

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

*Reports from
Directors on
year-long
activities*

League of Women Voters of Fresno



Call

to the 78th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Stone Soup Community Room

1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno

***** \$25 per person includes *****

Business Meeting 10 a.m.

Program * 11:15

Lipton Award * Ruth Gadebusch

Andrew Janz * Voter Protection Project

Catered Luncheon



NAME _____

How Many _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Please cut this out and mail your reservation with check by April 18

to Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710

Thank you! Need more info? Call Patty at 472-3018

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

- 10:00 Business Meeting
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Lipton Award and Keynote Speaker
- Noon Luncheon



BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order (quorum equals 10% or 15)
2. Introductions
3. Rules of the Day
4. Appointment of Reading Committee
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Recognition of Past Presidents
7. Membership Report
8. Portfolio Reports
9. Adoption of 2019/2020 Budget
10. Review of 2019/2020 State & Local Priorities
11. Election of Officers and Directors
12. Appointment of 2020 Nominating Committee
13. Instructions to the LWVF 2019/2020 Board
14. Instructions to our delegates to LWVC Convention
15. Adjournment to Speaker and Lunch

RULES OF THE DAY



Debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker.

No speaker shall speak twice until all who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so.

The speakers should address remarks to the Chair and should limit remarks to the question.

The Chair may delegate another member to answer.

Only members in good standing (dues paid to date) may vote.

Motions to consider non-recommended program items may be entertained only if they have fulfilled the bylaw requiring Board approval two months prior to the Annual Meeting.

and the Lipton Award goes to...

Ruth Gadebusch

Ruth Gadebusch is an outstanding person to win the Lipton Award in memory of Werner Lipton, who was known for community activism and was the husband of our member Joan Lipton.

Ruth graduated from then Georgia State College for Women. She became a naval officer stationed in San Francisco. She volunteered mostly for the American Association of University Women.

She moved to Fresno in 1961 and with three children immediately became involved in the PTA, eventually serving on the state board. She transferred her AAUW membership to Fresno and became president of the 800 member branch.

Ruth also served on the YWCA board, was President of the Women's Symphony League and Fresno Community Council in the seventies. She was elected four times to the Fresno Unified Board of Education. During her terms she dealt with desegregating the schools and ousting a superintendent. The latter led to a recall of her and two other women on the board; eventually that superintendent was convicted of misappropriating public funds in another district.

Continuing her work in education she was President of the Association of California Urban School Districts, served on the California School Boards Association and was vice president of the California Commission for Teacher Credentialing. She served on the Board of the Center for Civic Education for almost three decades.

In recent years she has concentrated on the National Women's Political Caucus from local to national levels. She served as the moderator of the Big Red Church and once again she is serving on that board.

CCLS

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Executive Director

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EDUCATION **LWVF PRIORITY

by Kay Bertken



This has been a productive year for the Education Committee. We finished our report on charter schools operating in the Fresno area. It has been distributed widely to other Leagues, elected officials, the charter schools themselves and

to school administrators in Fresno County in an effort to inform charter school discussion in the context of a local experience. We have responded to an invitation by the State League to submit a proposal for a charter school position to be considered at this year's state convention. We developed a position based on the concerns we noted in our local report. We had an opinion piece published on the topic in the Fresno Bee, a letter to the editor in the New York Times and have made a presentation to the Clovis Democratic Club.

We continue to be active members of The Children's Movement (TCM), which is a broad coalition of community non-profits, education and government agencies working to improve the lives of children in this community. We have been working with a TCM committee to develop and implement a program for improving kindergarten attendance, an issue related to overall success in school.

We are also active in the Fresno County Civic Education Partnership, a group of educators, members of the legal community and non-profits that is working to promote education for citizenship. In that effort it is sponsoring a number of engagement initiatives in schools around the county. It is also promoting a graduation recognition to be given to seniors who have been active participants in their communities. We have engaged the Partnership, the Bonner Center for Character and Civic Education, and the Ethics Center at Fresno State to join us in the selection of one or two local high school teachers to attend an all-expense paid Harvard workshop on incorporating case studies from American history into their civics, government and history classes. Selection for this workshop has been handed off to Leagues around the country.

We continue to attend Fresno Unified Trustee meetings and report on them in the Voter. We have met with two of the three new trustees to introduce ourselves and determine their interests in serving the students in our area.

HOUSING **LWVF PRIORITY

by Nyla Zender



The Affordable Housing Committee listened to a variety of presentations including the City General Plan Housing Element, a non-profit group that addresses problems of low-income people (including housing), a small-scale affordable housing builder, the author of the Fresno Bee series "Living in Misery", the Housing Authority and others. We also did extensive research on cities or communities across the nation that had success in filling affordable needs.

