



OWL OF CALIFORNIA

OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

1230 N Street, Suite 201, Sacramento, CA 95814

PH: (916) 444-2526 FAX: (916) 441-1881

E-mail: owlcalif@gmail.com Website: owlca.org

OWL-CA NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

OWL-CA COUNCIL, 2010

Co-Presidents

Joyce Klein Kamian,
Lafayette

Mary Lembke Walnut Creek

Vice-President, South

Shirley Ferrill, San Diego

Vice-President, North

Ida Curtice, Sacramento

Treasurer

Glenda Cheesman, Sacramento

Associate Treasurer

Margie Metzler

Recording Secretary (2)

Joyce Miller, Sacramento

Audrey Barth, Sacramento

Corresponding Secretary

Rosemary Bacy, Los Gatos

Public Policy Director

Betty Perry, Sacramento

Nat'l Public Policy Liaison

Clare Smith Ahern, Sacramento

Parliamentarian

Joyce Klein Kamian, Lafayette

Website Managers

Roberta Battle, Sacramento

Margie Metzler, Sacramento

Chapter Presidents (P)

and Representatives (R)

Capitol Chapter

Roberta Battle (P)

Joyce Miller (R)

Martha Millhone (R)

Ohlone/East Bay

Eleanor Luce (P)

Joyce Kamian (R)

Mary Lembke (R)

Placer

Marion Faustman (R)

San Diego Co.

Evie Kosower (P)

San Francisco

Kathie Piccagli (P)

Vacant (R)

Santa Clara

BJ Bryan (P)

Pearl Caldwell (R)

Rosemary Bacy (R)

At-Large Representatives

Mary Lou Anthony, Santa Rosa

Shirley Harlan, San Bernardino

Rochelle Goldman, San Mateo

Newsletter Editor

Ellen Doerfer, Walnut Creek

National Board

Shirley Harlan, SW Regional

Rep, San Bernardino

Kathie Piccagli, At-Large Rep

San Francisco

Outgoing Presidents' Message It's been an interesting and busy time working together with all of you trying to accomplish the work of OWL. We must continue to fight hard to stop any privatization of Social Security. On the home front, we will have another try at single payer health care. Mark Leno will be carrying the bill again. We must work hard for Single Payer, Thanks to those of you who have been so supportive for the past three years Ruth and I have been Co-Presidents. The role National has played over this period of time has given us more visibility and stature. Let's continue to build on it.

Happy New Year to all of you! Ruth Metzler & Evie Kosower

Incoming Presidents Message As we prepare to assume the duties of co-presidents, we have to admit to some trepidation. This is a big challenge. We know that we need to, or must, increase our membership. We know that we need to continue our presence in Sacramento at the Capitol. We also know that we have many disagreements among our leadership as to how we are going to tackle these issues. In the face of all these needs, we know we have the heart to persevere. When Tish Sommers and Laurie Shields began this odyssey, they didn't have a clue as to the breadth of their mission. They knew there were needs and that they had the heart to meet them. We don't know how they knew. We do know that their achievements left a legacy that we want to preserve. Join us as we forge ahead in their courageous traditions. We as Older Women are all worth the effort!

Mary Lembke & Joyce Klein Kamian

Our new co-Presidents: Joyce Kamian and Mary Lembke, both from Ohlone East Bay Chapter will be taking over in January 2011



What's Inside:

- P-2 January Council Meeting, California Public Policy
- P-3 National Public Policy
- P-4 National At-Large Report, Golden OWL Award
- P-5 2010 Annual Council Meeting
- P-6 Single Payer, Women In Prison
- P-7 Chapter Reports
- P-9-11 OWL-CA Council Meeting Minutes

OWL-CA Council Meeting –Jan. 22-23, 2011. Location--San Jose Airport Garden Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn) 1740 North First Street, San Jose
Room rate--\$79 plus tax – single or double
Cut-off date for special rate--January 15th; after that, best rate available will be offered
Room reservations--408-793-3947 or 408-793-3300, press "0" for reservations. Ask for Older Women's League meeting rate.
Saturday meeting starts at 1 PM-no lunch
Check-in to Hotel: Saturday 3 pm
Check out of hotel: Sunday 12 noon
Sunday meeting 9-3

