

PUBLIC POLICY-NATIONAL

*Submitted by Cleo S. Berkun
(written as an editorial)*

As I write this Congress is on vacation. Soon the Party Conventions will take place, after which we can expect intensified campaigning for the presidential election. I think it is unlikely that any major legislation will pass before next year, if then.

There has been a great deal of publicity about important issues that we now confront, such as the mortgage crisis, the war, the energy crisis, and the worsening economy. The presidential candidates have expressed themselves on these issues.

However, there are issues dear to our hearts and important to the quality of the lives of all our compatriots, about which we hear little or nothing from the candidates. I would include in these (not in any order of preference or importance):

- Preservation of Social Security without turning it into a means tested program, making the retirement age so high people will sicken and die before they can receive benefits, enriching Wall Street interests, increasing Social Security taxes, and without privatizing it;
- De-privatizing Medicare;
- Affordable Housing;
- Single payer, universal health care that does not enrich and is not controlled by private insurance companies;
- Continuation and funding of the Older Americans Act;
- Continuation and funding of Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Preservation and restoration of our civil liberties;
- Preservation of women's right to choose, with access to birth control and abortion;
- Separation of Church and State;
- How the candidate would go about making one or more appointments to the Supreme Court;
- How the candidate would honor and value the separation of powers between the Executive, Legislative and Judicial systems of our government;

We cannot, as an organization, support a candidate for office. However, as members of

OWL, an advocacy organization, we can and should, ask them questions, provide them with information and advocate for what we believe in. We need to make our voices loudly heard now.

An important example of how effective loud persistent voices can be is what happened with H.R. 6331, the "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008". Congress quickly acted to override the President's veto of the bill. This bill prevented cutting back the payment amounts to doctors who accept Medicare. Without the persistent voices of many organizations and individuals the over ride would not have happened. (We can also thank Senator Kennedy for leaving a sick bed and rallying support for the bill and the override.)

So, let's get to work and let the presidential candidates and others running for national office know that we are here, we are voters, we have influence and we will be heard.



SLATE OF OFFICERS 2009

Nominating Committee

C0-Presidents: Ruth Kletzing, Evie Kosower
Vice-President, North: Rochelle Goldman
Vice-President, South: Ernie Beare
Treasurer:
Associate Treasurer: Janet Vandre
Recording Secretaries:
Corresponding Secretary:
Parliamentarian:

UPCOMING EVENTS

OWL-CA ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 10/17-19/2008 Holiday Inn, 1740 North First St. San Jose, 95112 Reservations: 408-793-3300
CARA CONVENTION 10/12-13, Cathedral Hill Hotel 1101 Van Ness, SF-With George Lakoff
CARA LEADERSHIP TRNG 11/5&6 Auburn

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY

Betty Perry, Public Policy Director

OWL's mission states that we are an advocacy organization for midlife and older women with priorities for health care, economic security and quality of life. Since advocacy is at the heart of public policy, it is important to think about this issue. Our role as a service organization came up at the last council meeting, and I left feeling that there was not a clear understanding of the difference between a service organization and an advocacy organization. Let's look back at the work of our founders, Tish Sommers and Laurie Shields. Because of her own circumstances, Tish became interested in the plight of middle-aged women who were unexpectedly on their own. Her work with "displaced homemakers" evolved into her realization that advocacy for these women was necessary. She called on her old skills and succeeded in having California enact a Displaced Homemakers bill. Her continued advocacy in this area resulted in national legislation. Thus, the basis for the Older Women's League was founded. Using their knowledge to work for change, they worked with displaced homemakers to improve their conditions.

They had worked with conditions, but they could see that more needed to be done to solve the problems, not just treat the symptoms. There are occasions that chapters may find a service activity helpful. But we must remember that the creation of the Older Women's League was to establish an organization that would advocate for the rights of midlife and older women. And look at two examples of issues we have worked on.

