

# Members Provide Service for Homeowner Associations and Other Agencies While Raising Funds to Support Our Local League

Many of our members have been volunteering for an activity that both benefits the community and helps to pay our operating expenses. The Voter Service part of our League has conducted four to six elections each year, for Homeowners Associations, Advisory Councils, and Farmers' Market groups.. We sign a contract with the group, requiring us to take custody of their mail-in or at-meeting ballots, verify those ballots against an "eligible voter list" supplied by the organization, hand count the ballots at a meeting, announce the results, and issue a Certificate of Election.

For this service LWV of SLO County charges a small fee based on the time our volunteers spend on the election activities. The HOA elections began after the State of California required all homeowner associations in the state to amend their by-laws to adopt a standard method for conducting the election of association board members.

One of the state requirements is to have "independent inspectors of election" to oversee the election and issue a Certificate of Election. Recognizing that this was an ideal role for the League of Women Voters, League convened a training session conducted by an attorney familiar with HOA problems and the new regulations. Several members attended from LWV of SLO County and became a resource for the rest of us. In addition, many of our members have attended training by the County Clerk's Office for regular election work, and this also is a great resource for us. Over the past election cycles many League members have participated.

We work in teams of two to five Leaguers per election, depending on the size of the group needing the election. We welcome more election opportunities and more League participants. This is a valuable service we provide to the homeowners associations and other local groups and a worthwhile use of our League skills and principles.