**MOTHER'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL – TBA
OWL-CA COUNCIL MEETING OAKLAND,
JUNE 11 & 12, 2011**

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY
REPORT-FOLLOWING THE MONEY FOR
OWL-CA!** *Submitted by Clare Smith Ahern*

The Budget and Finance Committee has been hard at work since the October meeting in Sacramento. The committee members are Glenda Cheesman, (Treasurer-Sacramento), Janet Vandre (Former Associate Treasurer, Sacramento), Billi Hanlon (West Sacramento), Bonnie Graham (San Diego), Jacqui Snowden (Brisbane), Carolyn Negrete (Sacramento), and Clare Ahern (Sacramento).

The **Budget and Finance Committee (BFC)** is responsible for fiscal oversight of OWL-CA which includes the following:

1. Assist and support the Treasurer as needed;
2. Review financial records and submit recommendations to Treasurer/Council;
3. Recommend fiscal policies and procedures to ensure that OWL-CA fiscal records are maintained according to standard principles of bookkeeping and accounting practices;
4. Develop, in coordination with the Treasurer, an annual operating budget; and,
5. Support an annual audit of OWL-CA financial records

Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) Member Responsibilities:

Members of the BFC agree to commit at least 2 hours to participation in committee meetings at OWL-CA Council meetings (up to 3/year), take on at least one assignment/year that furthers the work of the committee, and actively engage and participate in communication with fellow committee members, either through telephone, electronic mail or ground mail delivery.

Proposed Task List and Timeline (Urgent)

1. Organize committee and agree to committee responsibilities/timeline **(by Oct. 31, 2010) DONE!**

2. Support transfer of "pen and paper" spreadsheet to electronic format (either Excel or Quickbooks) **(by Nov. 15, 2010) ALMOST DONE!**

3. Develop an operating budget (with chart of accounts) for Year 2011 for review by Council **(by Nov. 30, 2010) NEARLY THERE!**

4. Support an audit of Year 2009 **(by Dec. 15, 2010) WE SEE THE LIGHT!**

3. Develop "Fiscal Policies and Procedures" Handbook for review by Council **(by Dec. 31, 2010) UNDER DEVELOPMENT!**

If you are interested in being part of this exciting work – please contact Clare at (916) 922- 4989 or via e-mail at clare.smith60@gmail.com

The Season to Give! Consider Supporting the OWL-CA Endowment Fund

Submitted by Clare Smith Ahern

December is a good time to consider donating to your favorite charitable organizations. OWL-CA is fortunate to have an established Endowment Fund that was created in 2003 by members Russell and Ruth Kletzing. The Endowment Fund is made up of gifts and bequests that are subject to a requirement that the principal be maintained intact and invested to create a source of income for OWL-CA. Contributing to the OWL-CA Endowment Fund provides a way for you, your family and friends to invest in public policy work on behalf of midlife and older women in California.

The declining state economy has resulted in hardship for many people regardless of gender, ethnic background or geographic location. However, women's health and economic security were in jeopardy long before the arrival of the "Great Recession." The current fiscal troubles in California have only exacerbated the situation for women as reported by the California Budget Project. A recent "Budget Brief" discusses the proposed budget cuts to primary support services for low-income people, such as In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (Cal WORKS), Social Security Income and State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP). Women represent more than three out of five adults in Cal WORKS, IHSS and SSI/SSP.¹

Currently, an estimated 8 million women aged 40 years and older reside in California.² Older women will live longer than men and are more likely to experience economic hardship as they age. OWL California, working in partnership with the national OWL office, is the voice of midlife and older women. For the past 30 years, OWL members have made important and lasting improvements in midlife and older women's lives through groundbreaking reports and studies, testimony before congressional committees and the state legislature, national grassroots campaigns and targeted public educational programs and coalitions spearheaded by local chapters and members.

A gift to the OWL-CA Endowment Fund is indeed a gift that will keep on giving. If you're interested or would like more information about the OWL-CA Endowment Fund, please contact the OWL-CA office at (916) 444- 2526.

NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY REPORT FAITH* FAMILY* WOMAN POWER

From the red state feminist blog *By Red State Gal* Submitted by Margie Metzler

The OWLs and the Catfood Commission
Red State Feminists were fighting mad to hear

the chairmen of Obama's Deficit Commission state their policy preferences with regard to trimming the federal deficit. Not for naught is this commission nicknamed the "Catfood Commission," for the elderly in America, especially elderly women, will all be eating catfood if the chairmen's preferences are implemented. This commission is the real Death Panel of which we should all be very wary. So who are these guys, what are they advocating, and what's Obama's take on this? The guys in question are the co-chairmen Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles. They are speaking in advance of their 18 member commission voting on what proposals they will endorse. So first off, it's important to note that the policies recommended in the recent **press** conference are merely those of Simpson and Bowles, and not the product of the commission itself. Second, it's also important to note that only 3 of the 18 members of the commission are women. Given that women will arguably be hardest hit by the Simpson-Bowles recommendations, this underrepresentation is unconscionable. That's worse representation than women have in Congress, at a measly 16%. And third, it's important to note who Simpson and Bowles are. As one online commentator ("Allan") from Rochester, New York wryly noted, Simpson is a former senator, the son of a senator, born with a silver spoon in his mouth and currently enjoying a Congressional pension with mandated health care. Erskine Bowles is a member of Morgan Stanley's and GM's board of directors, paid the better part of a half million dollars a year. You may remember that Morgan Stanley was one of the big actors in the financial debacles of our current recession.

What are Simpson and Bowles advocating? Many things, not all which are bad. But let's look specifically at the social safety net, the provision of which is the mark of a civilized society that values life. The proposals include: Capping catastrophic and long-term care amounts under Medicare; Raising the retirement age to 69; Reducing cost-of-living increases for retirees; and, Cutting benefits for anyone with average wage earnings over their lifetime of more than \$36,000.

¹ Low-income Women and their Families," May 2010.

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2008 American Community Survey

The irony is just so rich. First the financial wizards such as Bowles wipe out our retirement savings with their shenanigans, and then they tell us we aren't saving enough for retirement and therefore we deserve to have our safety net benefits cut in order to trim the deficit! And this even though the funds that **pay** for Social Security are separate from the federal budget and its deficits. And Simpson—we can only guess that as long as his Congressional pension and health care are safe, he's won't be affected by what he's advocating, and thus feels free to shred others' safety nets.

Red State Feminists insist that an OWL be made a co-chair of this commission, and that fully 50% of its members be women, preferably mothers. What is an OWL? A member of the **Older Women's League**, known as OWL. Leaders of OWL, such as Ellen Bruce, a past president, have pointed out that **when you mess with Social Security, you mess with women**, because 46% of elderly American women (widows primarily) rely on Social Security for 90% of their income. In fact, the greatest risk factor for being poor in old age is to have been a mother. The financial hit that women take when they become mothers translates into far lower Social Security payments when older, and women have longer life expectancies than men. Furthermore, most part-time jobs, which women tend to take while their children are young and in school, do not provide for any pensions at all. If you hit Social Security, you hit women the hardest. And so we ask again, how come a woman was not a co-chair of this commission? How come women were not 50% of this commission's membership?

Despite what some politicians and pundits would have you believe, Social Security is no entitlement—Social Security was bought and paid for by the Social Security taxes that get taken out of each one of our paychecks, no matter how small. For many women, it is all they will have to live on, all that will keep them from living in the street. But apparently to Mr. Simpson and Mr. Bowles, such women are

simply invisible and are of no importance at all. These men have no conception of what it must be like to be an elderly woman on a tiny fixed income. They have no conception of what it must be to **eat** cat food. Wealthy, privileged men have no right to pontificate over the fate of Social Security.

Simpson once derided Social Security as a milk-cow with 310 million tits. Perhaps we should cut off the tit he's drinking from—his Congressional pension, his Congressional health care. Perhaps if he lived life like the rest of us, he would have a clearer view of what seems obvious to Red State Feminists: Social Security should be a debt of honor payable first and foremost to those who provide the unpaid caregiving labor that keeps our families and our economy afloat through thick and thin—the mothers of our country.