Think about the work we did two years ago on Social Security. National OWL knows the value of Social Security for women. As wages have gone up, Social Security is now providing a better living for eligible women; The hope for the future looks optimistic, if we can prevent those opposed to Social Security increases from having their way. The need for Social Security funding must be carefully watched. For people are living longer and as they retire, they need to have those payments coming in every month in the future. Working on this issues is advocacy.

The principal issue that OWL-CA has worked on

for many years has been universal single payer health care. We remember the 1990's, when an initiative was on the ballot to provide universal single payer health care for all Californians. We believed that it would solve the health problems for our members and the rest of the people. Everyone would have had an affordable health plan. It would have been a great benefit for all Californians, but it would be of the greatest help to older women. Now, a universal single payer health bill is up in the legislature again. This time it is SB 840. This has been going through the legislature for eight years. It will probably pass the legislature again, but the Governor promises to veto it again. Advocating is not a short-term commitment.

Identifying and tracing the advocates who worked on the bill that became SB 840 shows what OWL advocates can do. Two women, one OWL member Carolyn Negrete, and Judy Spellman representing the ---committee went to visit legislators with the bill, talking with staff, looking for commitment and expertise. Carolyn Negrete and Judy Spellman were both nurses. They had a special understanding of health care needs. It has been very significant for the progress of the bill that Senator Kuehl met their approval. Carolyn Negrete is the OWL advocate for SB 840 as well as a member of Health Care for All, an organization which devotes its entire time and efforts to this issue. As I sat and listened to the SB 840 hearing in the Assembly Appropriations committee on July 16, I was seated near Carolyn Negrete. She was obviously taking special pride in this bill which she has devoted much of her time working to see the bill through for all of these year. That is what it means to be an ADVOCATE.

Senator Kuehl has been steadfast in using her expertise in developing a bill that seems to cover our needs well. To improve the understanding of the financing of the bill she had the Lewin Group, a national research organization, report on the financing needs of the bill.

Not everyone in OWL can go forth with that amount of success that Carolyn has had, but we can be there to say we support a bill. We can write letters. We can talk with our friends and our legislators. We do not lobby for a bill. But when we know some fact that would help a legislator understand the problems people with out health care insurance face, it is right to be an advocate and share that information.

Advocacy is exciting. You may feel timid about confronting a legislative staffer about a bill, but think again. They want to be heard. You will learn more about the bill from such a conversation. You may just be the one to give a legislator an important new idea. Pointing out a flaw of a bill is important to bring about an obvious correction. It is especially rewarding when a legislative staffer may point out the value of your advocacy in helping their office on a new bill.

As I write this I am hoping some of you who have not tried advocacy can make the effort. Many of you really want to speak up, to really advocate, but we have not made the situation easy. At our Council meeting in October, we will try to have **3** training on advocacy. Think about an issue that concerns you. Come with some information on that subject I would like to hear from you ahead of time so we can provide any additional information you might need.

We need to study a few issues in depth. One must have a knowledge of the issue. Then we need to figure out a possible strategy. We need a concise, logical presentation, which will tell just why this bill should be passed. And we need to come with Carolyn Negrete's spirit, that of a steadfast advocate, keeping OWL's feet to the fire on an important issue.

**CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE
REPORT** *Betty Perry, Public Policy
Director*

3. Strengthen the health advocacy capacity of senior advocacy organizations.

We worked on mental health ISSUES to help pass the initiative (proposition 63). State budget cuts threaten seniors, and Betty urged members to write to newspapers and legislators and to the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees. Ruth Kletzing suggested that members send successful letters to her for others to use.

Kathie Piccagli announced a rally for SB840 to be held on June 19 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Moscone Center in San Francisco.

Roberta Battle discussed the evaluation form for Mother's Day (enclosed with the program) and the importance of evaluations. She suggested putting "compliments of OWL" on information we distribute.

Shirley Harlan: She distributed an "Older Prisoners Fact Sheet" with information on pending bills, AB1965 (Swanson) on earlier parole and SB1555 (Kuehl) on improvement of policies for elder prisoners.