We followed progress in the implementation of the Rental Housing Improvement Act. It took some time for the process to begin. We discussed the program with one of those responsible for the process and he explained how the inspections were proceeding and some of the results of the completed inspections.

We met with Patience Milrod of Central California Legal Services. She was asked to help in organizing the inspection process, and she explained some of the reasons for the delay in implementation.

In April two committee members were invited by Keith Bergthold (Metro Ministry) to attend a workshop sponsored by the Fresno Community and Economic Development Partnership entitled Lower Cost Alternatives to House Those in Need. Contributors include Habitat for Humanity, the Housing Authority and others.

We hope to find out what state funds Fresno will get and who will oversee the application of the funds to get the most housing for every dollar spent to provide for families in need. We plan to meet with the mayor and city council members to get their thoughts on building affordable housing in Fresno.

THANKS TO OUR 2018-19 ADVERTISERS

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Joan Lipton
Patience Milrod/Central CA Legal Services
Nielson Physical Therapy
Alice and Frank Powell
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President's Message

by Marianne Kast

2018-2019

The past year has been a blur of activity for our Fresno League. Three elections, several lunch-n-learns, a candidates' forum, a visit from Helen Hutchison, two ballot initiatives (local parks, and statewide prop 13 revision), one completed study (Charter Schools) and the privilege of honoring Curt Thornton (2018 Lipton Awardee) and Rei Hotoda (Womens Equality Day awardee) all highlighted the year.

Additionally, we collaborated with like-minded organizations on local housing and the Fresno County General Plan, and don't forget the California State Supreme Court decision in our favor in the Friant Ranch case. We visited local legislators, and made the Valley's water needs known to the League statewide.

Of course, we also registered voters, talked to students about voting, oversaw the ASI election at Fresno State, spoke to numerous groups about ballot initiatives, weighed in on the County's decision to adopt the Voter's Choice Act for future elections, and attended a slew

of public meetings nearly every week of the year.

We made a concerted effort to involve more League members in our work and to reach more potential members. Our website and Facebook page are updated often and we've begun to send a weekly email newsletter. Our membership has grown some this year, and we are looking for ways to get more of our members involved with the work we do.

Last month at Program Planning we chose three priorities for the coming year. Committees are already working on Early Education from Zero to Five, Climate Change, and Get-Out-the-Vote.

Later this month at our Annual Meeting, our Directors will give you an idea of the work they're planning to do in the coming year. I hope you'll sign-up for one of these new committees or agree to work on one of our long-standing projects. We are strengthened significantly by each member who actively joins in our League work. - *Marianne*

Natural Resources/Land Use

by Radley Reep

LWVF through its Natural Resources Committee continued to focus on Fresno County land use planning — with both negative and positive results to report.

With regard to the County's General Plan, in January 2018, the League learned that the Board of Supervisors would not honor the League's request for a hearing to clarify the public process for updating the plan, a process begun in 2005.

That same month, the County released a draft update of the plan, which will govern land use for the next two decades — from 2020 to 2040. In May, the League put the County on notice that it had not provided an opportunity for the public to comment on the planning needs and challenges for those two decades.

The following month, the League began hosting regular meetings of a network of organizations concerned about the lack of transparency in the update process, and on December 4, those same organizations again requested a public hearing to clarify the review process. The Board chose not to respond. Later this year, the County will release a freshly revised draft plan along with an accompanying Environmental Impact Report(EIR).

(continued on page 6)

LEAGUE SPONSORED EVENTS 2018-2019

- April 2018 annual meeting: City Council election panel
- Sponsored trip to workshop on Civil Discourse in Visalia
- Lunch & Learn on Climate Change
- Board Retreat in July
- Women's Equality Day celebration honoring Rei Hotoda.
- Lunch & Learn on transportation
- Lunch & Learn presentation by Independent Police Auditor
- Program Planning meeting
- Ballot openings and phone bank for elections

Pat Campbell, Director, Program Planning

Voter Services

by Liz Shields

The big news for voters this year is that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors passed a motion adopting the Voter Choice Act model for 2020 elections. Brandi Orth, the County Clerk, told the Board that the current equipment which is about 20 years old needs to be replaced due to lack of available spare parts and the need to upgrade it based on new requirements issued by the Secretary of State's Office.

This gives the Elections Department less than a year to purchase equipment and have it up and running before the March 2020 Presidential Primary. Voters need to be educated



about the new system and League members will be available to help.

Our members and their friends have been very supportive of our work assisting the Elections Department this past year. For the June Primary election many League members and friends provided over 583 hours of work for the Elections Department by helping unfold ballots, staffing the phone bank and helping with the CANVASS.

For the Statewide General Election in November 48 League members and friends provided work that added up to an astounding 963 hours of work for the Elections Department during October and November.