And President Obama? He's been unaccountably mute over the Simpson-Bowles proposals. He hasn't even acknowledged the effect these recommendations would have on women. This is ironic, since Obama painted himself as a champion of women, even establishing the State Department Office of Global Women's Issues. Well, there's a women's issue much closer to home, Mr. President, and it's time the women of America heard you stand up and tell Messrs. Simpson and Bowles that you will not countenance sentencing the mothers of America to even greater penury in their old age. Michelle, it's time to take him out to the woodshed and knock some sense into him!

By: **Red State Gal Source:**

Margie Metzler

Don't miss *Inside Job*, the Movie!

'Inside Job' provides a comprehensive analysis of the global financial crisis of 2008, which at a cost over \$20 trillion, caused millions of people to lose their jobs and homes in the worst recession since the Great Depression, and nearly resulted in a global financial collapse. Through exhaustive research and extensive interviews with key financial insiders, politicians, journalists, and academics, the film traces the rise of a rogue industry which has corrupted politics, regulation, and academia. It was made on location in the United States, Iceland, England, France, Singapore, and China. Written by [Anonymous](#)



Margie Metzler, Website Manager

**NATIONAL OWL AT-LARGE REPORT
Submitted by Shirley Harlan**

As you know I will not be on the National Board. I have truly enjoyed my trips to Washington DC and serving with other wonderful OWLs across the country. However I still have assignments.

With board member Linnett Kinchen, we have been accepted for a session at the ASA (American Society on Aging) in San Francisco in April, 2011. Our topic is **Women Like You Make the World Better for All Women.** It deals with the challenges facing today's women that are so very much different from our founders' day of OWL. We will present a panel discussion highlighting our organization that is at the forefront of policy issues that have made life long impacts on women's issues and current efforts to develop community partnerships through its chapters and members at large to serve the diversity of women. We hope to inform others about OWL's national grassroots organization and discuss those policies around age and gender issues. If you would like to participant on the panel and have stories and ideas on this subject, please contact me.

The beautiful blue and gold owl is hooting! She is so regal and wise peering and observing my activities at this computer. I feel

very honored to receive the Golden OWL AWARD for 2010. Thank you. I was slowing down while I adjusted to the new pacemaker but now my wise observer is critical and wants more action. Keep working on our agenda! And I hoot back, I will!



Evie Kosower awarding Shirley Harlan the Golden OWL-CA Award

I WILL

***I will do more than belong—I will participate
I will do more than care—I will help
I will do more than be fair—I will be kind
I will do more than forgive—I will forget
I will do more than dream—I will work
I will do more than teach—I will inspire
I will do more than earn—I will enrich
I will do more than give—I will serve
I will do more than live—I will grow
I will do more than be friendly—I will be a friend***

Anonymous

OWL--THE VOICE OF MIDLIFE AND OLDER WOMEN



Ain't she sweet? Congratulations to Shirley Harlan on receiving the Annual Golden OWL Award!

Our 2010 Council Meeting is

over, and it was a big success. Our three days were full of activities. On Friday, Roberta Battle and Kathleen Lane conducted a state Public Policy meeting, and we voted on our November 2010 Ballot Proposition recommendations. We also devoted time to discuss our goals and our financial future. This meeting, chaired by Clare Ahern, featured a proposal to purchase and install a financial accounting system so that we can be in compliance with accepted financial methods. Friday ended with a lovely wine and cheese reception and short films afterwards.