Rename of grant: In response to Betty's request, Evie suggested "MeDIC Health Advocacy Grant."
Submitted by Joyce Miller, Recording Secretary

OWL-CA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING 6/7/08

The following business was conducted:

Website: Margie Metzler was introduced as the developer of the website (owl-ca.org). Cost: \$43 a year. It has an unlimited number of e-mail addresses and will probably use Outlook Express. The newsletter will be in accessible on the website. Our website will be linked to the National web site. Send comments to Ruth and Evie.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Lou Anthony, the treasurer, could not attend due to an illness in the family. Janet Vandre, associate treasurer, reported that the balance was \$16,050. The report is attached.

Reports of committees:

Communications-Ellen Doerfer, Chair: Better paper for the newsletter was decided. Chapters are to send in reports of special events. Ellen Doerfer is still looking for an assistant editor.

OWL-CA COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 7-9, 2008

Present: Council Members: Rosemary Bacy, Audrey Barth, Ernie Beare, Ida Curtice, Ellen Doerfer, Rochelle Goldman, Shirley Harlan, Isabel Johnson, Ruth Kletzing, Evie Kosower, Diane Latco, Eleanor Luce, Joyce Miller, Betty Perry, Kathie Piccagli, Christine Shields, Janet Vandre. **Chapter Members:** Mary Lembke, Carolyn Negrete, Jacqui Snowden, Margie Metzler, Roberta Battle.

MEDICARE PART D SESSION MEETING 6/7/08 MINUTES

Betty Perry's Report (after luncheon provided by the MeDIC grant): The members are to reflect on what the chapters did and turn the reports in to Roberta Battle at the OWL-CA office within the next two weeks. Activities thus far reported are: Sacramento has been tabling and attending conferences; San Francisco has written articles and presented programs on health issues.

The objectives of the MeDIC grant are as follows:

1. Monitor and help improve the implementation of Medicare Part D.
2. Educate and inform policymakers and opinion leaders about senior health issues.

Membership-Each chapter pledged a set number of new members. A contact for each chapter should be on the list of OWL-CA members.

Policy Review-Members of OWL-CA Council agree to following:

- Attend all Council and committee meetings and OWL functions.
- Be informed about the mission, policies, programs of OWL-CA and the National Agenda.
- Review the meeting agenda and supporting materials prior to Council and committee meetings.
- Serve on committees.
- Keep up to date on issues important to women as they age.
- Follow confidentiality and conflict of interest policies.
- Review the OWL-CA financial reports in accordance with your fiduciary duty.
- Maintain communications between the council and the membership and chapters of OWL-CA.

Other Recommendations:

Add parliamentarian to the bylaws. The OWL-CA Handbook is to be revised. Each chapter should have an official representative to the Public Policy Committee.

October 17-18-19 Council Meeting in San Jose:

Meg Bowen is to do a project. OWL-CA will do the rest of the program. A theme is needed. No representatives of the Santa Clara Chapter were present.

Shirley Harlan is working on it with ACORN and the AARP Ambassador's Program on brain fitness and preventing Alzheimer's.

Prepared by Joyce Miller, Recording Secretary

OWL-CA COUNCIL MEETING SUNDAY 6/8/08

Minutes of the February Council meeting were approved

Treasurer's report: See attached report.

National Board Report: Shirley Harlan:

The National Board meets this coming weekend. On the Membership Committee of the board, regional representatives talk by conference calls to share information. OWL National received a grant from the AARP Foundation on public-benefit outreach project. Ashley Carson will visit

the San Bernardino ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) site on July 2nd. Ashley might want to do a presentation at OWL-CA Annual Meeting in October 2008.

Discussion: Ruth Kletzing and Evie Kosower expressed concerns about using money from insurance and pharmaceutical sources. It was stated that we want feedback from National OWL and to it from the grass roots before accepting such grants. California is the only state with an active state council but has about one third of the total membership. Should we push the government instead? Members were urged to send their concerns about this program to Ruth and Evie.

