



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

VOTER

LWV of SLO County, P.O. Box 4210 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

June 2015

Volume 55, Number 10

2015 CALENDAR,
League of Women Voters of
San Luis Obispo County

July 1, 2015 **Deadline: 2015-16 Dues**

July 4, 2014 **Deadline for Signing
Petition for Behavioral Health Facility**

***** July 7, 2015 Civil Discourse
Roll-Out at the SLO Co BOS**

July 10, 2015 **Civil Discourse
to Mayors' Council**

July 24, 2015 **New Board Retreat**

July/August 2015 **[TBA] Hearings
Behavioral Health Facility Application
Phillips 66 Rail Extension Proposal**

****Sept. 12 /19, 2015 Opening Meeting**

**All Summer: Advocacy for Templeton
Behavioral Health Facility**

* Open to all Members

** **Important Member Meetings**

Editor's Note: Event times, place (complete
with MapQuest links) at

<http://www.lwvslo.org/calendar.html>

ACTION TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE !

--E. Penfield, Chair, Civil Discourse Action Team

Tuesday, July 7, the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County, will present the County Board of Supervisors with a **Resolution** supporting the practice of Civil Discourse at all their meetings! **Marilee Hyman** and **Marguerite Bader** will represent the League at the podium. **We need all of YOU there to support this first step in our campaign.**

This will be a media event and a crowd of Leaguers proudly wearing our red and white buttons saying **"I LOVE CIVIL DISCOURSE!"** will add to the excitement and get our action campaign off to a flying start.

So we want—no, we **NEED** all of you to join us on July 7 as we roll out our campaign. We need you all standing tall behind us. Join us at the meeting to give out our stickers and brochures.

You are the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County. Let's have San Luis Obispo County show the country how to make democracy work! Let's lead the way to nationwide civil discourse! Let's make the 2016 presidential election one that celebrates the statesmen and shames the politicians! You can make a difference!

Need a ride? Don't wait, call (805) 927-1448 now. We can arrange it! And as soon as we know what time we are on the Supervisors' agenda, we will let you know. Look for an "alert" in your email inbox with all the details.

Errata: In the May 2015 VOTER, we apologize for incorrectly reporting the dates of Presidential terms for **Dotty Conner ('69-71, '75-77)** and **Sharon Winslow (67-69)**.

TWO YEARS OF STUDY PRECEDES BIG EVENT

--Civil Discourse Action Team

Surprised that the San Luis Obispo County's **Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Council** are adopting Civil Discourse resolutions and seeking the League's assistance? It is not a sudden impulse. LWVSLO has been working for **two years for this moment.**

It was two years ago, you approved a local study on Civil Discourse. **Members despaired of the general lack of civility** and the rude, non-issue oriented dialog in the 2012 presidential campaign that filtered down to local elections. **You asked the San Luis Obispo County League to step up to the plate and lead the way** to a civil and productive election atmosphere. You, our members, said, "Making Democracy Work Demands Civil Discourse!"

After a year-long study led by **First Vice President, Sharon Kimball**, we agreed on a definition of Civil Discourse and delineated the best practices. You approved adding civil discourse to our local government position. **But, a study without action is futile. And action without a study is fatal.**

We've laid the foundation. We've met with each of our County Supervisors and solicited their support. **Julie Rodewald** paved the way by working with the Board of Supervisors Staff to schedule the rollout, turn our Civility and Civil Discourse Accord into a Resolution, and submit a staff report.

We've created and printed brochures and buttons and stickers promoting Civil Discourse, **thanks to grants from our Supervisors and a donation from Marian and Steve Saldo, and the talent of Marilee Hyman and Susan Devine.**

Making Democracy work demands Civil Discourse. The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County is dedicated to making Democracy work!

See you on July 7!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL UPDATE

--S. Winslow, Chair TBHH Advocacy Team

Would you believe? The hearings by the **County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors** on the **Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital and Memory Care Facility** application has been rescheduled for the end of **July, first of August.**

But that doesn't mean the League can take a vacation. As we all know, to make a difference, it is important to continue raising awareness through letters to newspapers, signing a petition, and most importantly, contacting the County Planning Commission and your Supervisor.