Saturday we heard from Bruce Chernof, M.D, President and C.E.O., The SCAN Foundation (<http://www.thescanfoundation.org/>), who discussed the CLASS Act, which is part of the Health Reform Legislation. To read the press release: <http://www.thescanfoundation.org/press-releases/scan-foundation-highlights-opportunities-improve-california%E2%80%99s-long-term-services->

We were treated to an exercise session by Ann Connolly, followed by Anthony Wright, Director, Health Access, talking about state health legislation. A delicious buffet lunch followed,

courtesy of National OWL. Afternoon speakers were Dr. Laurie Young, "Our Legacy Past," presentation of the Golden OWL Award to Shirley Harlan, and sessions on Social Security and Diabetes. The highlight of the council meeting was the Banquet honoring Betty Perry, Legislative Director, OWL-CA. Betty was resplendent, and the luminaries included Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Congresswoman Jackie Speier (who appeared earlier in the day), Assembly member Mariko Yamada, candidate for Assembly Roger Dickenson, Susan McKee, Bill Powers, Jodi Reid, Frances Gracechild, Anthony Wright, and finally, Betty spoke. Attendees received copies of Betty's memory book, *Honoring Betty Perry*. You can view or download the book at <http://www.owlca.org/documents/betty.pdf>.
Submitted by Margie Metzler



Laurie Young and Betty Perry at dinner honoring Betty's years of faithful service to OWL



Congresswoman Jackie Speier came to honor Betty Perry

BRAIN STORMING: A NEW LOOK AT SINGLE PAYER

Submitted by Carolyn Negrete

As a continuing dialogue of conversation that began at the Annual Council meeting to test our outreach and membership building skills, I think we should all see this as preliminary thinking. Here is an issue that is very dear to all of us and could serve as a straw man to check this against. That is Leno's single payer legislation. He announced that he will be introducing this at the very beginning of the year, with the possibility of it going to the Governor by the end of session 2011 I can see a central office with computer capacity being very important in developing both material and in tracking goals like presentations, membership, active members, what have you. And, of course, that our new Co-presidents, Joyce and Mary, will have something that will work for them.

I say, let's embrace and encourage this beehive of ideas, hold back on some criticisms, and see what happens. We should also look at what our allies are doing and maximize targeted coalition effort.

WOMEN IN PRISON

Submitted by Shirley Harlan

For several years, I have been corresponding with our OWL member in California Institution for Women (CIW), Jane Benson. Her latest communication continues to describe worsening experiences in the daily lives of the Golden Girls since Warden Garcia was assigned after the retirement of Warden Dawn Davison. The new rules at CIW are probably related to budget cutbacks. Jane writes that in order to get her medication, she is forced to wait in lines routed in longer distances and scheduled in such a manner that meals are missed. There is much concern that wheel chairs and walkers will be removed. Jane has multiple medical problems recently recovering from a broken hip. She is still waiting to hear if her appeal for release thru the court is granted. Jane's accomplishments during her incarceration have motivated her to keep

contact with the outside world. There are many more aging women like Jane in CIW.

Holding elderly prisoners is a waste. In May 2009 OWL/CA delivered a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger urging him to release those eligible women deemed by his parole board to no longer be a risk. We have not seen much action.

In September I received a very informative 3 page letter from Donna Jelenic, W-20077, chairperson of the Golden Girls Organization at CIW discerning that the most successful ex-prisoners when paroled are those who have served LIFE or LWOP (Life without the Possibility of Parole). The females have almost 0% recidivism rate. She writes about Medical Savings, justification and current statistics that will help us to better advocate for incarcerated seniors fight for release/freedom when we contact the governor's office and others.

I urge chapters and members at large to keep active on this issue. At your gathering pass the pen around and let Jane know what your world is like. Send the letter to Jane Benson, W28860, EB517L CIW, 16756 Chino Corona Road, Corona, CA 02880-9508. She will share your bridge of sisterly concern with the other 100 or more women 55 and older. Let us keep our OWL sister informed about our activities.

For program and/or information the following may be helpful:

www.crjw.us: www.getonthebus.us;
www.crossover.us and www.familyexpress.us;
the book, *Orange is the New Black* by Piper Kerman; or Shirley Harlan vldy@aol.com for a copy of Donna Jelenic's letter.

She who knows, and knows not she knows

She is asleep—wake her

She who knows not, and knows not she knows not

She is a fool—shun her

She who knows not and knows she knows not--

She is a child—teach her

She who knows and knows she knows—

She is wise—follow her

Arabian Proverb

CHAPTER REPORTS

Ohlone/East Bay Chapter Report

Submitted by Mary Lembke

Our annual summer potluck get together was held at the home of Joyce Kamian. We proudly shared our new brochures, using the National OWL brochure as a model, using chapter specific photos, and an insert with membership form. We also distributed OWL National's new report on "End of Life Issues: Who Decides?".