Kathie Piccagli: The National website has been completely redesigned. Ashley got a grant as a nonprofit from Google. OWL comes up when certain words are selected that comes up when certain words are selected. Margie will search for the key words. This will be on Margie's report.

Health Care for All: Carolyn Negrete:

One Care Now is working this year for SB840 (Kuehl). They are seeking endorsements from city councils and forums. Calculators are available from HCA to calculate costs of payroll under single-payer health care.

California Alliance for Retired Americans

(CARA): Kathie Piccagli:

On June 19 CARA is sponsoring a rally for single-payer healthcare (SB840 & HR676) at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. Members were urged to attend and bring their chapter banners. CARA is sponsoring a "Wrinkle Run" at the State Capitol steps in Sacramento, a rally against budget cuts. The CARA Convention will be held October 12-13. George Lakoff is to speak. Leadership training (how to be a political activist) will be provided by CARA on November 5-6 in Auburn.

Report on Women in Prison: Shirley Harlan passed out a petition for release on probation of a prisoner, Jane Benson, who has become an OWL member

Chapter reports were distributed, and oral reports given.

Public Policy Report – Betty Perry:

The Office of Patient Advocate and California counties are transforming healthcare. The SEIU has contributed to in-home care. The governor has proposed serious budget cuts for next fiscal year, and the budget is now in the Legislature. She recommends writing to the Legislature **6**

about cuts impacting senior's health care and other senior services. She also recommends writing letters criticizing the requiring of immigrants on emergency MediCal to report monthly.

Next Council Meeting:

It will be in San Jose on October 17-18-19, a change in dates. This was the only date for which the San Jose chapter could obtain hotel reservations. Details are to come. The possible theme is "changed lifestyles." San Jose is not obtaining speakers, so the organization will have to do so. There will be a silent auction. The Golden OWL Award nominations are due by 9/15/08. And sent to the OW-CA office

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Every chapter is encouraged to connect with the OWL-CA web site. Each chapter is to have one representative to the website.

Commitment was made to recruit two to five new members by each chapter; report on new members and how recruited to be sent to Co-chairs Kathie Piccagli and Joyce Miller. Report to Allyson Washburn on changes desired in the OWL-CA Handbook.

Policy Review: See Policy Review, Page 6

Endowment Committee: A letter will go out requesting donations to the Endowment Fund.

Communications & Editorial: The deadline is July 7th for the newsletter for the October meeting. Ellen will be away from July 7-31. Chapter reports submitted for the newsletter should focus on and be pertinent to OWL's goals.

NEW BUSINESS: Spraying to eradicate the light brown apple moth was criticized. For information, try the web site: stopthespray.org
Prepared by Joyce Miller, Recording Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Report, May 31, 2008

General Fund: By the end of May we had income of about \$6400, which is just where we should be according to our budget. Our expenses were at about \$4400—right in line with our budget.

MeDIC Fund: At the end of May we had a balance of \$16,072 in our MeDIC fund with

another part of the grant anticipated in August. Be sure to get your requests for reimbursement for health-related events, equipment or scholarships to me.

Mary Lou Anthony, Treasurer

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE-Joyce Miller
POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE-Joyce Klein
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FINANCE COMMITTEE-Mary Lou Anthony
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE-Ellen Doerfer
ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE- Ruth Kletzing
RESOLUTION COMMITTEE-Pearl Caldwell
PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE-Betty Perry
MEDICARE D COMMITTEE-Betty Perry

NATIONAL BOARD REPORT

Shirley Harlan, Southwest Regional Representative

The National Board met June 14-15, 2008 in Washington DC. The agenda covered Ashley Carson's Executive Director's Report, Financial Status, Benefits QuickLINK project, Maatiam, Unique Fundraising, Board Elections, and Strategic Planning and Policy. I will try to summarize each of these items.

-There are two new staff assisting Ashley Carson: Elizabeth Lammie, Executive Program Assistant and Intern Jenna Lindenbaum.

