encourages local Leagues to work with their local governmental jurisdictions and residential, commercial, industrial and educational entities to reduce their contributions to global climate change.

Continued on page 7

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please welcome our new members:

Claudia Herczog, Carpinteria, CA Sally Lewis, Santa Barbara, CA Susan P. MacLaury Santa Barbara, CA Mary Maxwell Santa Barbara, CA Stephen Simon Barbara, CA

Name Change: Zelda Fields to Zelda Ryan

UPDATING OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

In November we hope to publish an up-to-date Membership Directory for the LWVSB 2007-08. All members can help to update it. If you have changed any of your information this year: name, address, phone, email, fax, etc., please notify the office in writing or Carolemarks@cox.net by email by Election Day, November 6. September 1 is our official membership date. If you have not paid your 2007-2008 membership yet, please do so by sending dues to LWVSB, ATTN: Membership, Joanie Jones, 328 E. Carrillo St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101. You may call to check on your status. Your call will be returned. Thank you for your help with our new directory.

Joanie Jones, Membership Development

NOVEMBER COMMUNITY FORUM (Continued from page 6)

LWVUS CLIMATE CHANGE ADVOCACY STATEMENT

Global climate change threatens the integrity of the earth's climate system and there is a need to act without delay to substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To reduce the likelihood of severe damage to both human societies and natural ecosystems the League supports:

- The preservation of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment.
- Energy goals and policies that acknowledge the United States as a responsible member of the world community through sound use of energy resources with consideration of the entire cycle of energy production and emphasis on conserving energy and using energy-efficient technologies.

In addition, the League believes that policy makers must take into account the ramifications of their decisions on the nation as a whole as well as on other nations.

If you know someone who might be interested in the League, please pass along this application:	
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP in the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, SANTA BARBARA	
☐ Here's my annual membership dues of \$60*	Name
Second member in same household \$30	Address
Student \$30	Zip
Please send me more information about League	Phone Fax
I can't join right now; here is my contribution of	E-mail
\$ to support the League.	
Make check payable to: League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, 328 A E. Carrillo St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101	
*Discounted dues are available for special circumstances. Contract Joanie Jones - 683-1937.	

LWVSB Channel Voter 7 November 2007

CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 2007

Discussion Units: Immigration

6 Tuesday Dinner Unit: 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Lolly Quackenbush.

7 Wednesday Carpinteria Unit: 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. at the Carpinteria Woman's Club at 1059 Vallecito Rd.,

Carpinteria. Brown bag lunch. Contact: Barbara Godley.

7 Wednesday Evening Unit: Home of Pat Shewczyk, 5044 Walnut Park Dr.

9 Friday Board Meeting: 10:00 a.m., League office, 328 E. Carrillo, Suite A. Open to all members.

10 Saturday Coalition for Global Dialogue Fall Forum: "Youth in Peril," Garvin Theatre, SBCC West

Campus. Program: 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., preceded by Global Networking Hour, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

14 Wednesday Afternoon Unit: 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg.

Contact: Marjorie Nefstead.

28 Wednesday Community Forum: "Think Global (Warming), Act Local" 12:15 - 2 p.m. NOTE CHANGE

OF DATE - 4TH WEDNESDAY! Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and

Victoria Streets. Brown bag lunch. Cookies and drinks provided.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Discussion Units: February Election Ballot Measures

4 Tuesday Dinner Unit: 5:30 p.m. Madam Lu's Café, 3542 State St. Contact: Lolly Quackenbush.

5 Wednesday Carpinteria Unit: 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. at the Carpinteria Woman's Club at 1059 Vallecito Rd.,

Carpinteria. Brown bag lunch. Contact: Barbara Godley.

5 Wednesday Evening Unit: Home of Sheila Kamhi, 1040 Portesuello.

12 Wednesday Holiday Luncheon: 12:15 - 2 p.m. Louise Lowry Davis Center, corner of De La Vina and

Victoria Streets. Lunch.

12 Wednesday Afternoon Unit: 2 p.m. Maravilla Clubhouse, 5486 Calle Real, between Patterson and Kellogg.

Contact: Marjorie Nefstead.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA, INC. 328 A East Carrillo Street Santa Barbara, California 93101

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. If you would like to join the local League, call the League office at 965-2422.