

*Call* to the

**79th Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, April 18, 2020**

**10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Stone Soup Community Room  
1345 Bulldog Lane Fresno**

**\$25 per person includes**

**Business Meeting, Catered Luncheon, Program**

**Our speaker: Matt Levin**



**Matt Levin is the data and housing authority for CalMatters; he co-hosts the podcast “Gimme Shelter.” Matt's award-winning reporting has been featured on Marketplace, NPR's Here & Now, and the San Francisco Chronicle.**

Please make your reservation by telephone or e-mail to Patty at 352-5192, [soupsbooks5@comcast.net](mailto:soupsbooks5@comcast.net), or the League office at 226-8683.

**Do not send money now.** Make payment at the door by cash, credit card or check

*Your Board is remaining positive and hopeful that we will have this meeting. But if circumstances change and we need to cancel or postpone, we will notify you. However, we need your reservation now so we can let the caterer know how many people to expect.*

## SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

**10:30 Business Meeting**

**11:30 Luncheon**

**12:15 Speaker**



## 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 2020/2021 Budget
10. Review of 2020-2021 State & Local Priorities
11. Election of Officers and Directors
12. Appointment of 2021 Nominating Committee
13. Instructions to the LWVF 2020-2021 Board
14. Instructions to our delegates to LWVUS Convention
15. Adjournment to Lunch and Speaker

## 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.**

## Please help with these awards . . .

*This year the Lipton Award and the Women's Equality Day Award are going to be made on August 24, when we host the 2020 Suffrage Centennial Luncheon. We would like to have nominations from our membership for both of these honors.*



The Lipton Award is given annually in honor of research scientist Dr. Werner Lipton, a longtime community activist who passed away in 2006, and was the husband of our member Joan Lipton. He received the first award posthumously. Since then annual awardees have been Gary Temple, Dr. Lee Snyder, Ellie Bluestein, William Simon, Mike McGarvin, Coke Hallowell, Radley Reep,\* Bill Noblett, Kathy Garabed, Dick Hass, Paul Loeffler, Craig Thornton and Ruth Gadebusch. Your nominee should be an unpaid long-time community volunteer, male or female, who is not a member of the League. \*An exception was made for Radley Reep, an LWVF member, because of his extraordinary service.

The Women's Equality Day award is given annually in support of national Women's Equality Day, which was established to honor the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment giving women the right to vote. Our honorees have either made unusual achievements or have volunteered or worked in a paid position that is usually difficult for women to access. They have included Hilary Chittick, Susan Anderson, Brandi Orth, Lynne Ashbeck, Kerri Dorris, Deborah Ikeda, Irma Olguin Jr., Rae Hotoda and Carole Goldsmith.

**Please send your nominations by April 30 to either Marianne Kast at [fourkasts@gmail.com](mailto:fourkasts@gmail.com), phone 270-7937, or Francine Farber at [fmfarber@hotmail.com](mailto:fmfarber@hotmail.com), phone 226-5455**



**Thanks to  
Dr. Richard Bertken  
Andrea Farber De Zubiria  
Carolyn Evans  
Radley Reep**



While they are not Board members, they have faithfully presented information from their areas of interest each month in the Voter.

# EDUCATION \*\*LWVF PRIORITY CLIMATE CHANGE

## \*\*LWVF PRIORITY

by Kay Bertken



Our education committee, an LWVF priority, has been spending the year learning what we can about the needs of preschool aged children and infants in our area. We have discovered the biggest areas of need to be in full day preschool

and day care, especially for infants and toddlers. Our area is currently way behind meeting community needs, but centralized data that can locate the areas of gaps between families in need and providers is missing. We have determined to join the Children’s Movement, the Cradle to Career Partnership and the local effort to raise funds through the D.R.I.V.E. initiative in advocating for priority attention to our preschool children.