If you missed the terrific Annual Meeting where among other important actions, many petition signatures were obtained, the opportunity to do so is still available. **Do not be left out.** Contact **Sharon Winslow** at 466-3691 or email swinslow@tcsn.net to add your signature of support, and arrangements will immediately be made. **Deadline for petitions is July 4.**

Remember, a second Call to Action will come as an email right to your home as soon as the Planning Commission hearing is announced. Plan now to participate. **Your vigilance matters, is important to many, and gratefully appreciated.**

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Members Elect New Board at Annual Meeting *Blakeslee's Digital Democracy Promotes Transparency*



The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County held its **2015 Annual Meeting** on Saturday, June 6, at the Upper Crust Trattoria in San Luis Obispo. **Keynote Speaker was Dr. Sam Blakeslee, Founding Director of the Institute for Advanced Technology and Public Policy** based at Cal Poly. Dr. Blakeslee, a former State Legislator, delighted the audience with his presentation of the institute's **Digital Democracy Initiative** program designed to promote transparency in state government deliberations.



First row left to right: GlennaDeane Dovey, Dotty Conner, and Joy Gault. Second row: Sharon Winslow, Margery Johnson, Emily Penfield, and Barbara Weymann.

The audience also enjoyed greeting and celebrating the seven 50 year members in attendance at the meetings. Each Honoree was

presented with a Certificate signed by the LWVUS President, **Elizabeth McNamara**, a League pin, and a yellow rose--the symbol of the Women' Suffrage movement.

The Membership Director, **Patti Dale**, reported a record attendance of 54 members. Members adopted the budget and program for 2015-16, approved an increase in annual dues beginning in fiscal year 2016-17 to \$70 per individual and \$120 per family. The slate of candidates presented by Nominating Committee Chair, **Elinor Kogan** was elected. New officers include: **Marguerite Bader, President, Sharon Kimball, First Vice President, Vallerie Steenson, Secretary, and Bud Hankins, Mardi Geredes, and Nancy Welts, Board Directors.**

MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO GROW

--P. Dale, Director, Membership

Our final membership for 2015 reached 109 as of May 1, the highest number in several years. I'm happy to announce the League is starting July off with a bang by adding three new 2015-16 members. **Debbie Peterson**, Grover Beach, **Julie Rodewald**, Los Osos, and **Priscilla Ko**, Pismo Beach. Debbie and Julie are already working diligently on the Civil Discourse Committee. Some of you met Priscilla when she attended the Meet Your Mayor event in March. Welcome!

News About Dues

--M. B. Armstrong, Treasurer

During the recent state convention, LWV California increased PMP (per member payments) **\$2.50 per person for fiscal year 2015-16** and another **\$2.50 per year for 2016-17**. Also, LWVUS increased their PMP **\$1.00 for 2015-16** and will most likely do the same for 2016-17. Where do these increases leave our local chapter, financially? Currently, out of \$65.00 dues (for individuals) we retain only **\$11.00 after making PMP payments to state and national**. By 2016-17, that amount would decrease to \$5.00 if we were to leave dues as they are now. For households, who currently pay \$90.00 in dues, we retain \$9.00, but by 2016-17 LWVSLO would subsidize \$1.50 for each household if we did not increase dues.

The Board voted to place a dues increase before the members at its **Annual Meeting**, held June 6, 2015. The Board proposed that dues be increased to **\$70 for individual members and to \$100 for households beginning in 2016-17**, not this fiscal year as most members have

already paid their dues. At Annual Meeting, a member proposed that the dues for households should be **\$120** (instead of \$100.00) beginning in 2016-17, and stated that her rationale was that households would still be getting a bargain, as twice the individual dues of \$70.00 would be \$140.00, and households would be paying \$20.00 less than the amount two individuals would pay. The members passed the dues increase with the amended household amount **unanimously**. **Dues for next year (2015-16) shall remain the same**, at \$65.00 per individual and \$90.00 per household. **Beginning in 2016-17 dues will be \$70.00 per individual and \$120.00 per household**.