In March 2019 we were asked to help unfold ballots and staff the phone bank for the local District 2 Supervisorial election, Clovis City Council election and the Coalinga City Referendum. There will likely be another local special election to fill Councilman Brandau's seat representing District 2 on Fresno City Council later in the year.

We also helped register voters at local high schools and retirement homes prior to each election. In addition seven presentations were made on the pros and cons of the eleven ballot propositions on the November ballot.

Water News

by Diane Merrill



The LWVF water activities have included participation in local groundwater sustainability planning, and representing our area on the LWVC Water Committee.

Our local groundwater planning activities are focused on the Kings Groundwater Sub-basin in the eastern valley area of Fresno County where most Fresno County residents live. Groundwater basins in the Southern San Joaquin Valley, including the Kings, are critically overdrafted and are required to develop and submit detailed groundwater sustainability plans to the State by January 2020. The goal is to stabilize and improve groundwater supply and quality in our area over a 40 year planning horizon. Public participation in this process is important. League members have been attending the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency Advisory Committee meetings, and five League members attended a workshop at CSU Fresno to learn how to engage in groundwater sustainability planning.

The LWVC Water Committee makes recommendations to LWVC on legislation and policies regarding the management of California water resources. LWVF is an active participant in monthly Water Committee conference calls, providing input on groundwater, water quality, rural/agricultural issues, and other matters of local importance. LWVF's input has made a difference in LWVC's continued focus on finding a statewide solution for rural disadvantaged communities that lack access to safe and affordable drinking water. LWVF also informed the Water Committee of the importance of water from the Kings River for direct use and for groundwater recharge in Fresno, Tulare, and Kings Counties.

LWVC policy positions prefer groundwater recharge projects over the building of new on-stream dams. With LWVF input, the Water Committee agreed not to endorse a proposal from a Kern County water district to use State bond funding to divert and transport water from the Kings River for recharge groundwater in Kern County, which is outside the Kings River Watershed. This project would have been devastating for water users in Fresno, Kings, and Tulare Counties, and was later disqualified for State bond funding.

Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans

Most important is the day-to-day treatment and support provided to clients needing behavioral health services, including the following programs:

Crisis Intervention Training

A collaborative program with the Fresno Police Department. Five officers and mental health clinicians are co-located and respond to calls received related to mental and behavioral health. Clinicians assist officers in evaluation of individuals and de-escalation of volatile situations.

Multi-Agency Access Program

A collaborative with other agencies to link individuals with any services they might need to improve their lives, including physical and/or mental health treatment, treatment for substance use disorders, and housing. Though many individuals served are homeless, this program is not exclusively for chronically homeless people

Housing

Working with Board and Care operators the department is seeking to expand, not only the number of available homes, but also the types of services provided to clients needing a high level of care. Room and Board homes are being held to a higher standard, and soon there will be a rating system in place to distinguish the quality of homes. Permanent supportive

housing is a high priority for the Task Force, as well as for the community; to date, none has been added to the inventory in Fresno County.

Suicide Prevention Collaborative

This group has been spearheaded by DBH to develop a community-wide plan to address the prevention of suicide. Teen suicide has been of particular concern, but the collaborative includes all at-risk groups, including veterans and older adults. The collaborative is working with schools, and has developed a web site fresnocares.org to provide information to the community.

The BHB has made the following recommendations for 2018 based on its members' observations and input from the community:

- ◆ Create a system to educate and inform families of behavioral health services and how to access them
- ◆ Establish specific services for families with children under 18 who need inpatient services
- ◆ Move forward with a permanent supportive housing project available to all clients of DBH.
- ◆ Establish an employment program with job development, job placement, and job coaching to assist individuals with behavioral health disorders find and keep jobs
- ◆ Support SB 906 regarding certification for peer providers of mental health and substance use disorder services

Land Use

(continued from page 4)

Now for the good news. On December 24, 2018, the California Supreme Court unanimously issued a landmark ruling in favor of public-interest appellants Sierra Club and League, bringing to a close a 7-year legal challenge of the County's approval of the 2,500-unit Friant Ranch housing project.

The Supreme Court ruling held that EIRs must explain the nature and magnitude of a project's significant air pollution on public health in a way that the public can understand.

The Court ordered the County to set aside its approval of the project and to redo the air quality section of the EIR. Once that environmental work is done, the Board of Supervisors is expected to reapprove the project.