We continue to attend The Children’s Movement (TCM) meetings, participating in the elaboration of the Blueprint for Early Childhood that has been developed by Fresno County’s leaders in the Cradle to Career Partnership. We still participate in a TCM subgroup that is working on increasing kindergarten attendance. We are also active members of the Civic Education Partnership, promoting civic education and participation in our schools.

We attend Fresno Unified School Board meetings as observers to keep League members informed about trustee and district activities and the status of our schools. As the third largest district in the state, our local district reflects the challenges and triumphs of public education at large. We are tracking local decisions and reflecting on our student data in our articles in the Voter. We will also be trying to direct the attention of the Fresno Bee’s new Education Lab reporters to issues of interest.

### MEMBER NEWS

#### New Member

Diane Schoenburg  
10237 North Page Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93730  
dschoenburg@comcast.net

#### New Address

Patty Campbell  
5515 North Fresno St. Apt 207  
Fresno, CA 93710

by Andrea Farber De Zubiria

For the past year, this new Climate Action Committee has worked on educating itself about the issues, about the national and state League positions, and what is happening locally.

As we began our study we have learned more about The Environmental Voters Project, carbon pricing, cap and trade and the Green New Deal. We reviewed the California League’s Climate Task Force website and a representative from our committee attended the League’s Northern California Climate Conference. Our committee member also joined the Food, Soils and Ag Team, a subcommittee of the LWV of California Climate Task Force, to offer representation from the Central Valley.

Locally, we met with representatives from a number of agencies to learn about climate action plans, including the Council of Governments, the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, and the City of Fresno’s Sustainability Manager. We have watched many short videos about such topics as carbon pricing,

agriculture and climate communication and posted some of the videos on the LWVF Facebook page. Two of our members provided a well-attended presentation for the Visalia League with an overview of local climate impacts, existing technologies, cap and trade and carbon pricing.

We are currently in the planning stages to host a forum or “teach-in” on climate at Fresno State in the Fall. As we explore our goals for this forum, we have decided that our primary audience should be students. We plan to co-sponsor with as many student groups and university departments as possible and hope to encourage knowledgeable voting as a tool to effect action.

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# President's Message

by Marianne Kast

No year is like the previous one in League life. As we take on new issues and gain new perspectives for old issues, we grow as activists, expand our networks of allies, and become bolder in our insistence that elected officials and government employees serve us, the people who hire them.

At last year's Annual Meeting, we invited Andrew Janz to talk about his work on a nationwide Voter Protection Project. (The Monday following his talk, he announced his campaign to be Fresno's next mayor.) We also energized three committees reflecting the priorities we chose at Program Planning: Climate Change, Education - Zero to Five, and Get Out the Vote. And, not wanting to leave a moment unscheduled, our Centennial committee began work on a year's worth of events to mark the 100th anniversary of Women's Right to Vote.

In mid-summer, we were awarded a \$5000 grant to produce a five-minute documentary for The Big Tell event. We met Orlando Gomez, a local filmmaker who, working with Micheline Golden, would go on to create "100 Years of Suffrage," a delightful look at the importance of women's suffrage. Our Women's Equality Day event honored Dr. Carole Goldsmith, President of Fresno City College, and we heard moving stories from Brandi Orth, Fresno County Registrar of Voters and Angelica Carpenter, author of Born Criminal, detailing the stories of activist women who laid the groundwork for the elections projects we do today.

I'm generally awed by the quantity of issues the League manages to be involved with and wonder aloud at we might accomplish with "just 12 more active members." To that end, we made a commitment to monthly membership events in order to keep all our members better informed and more involved.

January brought the official kickoff for the 2020 Centennial with the successful opening reception for "The First Ladies" portrait exhibit at Fresno City Hall. In February, we joined with Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) for a re-enactment of women's history around the turn of the century, and marked Black History Month.

I've highlighted nearly a year's worth of "special" events, but our "regular" work continues as well, as you will see in this Call to the 79th Annual Meeting.

# Natural Resources/Land Use

by Radley Reep

While issues affecting the sustainable use of natural resources were few in number during 2019, three weighty projects have surfaced.