-Executive Director Ashley Carson has kept OWL visible with improvements of the OWL web site: www.owl-national.org. She represented OWL in successful briefings on Capitol Hill for Older Americans Mental Health Week and Older American Act Appropriations. She will serve as co-chair of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations' Income Security Committee along with someone from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

-There has been success in receiving grant monies in-kind from Google, which helps Internet seekers, finds OWL information and membership through word search. Whenever anyone enters a term such as "older women's issues", "economic security" etc.,

OWL is listed on the "sponsoring organizations". We have received many clicks (c. 4000) of inquiry already. Ashley was asked to speak to the NOW Convention in July.

-Financial Information: Expenses are under budget- but so are revenues. While we are not in the crisis position of last year, we are operating **7**

on a very tight situation and must continue to raise money this year in order to meet the budget. Responses to appeals have been very positive; Board contributions last year were the highest ever, and Member's contributions were substantial. Both of these bode well for our future.

-Board Chair Ellen Bruce identified the following goals for the organization:

- a. Eliminate our debt
- b. Keep a good cash flow
- c. Have 6 months reserve on hand
- d. Rebuild the endowment.

-Several initiatives are in progress, confidential at this point. Effort is ongoing involving both the staff and the board members. There will be another CHALLENGE GRANT this year so all members and chapters are encouraged to anticipate the opportunity.

-The new policy on membership dues and payment is to send renewal notices to all memberships that expire in the next 3 months with a notice to ignore the renewal if they usually renew through their chapter, with a single dues notification time, e.g. September being considered. Chapters are asked to give feedback on dues collection and preferences. Board members discussed OWL's mission and they were in favor of the fact that direct service was in keeping with OWL's mission of advocacy and education. Not only have times changed, but also a number of chapters are already doing service rather than advocacy and education. For example, some chapters apparently run food programs, and St. Louis works with individuals to obtain earned pension benefits. Several chapters participated in a Medicare Part D program. The board discussion indicated that board members see no conflict with direct service provision, while OWL's primary mission is education and advocacy.

Maatiam- Unique Fundraising Opportunity. There are over 200 stores on this website like eBay, Nordstrom's, Target and others that give OWL a percentage of your on-line purchases ranging from 3% to 30% and more. This donation does not affect your transaction in anyway. This is a new way to shop on line and OWL has the opportunity to earn \$\$.

Strategic Plan: Increase Membership and Visibility. OWL is trying to provide a unified message, plus additional information tailored to

local needs. A new OWL brochure is in the making and a template for the design suitable for adaptation for chapters or Regional OWL groups. The Board was very enthusiastic about Sacramento's tabling flyer and press release that detailed their OWL issue showing National, State and Chapter activities related to the event. They praised the creativity that demonstrated OWL unity and visibility. Expect to see more applications of this idea. Thank you Sacramento Chapter!

"WorkSearch" funded by AARP Foundation, with OWL as a partner is training in Louisville, Kentucky to help volunteers learn how to use the tools for older adults seeking employment. Board members Johnetta Marshall and Ann Kitchens are heading up this project. Both of these projects falls under the Economic Security of OWL agenda.

National OWL has received two grants from the AARP Foundation and information about these grants is on the National OWL website

"Benefits QuickLINK" is funded by AARP **The regional representatives** have developed a monthly teleconference mode, in which they share information, concerns, and ideas; this has been a very useful tool.

With up coming elections to the Board, two areas discussed were; expenses serving as a board member; and increasing the diversity of the Board members. Substantial concern was expressed that these issues make it impossible for some women to serve on the Board. On the other hand, the realities are that the organization relies on member contribution.

Suggestions:

- a. build a "board support" item into the budget to provide partial reimbursement for travel expenses for those who need it;
- b. get a grant to support leadership development;
- c. encourage local chapters to support the expenses of their regional (and at large) representatives.

Board President Ellen Bruce has received a part-time unpaid leave of absence from her job in the fall of 2008 to work more on OWL business. She is hoping to visit some chapters around the country. If any chapter is interested in a speaker on women's retirement security or such topic, she will be happy to present. Ellen is a professor and chair of the gerontology department in the McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies **8**

at U. Mass, Boston. Hosts need to pick up travel expenses.