Our September meeting was held in Oakland. Our presenter was Meg Bowman of the Santa Clara Chapter. After a brief business meeting, Meg did a cloning ceremony for one of our members, recognizing her as a **crone**, a wise older woman. The Rossmoor Peer Group of Ohlone/East Bay co-sponsored a forum on Health Reform in October with the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. Their League is interested in cosponsoring other events with us. The Peer group also held a Town Hall meeting on Nov. 14, presented by CARA, on Social Security as it is being considered by the Federal Budget Deficit Commission. Jodi Reid and Paul Kleyman, both experts in the field spoke.

Five members of our Board attended the OWL Annual meeting in Sacramento. Ohlone member, Chris Shields, daughter of co-founder of OWL, Laurie Shields, has written a thoughtful letter to OWL-CA to remind us of our tradition of honoring the contributions of time and effort made by members of OWL. It was based on the premise that women ought to receive just compensation for their work.

SAN DIEGO REPORT JUNE – OCTOBER

Submitted by Evie Kosower

Our meeting topic in June was "Mental Health Is Ageless". We also tabled at San Diego's biannual Aging Summit. July's presentation was on "Nobel Women, Then and Now", bringing us to date with a current group of Nobel Peace Prize winners, women around the globe who are uniting in an effort to shape a future that is more egalitarian, just and

peaceful. A documentary, "Women in America." which was produced by two of our members, was viewed and followed by discussion in September. In October, OWLSD had a table at the "End of Life Conference" put on by San Diego's Aging and Independent Services. Along with other OWL information, we highlighted National's Mother's Day Report 2010 recommendations on the topic, which were copied and distributed.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CHAPTER REPORT

Submitted by Rosemary Bacy

In June and July we held our last meetings at Cypress Gardens in the community room of a senior housing complex. The June speaker discussed housing options for seniors, both traditional and innovative. The July meeting was hosted by our partner WILPF. Lois Fiedler spoke about Corporate Personhood, a decision by the Supreme Court, which gave corporations the same rights as citizens and has led to many abuses.

The September meeting was the first to be held at our new location, the First Unitarian Church in downtown San Jose. The topic was "The Truth about Health Reform and What it Will Mean to You". The presenter was Ellen Shaffer, from the Center for Policy Analysis; she had done a similar program for San Francisco OWL in June.

The September meeting had a larger than usual attendance, mostly because of personal connections with the speaker. The October meeting, on benefits of pet ownership, had fewer attendees; we have some concern that the new location is not working for everyone..

CAPITOL CHAPTER FOR 2010

Submitted by Joyce Miller, Chapter Representative

Our chapter so far has had a good year. We have gained six new members. In January we had a meeting on hospital discharge with an accompanying skit by CARA. In February Lenny Goldberg, local lobbyist and tax consultant, spoke on California budget issues. In March we had panel discussing alternative

housing options, and several intriguing ideas were introduced, including some on creating your own community. Several chapter members attended a retirement party for Bill Powers of CARA, OWL, and several other organizations, long known as a denizen of the Capitol.

We had reports on changes in Medicare from the new federal health plan. OWL Mother's Day cards were distributed in April, dedicated to the Elder Economic Dignity Act, which would require area agencies on aging in California to use the Elder Index in developing federally mandated area plans instead of the very old federal formula based on three times the price of food. On April 1, we cosponsored a celebratory event with Congresswoman Matsui of Sacramento following passage and signing of the Health Care Bill. At our April chapter meeting on pensions and retirement issues, we had representatives of CalPERS, CalSTRS, and the Pension Project. In May we had a panel on mental health. In June we had a joint meeting with Gray Panthers on Social Security and Medicare, with member Margie Metzler presiding.