LWVSLO members are fortunate to have **Adele Stern's** generous donations for members who find dues to be a financial hardship. She has provided "scholarship" resources so that members need not give up their membership. **Notify the Membership Director, Patti Dale** (paticaaake@aol.com, or 805-772-3701), if you or anyone you know needs a full or partial "scholarship."

Phillips 66: LWVers Should Keep Watch

--E. Greening

As of press time, the **Final Environmental Impact Report on the Phillips 66 track extension project** is not released to the public, and no date for its release, or for the first hearing of the County Planning Commission on that project, has been given. Those with an interest in the project should regularly visit the **website of the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building for the FEIR's arrival**, and for the relevant dates to be given when they are known. For the latest **information watch the Planning Department's website**: <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Page775.aspx>. The **Planning Commission website**: http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/Planning_Commission.htm is a good place to see what is coming up on the **next agenda**, and to review the relevant materials for those hearings. The complete EIR for Phillips 66 isn't likely to show up there until a hearing is scheduled; that is why the Planning Department website is the place for more in-depth study of what is now available.

You will see that the Planning Commission will be busy with other important issues: on July 9th, they plan to take up the **Laetitia Agricultural Cluster in the South County**, and on July 30th they plan to act on a number of ordinances affecting the **Paso Robles Groundwater Basin**, which would probably be heard by the Supervisors in **late August and/or early September**. Other issues will also be heard on the meeting dates of both bodies, and we can count on Leaguers to stay abreast of these things, even through, what we hope will be, a relaxing summer!

PR Highlights Underscore Visibility for LWVSLO

--V. Steenson, Secretary, Co-Director, Communications

The efforts of your Public Relations team paid off in 2014 – 2015 with heightened League visibility and increased membership. Altogether, we sent **11 press releases, 2 opinion pieces, and 8 letters to the editor to 35 different media organizations**, including community calendar announcements on the websites of *KSBY*, *KCOY*, *KCBX*, and *KVEC*. With the Civil Discourse rollout on **July 7 at the Board of Supervisors and the upcoming election season**, we expect even more opportunities for media coverage in the new program year.

Our real coup this year came with our Viewpoint article in the *Tribune* on March 3. In “Giving it our all and **nurturing democracy**” we introduced our Civil Discourse Initiative and the *Tribune* responded on March 5 with an editorial “**Let’s applaud the push for civil debate** – new initiative by the League of Women Voters will aid democracy by discouraging bullies”. The editorial commented “**We’re fans of the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County** – and even more so after learning about the League’s newest project.” The viewpoint was published as an opinion piece by the *Times-Press-Recorder* on March 6, and cited in a *New Times* article about civility by **Bob Cuddy** in late March. With the League and others supporting it, said Mr. Cuddy, “civility and reasoned debate could be chugging into view. **Wouldn’t that be lovely?**”

Starting in August of this League year, the *Tribune*, *New Times*, *Atascadero News*, *Paso Robles Daily News*, and *Tolosa Press* papers all carried our letter to the editor celebrating **Women’s Equality Day**. The elections brought coverage of our Candidates Forums and Pros & Cons in September and October. President **Marilee Hyman** participated in a discussion of “**Why Voting Matters**” with County Clerk-Recorder **Julie Rodewald** and Cal Poly Political Science Professor **Michael Latner** on *KCBX*’s “Central Coast Voices” on September 18. This was followed by a Viewpoint in the *Tribune* on October 9 and an interview on *KCBX* on

October 1 on “**How to Evaluate a Ballot Proposition**”.