I have agreed to seek another term on the Board. The first year or so was a learning curve with serious financial challenges. Still vigilant, we are moving forward with projects related to our agenda and mission. Even though I feel I fall short of my expectations to make more contact with chapters and members, I am striving to perform the duties of OWL's Board of Directors. I am thankful for the OWL/CA support (\$200 for travel to Wash DC each meeting). Please contact me if you need explanation of the Board's activities and please help with your feedback on the issues we discuss and your concerns as OWL moves forward in the 21st century.

I believe the greatest gift I can conceive of having from anyone is to be seen, heard, understood and touched by them. The greatest gift I can give is to see, hear, understand and touch another person. When this is done, I feel contact has been made.

Virginia Satir

CHAPTER REPORTS

PLACER CHAPTER

Beatrice Graham, Chapter Rep.

We continue to be a small Chapter. We gain a few members each year, but we lose a few, too. We meet the 4th Friday of the month at noon in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library. We are fortunate to have Marion Faustman, who is a Senator with the California Senior Legislature, go over our ballots before an election. This happened in January with the February Primary and will occur again in October. We truly appreciate her guidance. Those of us who have e-mail benefit from Betty Perry's messages. All of us read her public policy reports in the OWL newsletter.

February brought Barbara Kistler from Public Health with her power point presentation on the "Prevention and Hazards of Falling". I highly recommend the program.

March was designated Women's History Month. We made it our individual histories. It was fun and enlightening to hear from each member.

Charlie Brown, Democratic candidate for State

Senator, was our April speaker. It was well attended by members of the community.

I would recommend our May program to any group. Laura Wayman and Lynn Grilli presented "The Dementia Whisperers" – bringing light into the darkness of dementia. Much discussion followed the power point presentation and Laura's and Lynn's stories of their work with families of loved ones with dementia.

June is our traditional month for a luncheon. This year we did our own catering through a local deli. It was delicious and inexpensive.

Letters will go out in early September to welcome back our members for our September meeting.

8Catherine McGregor, who was a hospice nurse for a number of years, will talk about "Palliative Care". We plan to publicize widely for this meeting.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Evie Kosower, Council Co-Pres.

In March San Diego celebrated Women's History Month with a Women's Hall of Fame induction dinner. Five San Diego women were honored for their contributions to the residents of San Diego. San Diego OWL is a sponsor of the event, which is held at University of California, San Diego. Our March regular meeting focused on Women in Prison and resulted in a lively discussion. Members took topics on aspects of the area to research locally. The June meeting involved reports of these efforts. OWL San Diego had a table at the San Diego County Aging Summit on June 26th. Buzz Aldrin was keynote speaker. We had materials from OWL National, CARA and Insight Center for Community Economic Development imprinted with the OWL logo and "complements of". 2500 people attended this biennial conference

PACE of San Diego

San Diego members visited the first PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) facility in our city in February. PACE offers Medically eligible frail seniors a way to live Safely at home or in their community environment. To qualify, one must be 55 years old, living in the designated service area, determined by the Department of Health Care Services as needing nursing home level care, and able to live in a community setting without jeopardizing their health or safety. PACE supports them by administering their physical health

problems by transporting them to a center nearby for certain days to receive what they need from doctors, nurses, physical therapists, and social workers. They also enjoy lunch and conversation by meeting with others in the activities or dining areas. If the senior is Medi-Cal eligible no premiums are paid. St. Paul's PACE is very attractive and comfortable and situated in a section of a newly retrofitted hospital near the downtown area. St. Paul's PACE is now recruiting seniors.

SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER

Shirley Sidd, Representative

The Chapter continues its efforts to advance OWL's mission, and advocate for the population that we represent. Early in the year, as our usual monthly advocacy postcard went to Speaker Nancy Pelosi, we asked that she support HR676, 'The United States National Health Insurance Act' which would expand & improve Medicare for all.