In July it was decided to start next year on support and letters on bills. In August we had our annual picnic at the Kletzing's' home. Also in August some of us volunteered to take calls at PBS channel 6. Some of us attended a celebration of the 75th anniversary of women's suffrage at the Capitol. Margie will send everyone a copy of the CARA tracking report on bills to help us follow them. In September we had a very interesting presentation on transportation challenges in Sacramento with speakers from "Ridership for the Masses," [Paratransit](#) Mobility Resources, and what to do when you lose your license.

In October we cancelled our membership meeting, which was scheduled for the Saturday of the annual meeting of OWL-CA. We were looking forward to our November meeting, where we are planning an annual meeting on Social Security and Medicare. Our member Margie Metzler has kept us up to date on developments in that struggle and e-mails us relevant articles and urges us to contact our representatives in Congress.

San Francisco Chapter Report

Submitted by Nan McGuire

With an eye towards gaining new members through the programs we offer, we hosted several that drew large numbers. One that was repeated by at least two other chapters was the program that focused on the status of Health Care Reform legislation conducted with LWV, Grey Panthers, SAN and EQUAL as co-sponsors. There were over 60 people who came to hear Ellen Shaffer and Herb Schultz present an excellent distillation of what lies ahead as a result of this legislation. It was one of our most energizing programs of the year.

Another focused on local and state propositions/initiatives with four from the local level and two from the state. The latter were the two propositions on redistricting, with a Common Cause representative presenting. The local initiatives drew many union representatives who were present to urge no votes on two hotly contested issues.

A decision to hold a straw poll vote on each issue proved to be very popular. Only OWL members were allowed to vote and one member of the audience, who is an active Gray Panther member, quickly dug out \$50 from his jeans pockets and joined on the spot so he could vote. As the saying goes, whatever works!

MINUTES OF ANNUAL OWL-CA COUNCIL MEETING 1Nov.11-13, 2010

Submitted by Rosemary Bacy

Attending: Ruth Kletzing, Margie Metzler, Roberta Battle, Ida Curtice, Joyce Miller, Glenda Cheesman, Audrey Barth, Jan Vandre, Joan Hunnicutt, Carolyn Negrete, L.R. Roberts, Clare Smith Ahern, Kathleen Lane from Sacramento; Evie Kosower, Thelma Curran, Bonnie Graham, Jean Stein, Jim Carr, Peggy Finch, Shirley Ferrill from San Diego; Eleanor Luce, Joyce Klein Kamian, Mary Lembke,, Christine Shields, Ellen Doerfer, Nancy Samson from Ohlone East Bay; Rosemary Bacy, Santa Clara/San Francisco; Laurie Young, Ohlone/Sacramento; Shirley Harlan, At-Large

PUBLIC POLICY MEETING OCT 11

Roberta Battle, State Public Policy Chair,

distributed and reviewed folders containing guides on citizen advocacy, Social Security, and the California State budget, useful for chapter members and for tabling.

Clare Smith Ahern described other information related to national public policy, including the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Affordable Care Act. She also recommended "Healthcare Hits Main Street", a video on YouTube, and a website, unsilentgeneration.com as useful resources.

Margie Metzler stated that OWL is working harder on the Social Security issues, than other organizations. Kathleen Lane said that OWL should work more on public policy and select specific issues to focus on.

Clare reported on the grant-writing workshop held in August. She said that OWL-CA would need better evidence of financial management if we are to be successful in getting grants. She listed current accomplishments—the website, newsletter, council meetings, advocacy, coalition participants and Mother's Day program. Our current membership in California is 470, with 344 in chapters and 126 at large. She reviewed our financial picture, and recommended converting to an electronic system, "Quick Books" which would enable development of an operating budget and improved record keeping, or contracting out the bookkeeping. Nancy Morton of Health Access has been helping to improve our financial management. Membership data also needs upgrading. Revenue for 2010 was not available.

Executive Committee also met 10/15. Members of the Deming committee reported on use of grant monies. It has enhanced chapter membership by getting updated brochures, meeting space rental, printing flyers for tabling events, and advertising, and developing a chapter website. There was discussion on the purchase of QuickBooks, and staffing the OWL-CA office, But the decision was left to Council on Sunday.