Our letters and press releases on the Special Districts Forum and Women’s History Month were picked up in March by the *Tribune*, *Tolosa Press*, and *Paso Robles Daily News*. We had particular success placing a letter calling for public agencies to retain emails as a way of ensuring transparency and accountability in local government. The letter appeared in February and March in the *Tribune*, *New Times*, *Tolosa Press*, *Paso Robles Daily News*, and *Information Press*. In April, information about our “Meet Your Mayor” event in Pismo Beach appeared in the *Tribune* and the *Tolosa Press*. Our letter to the editor endorsing the Templeton Behavioral Health Hospital appeared in the *Tribune*, *New Times*, *Tolosa Press*, *Atascadero News*, and *Paso Robles Daily News* in May, as did announcements of our Annual Meeting.

Your PR team doesn’t see all the media in our county. If you see or hear a mention of the League as you follow the news, please let us know. **Clip the article and send it to us. Or send an email (info@lwvslo.org)** when you see or hear something on TV or radio. We need to know if we’re doing our job. The more people know what the League is doing, the more they will want to join us, and the more members we have, the better we will be able to carry out our mission.



LWVSLO Joins Groups Supporting Piedras Blancas Point Monument

-- Neil Havlik, Off-Board Consultant, Natural Resources, Planning, and Land Use

Two citizen groups in Cambria have banded together to urge the creation of a **State and National Monument** on about 445 acres of land along San Luis Obispo County's North Coast. The groups—**Piedras Blancas Light Station Association** and **Friends of the Elephant Seal**—

are working on a plan to seek State and National legislation to create the **Piedras Blancas State and National Monument**. This designation will assist in funding for needed infrastructure to meet the needs of the steadily increasing visitation to the Lighthouse and to the elephant seal viewing areas, provide for regular staffing, and support a larger volunteer effort. It will also put the site "on the map", thus creating greater attraction for the area as a tourism destination and supporting the local economy.

With support from the community the effort will be able to achieve legislation at both the State and Federal levels to establish the Monument and raise public awareness of the many scenic, natural, and cultural attractions that this small area provides. For further information visit the groups' websites or call **927-3179 (Light Station Association)** or **924-1628 (Friends of the Elephant Seal)**.

A Resolution of Support for Designation of *The Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* as *The Piedras Blancas California National Monument*

Approved by:

League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County on June 5, 2015

WHEREAS interested citizens have proposed that the *Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area* be designated as a California national monument; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas California National Monument*" will elevate the *Outstanding Natural Area* to a prestigious status recognizable by everyone; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas California National Monument*" will unify the response of federal, state and volunteer organizations to current management challenges that risk serious damage to cultural and natural treasures; and

WHEREAS designation as "*The Piedras Blancas California National Monument*" will assist with the attraction of additional resources for construction of new trail systems, restoration and replication of historic buildings, and the addition of informational centers and scenic view points for the dissemination of ecological, educational, scientific, and historic information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that effective immediately, **League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County** endorses elevating the current designation of "*The Piedras Blancas Outstanding Natural Area*" to "*The Piedras Blancas California National Monument*" and publically endorses citizen efforts to petition the governments of the United States of America and the State of California to attain the new designation.

/Signed/ **Marilee Hyman**, President of the Board of Directors, League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo

A LOOK BACK AT LWVC CONVENTION: MAY 15-17 *Delegates Approve a Dues Increase Despite Local Objections*

--P. Dale, Director, Membership

Ironically, the 2015 LWVC State Convention theme was “**Let the Sunshine In**” and it rained almost three inches on the 178 voting delegates and 40 non-voting members working their way through the schedule of tours, presentations, workshops, budgets, caucuses, inspiring speakers, and, of course, ballots.



Speaker Emily Penfield and Sharon Kimball and Marilee Hyman present LWVSLC Civil Discourse workshop at LWVC Convention, San Diego, May 15-17.

Our four voting delegates, **Marilee Hyman, Marguerite Bader, Sharon Kimball and Patti Dale** were joined by **Ann Havlik and Emily Penfield**. The day before the Convention was gavelled to order, Marilee, Sharon, Ann, and Emily went on a day-long tour of the **US/Mexico Border area in Tijuana**. The tour started with a most unusual hour-long delay as Mexican officials emptied the buses and provided long forms to complete, leaving all to wonder what kind of organization the authorities thought the League represented. Several points of view, pro and con, concerning immigration highlighted the complexity of the issues.