In the same vein a number of our Chapter members joined the California Nurses Association, and other like-minded groups at the San Francisco Moscone Center, in demonstration on June 19th against the participants at a national conference of health insurance executives.

Our Kathie Piccagli has become OWL-CA's representative to CARA as successor to Carolyn Negrete. Listening to her enthusiastic reports, we should be pleased to have such a seamless transition.

In April, continuing on with OWL's basic mission, The San Francisco Chapter again entered into a coalition with the Transition Network and the UCSF Center of Women's Health to present a well-attended meeting focused on the topic of depression and anxiety.

As a consequence of various ideas posed at our January Planning Meeting, an ongoing Housing Committee has been meeting regularly;

exploring and concentrating on a number of choices in the city and greater Bay area as possible living situations for our aging population.

SANTA CLARA CHAPTER

BJ Bryan, Chapter President

This year the Santa Clara Chapter is trying a shared presidency instead of having a single person doing the job with a different member doing each month. In January we honored Pearl Caldwell at her 90th birthday with fun, cake and ice cream. In February we viewed SICKO with Lilly Wright chairing. In March our speaker talked about a new local Women's Center that is being started, chaired by BJ Bryan. In April, we had a trip to their newly built Humane Society and program to save more animals; Mary Rosales chaired in May, with an ACLU lawyer talking on the history and what's happening to Habeas Corpus and it's importance; Gen Guracar chaired our June summer potluck; Meg Bowman chaired the July program where WILPF presented a program on the World Food Crisis. In September we will be celebrating our chapter's 25th birthday.

The chapter is also working of the annual meeting for OWL-CA to be the third weekend on October. We have been busy planning workshops and fun for that weekend. The planning committee is Meg Bowman, Pearl Caldwell, Gen Guracar, Mary Rosales, Jackie Browman and BJ Bryan. We hope everybody will come.

SACRAMENTO CAPITOL CHAPTER

Ida Curtis, Representative

The Capitol Chapter meets every month with excellent speakers. In February we heard Allison Ruff, Assembly member Patty Berg's Chief of Staff speak on hospital/home transition, as well as other health issues affected by the budget. Interestingly, a reporter in the audience heard the tale of one of our members and reported it in the Sacramento Bee. Our March speaker was David Mandel, of the Senior Legal Hotline. Two lawyers, one of who was Roberta Battle of OWL, aided him. April brought us Matt Gray, a prison reform activist and former legislative staff member. It was interesting to learn that his own father, when drunk, had killed his mother and wounded him 10

at age 11, and to learn that he had forgiven his father and recognized that his father could be a productive citizen now as an engineer. In May we learned about "Rebuilding Together, Home Safety Services" – important changes and additions to make our homes more livable as we age. Of course, the main event in May was Mother's Day at the Capitol. It was an exciting day filled with speakers and our delivery of signed cards to every legislator.

OHLONE CHAPTER

Chris Shields, Representative

On June 14, we had our annual summer potluck luncheon, at which we awarded the Wonderful Older Woman (WOW) to Irma Zuckermann.

(Two of our invited guests have since become members) The luncheon ended with a great story told by storyteller and member Pauline Hale. Many of our members participated in CARA's June 19th march in San Francisco to protest the Health Insurance Plans' conference.

Diane Latko, our co-chair, then hustled over to the CA State Commission on the Status of Women where she gave a presentation on OWL. July and August has been vacation time for many of our members, but some have continued to attend CARA-CAT meetings. A representative of the League of Women Voters will make a presentation on the propositions and initiatives in the upcoming election at our September 13 chapter meeting.

IN MEMORY OF THERESAMARY JOHNSON

Words she lived by.....

Freeman's "Blueprint" for Just Keeping Up

BELIEVE	while others are doubting
PLAN	while others are playing
STUDY	while others are sleeping
DECIDE	while others are delaying
PREPARE	while others are daydreaming
BEGIN	while others are procrastinating
WORK	while others are wishing
SAVE	while others are wasting
LISTEN	while others are talking
SMILE	while others are pouting
PRIORITIZE	while others are overwhelmed