The Nominating Committee reported on a slate of officers for 2011:

- Co-Chairs:** Joyce Klein Kamian & Mary Lembke (Ohlone)
- Vice President, North:** Ida Curtice (Sacramento)
- Vice President, South:** Shirley Ferrill (San Diego)
- Corresponding Secretary:** Rosemary Bacy (Santa Clara)
- Recording Secretaries:** Joyce Miller & Audrey Barth (Capitol)
- Treasurer:** Glenda Cheesman (Capitol)

Joyce Kamian and Mary Lembke said they would not serve as co-presidents unless the OWL-CA office was staffed.

A "Speak Out" was chaired by Ida Curtice.



**MINUTES OF SUNDAY, OCT. 13
MEETING WITH RACHEL MICHELIN,
FACILITATOR** Submitted by Rosemary Bacy
(See the complete text of the minutes on our website)

The meeting started with a brief background of Rachel Michelin, Executive Director/CEO of CA Women Lead, a 36 year old, nonpartisan, nonprofit association committed to encouraging women to be leaders in their community. Michelin gave an overview of the political situation in Sacramento in terms of advocacy. With term limits and new district lines to be drawn for the 2012 election, it is increasingly harder to have a presence in Sacramento without Betty Perry's visibility, and to maintain an office without Betty Perry and Jan Vandre's vital volunteer presence. Michelin's charge was to facilitate bringing OWL-CA members together and moving forward. It was a very productive meeting and a good first step in making the clarifications needed to help the organization grow and thrive.

Action Items with point person for each:

1. STRATEGIC PLAN-Clare Smith Ahern

Draft a comprehensive strategic plan and distribute it to OWL-CA Council members for comment and approval.

2. OPERATING PROCEDURES/POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE Joyce Kamian

Draft comprehensive operating procedure manual including checks and balances on the business operations

3. JOB DESCRIPTIONS/HIRING Procedures

Carolyn Negrette

Draft job descriptions that complement the operating procedures

4. COMMUNICATION -

Nan Mcguire/Rosemary Bacy

Draft comprehensive communication plan

5. ADVOCACY Kathie Piccagli

Draft outreach plan including training to reach policy makers

6. MEMBERSHIP Shirley Harlan

Draft on how to raise membership and increase diversity

This road map is for comment by statewide leaders, with follow-up meeting/conference call before adoption and implementation.

Minutes of May council meeting were not available and will be mailed. Treasurer's report was read. Of the remainder of the Deming fund, there was no agreement whether or not it is earmarked for the chapters.

Many suggestions were made about strengthening OWL-CA's lobbying, to involve the chapters more and to share responsibility in lobbying the state legislature, with chapters building relationships with district offices.

CARA does advocacy training and has invited local OWL's to participate.

The OWL-CA office needs better organization, a budget is essential as the basis of an action plan, and we need an audit, in order for the Council to take action on spending limited funds.

It was M/S/P to double the funds for National Board Representatives to attend National Board meetings in Washington at their request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Roberta Battle, on Public Policy, stated that IHSS needs our support, as Governor Schwarzenegger has targeted it for cuts.

Joyce Kamian reported the Policy Review Manual needs updating. It was M/S/P that the Laurie Shields Fund disbursements limit be raised from \$100 to \$200.

Ellen Doerfer from the Communications Committee announced the deadline for submission of reports and articles is November 19, 2010.

Joyce Miller, Membership committee made several suggestions for publicizing OWL and increasing membership: giving memberships as gifts, joining The League of Women Voters, speaking at meetings of other organizations, and writing personal letter to legislators. New members should be nurtured, and not left on their own. **Clare Smith** would like more members on the Budget and Finance Committee.

Old Business

Discussion on paying staff to operate the OWL-CA office. It was M/S/P to pay two staff persons a total of \$1300/month for three months to handle deposits, and performing staff tasks and the duties that Janet Vandre previously did. This will be revisited at the January Council meeting.

New Business

Next OWL-CA Council will meet January 22-23, 2011 in San Jose. The following meeting will be June 11-12, 2011 in Oakland. **ALL OWL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND COUNCIL MEETINGS!** There was no decision on whether to hold a Mother's Day at the Capitol in 2011, a tradition we have had for many years.