The opening day speech by **Alex Padilla, California's Secretary of State** for just 130 days, described plans for a defense of voting rights and a strong offense to enlist more eligible voters. That afternoon there were lively

discussions about budget, bylaws and program. **Lisa Garcia Bedolla of UC Berkeley** addressed the changing demographics of California and of the nation. At present, disengagement reflects the state of our democracy. Bedolla asked, “**How much lower can we go before our system becomes illegitimate?**” More now than ever, the League has a clear mission protecting democracy by engaging voters and insuring that elections are free, fair and accessible.

Saturday evening at the Banquet, **Carolyn Lukensmeyer** from the **National Institute on Civil Discourse**, an organization that works to reduce political dysfunction and incivility in our political system addressed the convention and was one of the many at the Saturday afternoon workshop, given by our own Civil Discourse committee.

During the business session on Sunday morning, the League voted to retain all existing positions and voted no new studies or updates for 2015-2017 except for the state study of Education as planned. **The approved budget included a \$2.50 increase in PMP for the next two years**, for a total of \$5.00. There were several speakers protesting including Marilee who twice tried to represent the hardship this will cause for smaller Leagues to no avail.

The final speaker at the Sunday Luncheon, **LWV national president, Elisabeth McNamera**, emphasized that California Leagues are leading the way in protecting democracy.

Women and Environmental Issues Merge for Member Jaleah Byrnn

--A. Bunker, VOTER Editor

Personal growth in a supportive and ethical community seems to be the theme of Jaleah Byrnn's life and recently spurred her motivation to join the League of Women Voters here in San Luis Obispo County. Jaleah has a long history as a Soroptimist (the Best for Women) club member, serving as local president and attending two international conferences, one in New York and one in Finland; before leaving Finland she took a solo bike trip around the Aland Islands.

Now she serves on the Executive Board and the Architectural Committee of the local Grange. You may have noticed that the Grange has made considerable progress rehabilitating the facility on Broad Street, both inside and out, with the goal of creating a gathering space for the community. Explained Jaleah, "The Grange focus is on supporting agriculture and environmental sustainability; locally they partner with Seed Savers, Permaculture, Young Farmers, and others." Noted Jaleah proudly: "The Grange has supported equality for women since its founding in 1867 and was most unusual at that time by requiring that four of the elected positions be held *only* by women."

Jaleah obtained her B.S. and M.A. at San Diego State; 27 years as a rehabilitation worker followed. Her family consists of one son and two daughters, four grandchildren, and now two great grandchildren! Her hobbies of flying her own airplanes and biking became a lesser priority for the past three years while she

supervised the building of a Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired Hemicycle house. She is still working on the landscaping.

"Meanwhile," she laughs, I try to raise some of my own food and stay active in Life Long Learning classes, a book club, a discussion group, and permaculture activities. I have a



strong interest in environmental issues with a specific focus on what I do in the world." As a part of the League, she looks forward to the League's activities in promoting Civil Discourse, registering voters, future informational meetings especially focusing on issues that come up for vote "before being drowned in campaign literature or propaganda." We agree, Jaleah, and welcome to LWVSLO!

DONORS' HONOR ROLL

Mary Beth Armstrong
Kris Barnes
Alice Bunker
Susan Chandler
Jean Chinnici
Dotty Conner
Patti Dale
GlennaDeane Dovey
Colleen Ehrenberg
Joy Gault

Mardi Geredes
Bud and Harriett Hankins
Sallie and Craig Harlan
Lois Hughes
Marilee Hyman
Margery Johnson
Sharon Kimball
JoAnne Milburn
Emily Penfield
Pat Shutt

Ethel Sosna
Vallerie and Gary Steenson
Adele Stern
Nancy Welts
Barbara Weymann
Mary Lou Wilhelm
Sharon Whitney
Sharon Winslow



[League of Women Voters US](#)

Be an arm chair activist! It's so EASY!