	2018-2019	2019-2020	
	Adopted	Actual	Proposed
4010 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	7,900.00	9,275.00	9,000.00
4020 · DONATIONS	2,000.00	456.00	1,000.00
4040 · ANNUAL MTG INCOME	1,000.00	673.00	1,000.00
4070 · UNDERWRITING	700.00	300.00	900.00
4080 · VOTER SERVICES	6,000.00	17,693.27	2,500.00
4100 · Other Income	1,500.00	1,611.00	1,500.00
	19,100.00	30,008.27	15,900.00
5010 · PMP/CA/US	7,530.00	7,661.00	7,730.00
5030 · DUES/OTHER ORGS	250.00	100.00	100.00
5110 · EDUCATION PROGRAM PRIORITIES	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
5111 BOARD/MEMBER EDUCATION	500.00	0.00	0.00
5120 · VOTER SERVICES/VOTER'S EDGE	400.00	480.00	400.00
5210 · ANNUAL MTG EXPENSE	700.00	366.00	500.00
5230 · NAT'L/STATE CONVENTION	2,200.00	1,893.92	1,500.00
5250 OTHER CONFERENCES		325.00	325.00
5310 · BOARD EXPENSE	100.00	0.00	100.00
5320 · EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	100.00	0.00	100.00
5330 · FILING FEES	100.00	39.95	100.00
5340 · LIABILITY INSURANCE	220.00	400.00	220.00
5350 · MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES	500.00	1,158.00	750.00
5360 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	500.00	101.35	150.00
5370 · POSTAGE	350.00	623.00	625.00
5380 · PRINTING	3,200.00	2,182.09	2,500.00
5390 · RENT	4,550.00	4,200.00	4,550.00
5410 · STUDENT UNIT	100.00	0.00	100.00
5420 · TELEPHONE	450.00	381.75	450.00
5430 · WEBSITE LEW	350.00	478.80	350.00
5520 LEGAL FEES	0.00	2,784.16	1,000.00
5530 · Bank/PayPal Fees	20.00	4.00	20.00
5540 · Professional Services	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
	23,120.00	33,179.02	21,570.00
	4,020.00	9,964.37	5,670.00
	0.00	6,793.62	0.00

**Proposed
Budget**

2019 — 2020

**Terri Figgs,
Treasurer**

MEMBERSHIP FACTS—Dolores O’Neal

- 18 new members this year, a 13% increase
- Total membership = 150

Watch for your new roster in the mail this month!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by the Nominating Committee for 2019-20

Sylvia Woodburne, Chair; Francine Farber, Terry Johnson, Joan Lipton

OFFICERS

President: Marianne Kast **
Executive VP: Nyla Zender *
Vice President for Voter Services: Liz Shields **
Vice President for Natural Resources: Vacancy **
Secretary: Marie Slater **
Treasurer: Terri Figgs*

Nominating Committee for 2020-2021

To be appointed: 3 members, 2 Board members

DIRECTORS

Program Planning: Pat Campbell **
Membership: Dolores O'Neal **
Water: Diane Merrill **
Education: Kay Bertken: *
Voter Services: Sue Goldman *
Student Unit: Lisa Bryant *
Voter Editor: Francine Farber *

** = new two-year terms

* = one-year left on current term

RECOMMENDED 2019 LOCAL AND STATE PROGRAMS

The Program Planning Meeting was held on February 23 with 28 members in attendance.

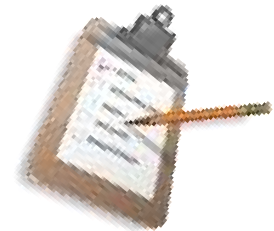
LOCAL PRIORITIES

- ◆ Get Out the Vote—Liz Shields/Sue Goldman, Chairs
- ◆ Climate Change—Connie young/Andrea Farber De Zubiria/Chairs
- ◆ Early Education, Zero to Five—Kay Bertken, Chair

STATE PRIORITIES


Making Democracy Work (campaign finance reform, voter protection, money in politics, redistricting, inclusive census)

Concurrence Proposals approved by LWVF: Promoting Civil Discourse, from San Luis Obispo County
Homelessness, from San Diego County



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VP Natural Resources	Vacancy
Director, Water	Diane Merrill
Director, Education	Kay Bertken
Director, Program Planning	Pat Campbell
Director, Student Unit	Lisa Bryant
Director, Membership	Dolores O’Neal
Voter Editor	Francine Farber
Webmaster:	Cathy Caples

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!
EMPOWERING VOTERS — DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

MISSION: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens and influences public policy through voter education and advocacy on issues . The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

DIVERSITY POLICY: There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVF on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic level.

What do you get when you join the League? All for one fee, you become a member of the Fresno, California and national Leagues and receive their newsletters. You may participate in League studies of issues; receive leadership training; hone your public speaking skills; become knowledgeable about local and state issues; learn more about government, natural resources and social policies as your time and interests dictate. You will also meet some interesting and friendly women and men who represent diverse backgrounds but find common ground in keeping abreast of current issues.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$70 ~ Family - \$100 (2 members, same address) ~ Students—by arrangement

**Please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters, Fresno, with registration form (below),
to: LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Suite 4, Fresno, CA 93710.**

Name: _____ Ph. _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____