Did you know that as a member of our local League, you are also a member of the **League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of California**? Did you know that as a League member you can act, not just locally, but on national and state issues as well through **the LWWUS and LWVC websites—all available to YOU**. Be an armchair activist. Here's how you do it.

Stay connected and be informed. It is so EASY! Get news and alerts in your inbox. Join the **LWVUS online community** to get the latest updates from the League of Women Voters! They will inform you through e-communications up to date information on **legislative priorities**, efforts to **improve elections** and **educate voters**, and news from Leagues around the country. Joining the League is one of the best things you can do to promote legislation you believe in!

Register to become an **on-line activist!** See a **summary** of a bill or proposal. Scroll down to a **letter already composed for you**. Enter your zip code and the letter will automatically be directed to your **senator, congressional representative, OR to the President!** **Your communications MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Go now to <http://lww.org/get-involved>.



[League of Women Voters of California](#)

Welcome to the NEW League of Women Voters of California Action Center

AND, LWVC helps you make your opinions known to **California legislators**. Take a moment to create your new **Action Center account** and join the League's grassroots community to **advocate for the issues you care about**. When you provide your contact information, the **League can alert you on timely legislation** that needs support or opposition by contacting legislators. LWVC will never sell or share your email address. **Read their privacy policy.**

After creating an account that asks for your name, address, and email, you are registered for action alerts. The California league will **issue action alerts concerning bills that are League priorities**. There will be a **letter already created** with an option for you to send via email or printed. **Email addresses and office addresses** are provided for your convenience. Go now to: <https://account.votility.com/enterprise/LWVC/index.php>

BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTEES, AND OFF-BOARD ADVISORS

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1st Vice President/Development/
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2nd Vice President/
Voter Service Vera Wallen (2014-16)
Treasurer: Mary Beth Armstrong (2014-16)
Secretary: Vallerie Steenson (2013-15)

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Communications/VOTER/Website:
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Alice Bunker (Off-Board Consultant)
Government: Carrie Pardo (2014-16)
Natural Resources: Heidi Harmon (2015)
Director: Jean Chinnici (2014-16)
Emily Penfield (2015)
Social Policy: **OPEN**

LWVC Management Training Advisor:
Caroline de Llamas

Nominating Committee (2014-15):
Elinor Kogan, chair; Janet Kourakis, Beverly
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Financial Review/Audit Committee (2014-15):
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Riswold

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Marilee Hyman (ex officio)

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and Sharon Whitney, Marilee Hyman, *ex officio*

Natural Resources, Planning & Land Use:
(2013-14): Jim Patterson and Neil Havlik as off-
Board consultants

Higher Education Study Committee (2014-16):
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Barnes, Eric Greening, Harriett Hankins, Boyd
Horne, Sue Nash, Carrie Pardo, Sharon
Whitney

Civil Discourse Action Committee (2014-16):
Chair: Emily Penfield (off-Board). Beverly Cox,
Susan Devine, Bruce Gibson, Bud Hankins,
Sharon Kimball, Sue Nash, Carrie Pardo,
Sharon Whitney, Julie Rodewald, Marilee
Hyman, *ex officio*.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(Very Important)

Do not include my information in League Directory

Please select your class of Membership:

A voting member is at least 18 and a citizen.
Annual dues:

_____ \$65.00 Individual annual membership

_____ \$90.00 Two Member Household

_____ \$25.00 Associate Member
(Under 18 or not a citizen)

_____ I want to support the work of the
League of Women Voters with a donation of:
\$ _____ Make payment to:

League of Women Voters of
San Luis Obispo County (LWV of SLO
County)

P.O. Box 4210, San Luis Obispo, CA
93403

Thank you for your support!

Membership in the LWV of SLO County entitles
you to national, state, and local membership in
the League. Membership extends from July 1
of any calendar year through June 30 of the
next year.

**The League is nonpartisan. We do not
support or oppose candidates. Join us.** Add
your voice to the work of the most *respected
and effective grassroots organization.*