This past December, Cemex, a multinational building materials company, applied for a permit to mine 350 acres of the San Joaquin River bottom near Friant. The proposal calls for blasting and crushing bedrock to a depth of 600 feet over a 100-year period. Cemex is the same company that in 2002 applied for a permit to blast away a portion of Jesse Morrow Mountain near Sanger. The new application come with nearly a dozen studies already completed, including an air quality assessment, a blast impact analysis, a hydraulic analysis and a traffic impact study. The County is now preparing an environmental impact report.



Five years ago, the City of Fresno adopted a 20-proportion of growth and reinvestment focused in its central core, in its established neighborhoods and along bus rapid transit corridors. Last December, the Fresno City Council voted 6-1 to establish a General Plan Implementation Review Committee of 17 people (half representing development interests, half representing social and environmental interests) that will assess the need to update the plan.

In 2005, the County of Fresno embarked on an effort to review its General Plan. In fits and starts over 15 years, the County produced 6 draft versions of a new plan. In late 2019, County planners began working on a new scope of work that will yield a plan update with the potential to significantly transform the way the county develops.

Last month Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-25-20, which, in an effort to curb the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, authorized local governments to hold public meetings via teleconferencing. If local governments adopt that strategy, it will be up to organizations like the League to make sure that meetings remain open and public, with everyone being able to participate effectively.



## VOTER SERVICES LWVF Priority

by Liz Shields

When the County Board of Supervisors last March voted to adopt the new Voter Choice Act model it meant that all registered voters in Fresno County would receive a vote-by-mail ballot and the current 268 polling places would be replaced by up to 50 Vote Centers, which would be open for several days prior to each election.

The League was represented at all of the meetings of the Language Accessibility and Voter Accessibility Committees set up by County Clerk Brandi Orth and worked at area high schools and colleges to register voters. We also re-registered new residents of retirement homes to enable the Election Department to update its voter rolls.

Governor Newsom signed the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act This gives public universities and colleges the resources to designate a Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator, who will create a civic engagement campaign and plan specific to each campus and will organize three events each year that focus on civic engagement, voter turnout and community building

In Mid-January the League distributed flyers in English and Spanish summarizing the “Countdown to Election Day” and the ways by which ballots may be returned to the Elections Department at voter registration events and at local farmers markets.

On February 3 the Election Department mailed ballots to all registered voters. On February 22 10 Vote Centers across the county opened to help voters. On February 29 43 more Vote Centers opened to help voters during the four days prior to and including the Election Day. In spite of this early outreach to voters, lines were prevalent at some local libraries up until 8 p.m. on Election night. This may be a lesson that voters will remember in November when turnout is expected to be higher.

My grateful thanks to the **forty** volunteers who came to unfold ballots, logging 524 hours. My thanks also to the **sixteen** volunteers who staffed the phone bank for two weeks preceding and on Election Day and logged over 200 hours. Unofficial results indicate that 42% of voters in Fresno County voted in the Presidential Primary.

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## Water News

by Diane Merrill



Our league’s water activities have focused on local groundwater sustainability planning, and representing our area on the LWVC Water Committee.

Our local groundwater planning efforts center on California’s 2014 Sustainable Management Act. This legislation requires water agencies in critically overdrafted groundwater basins, including our local Kings Subbasin, to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, and to develop detailed Groundwater Sustainability Plans which were submitted to the State in January 2020, with the goal of achieving sustainable groundwater conditions by 2040.

LWVF is focusing its efforts on the North Kings agency, the largest and most populous of the seven agencies in the Kings Subbasin. This includes the cities of Fresno, Clovis, and Kerman and surrounding areas. Public engagement in water planning is important because a reliable and high quality surface and groundwater supply is essential for the

well-being of local residents, and for the viability of our local economy.

LWVF members have attended numerous Kings Advisory Committee meetings, representing the interests of the engaged general public. LWVF members reviewed and prepared written and verbal comments on the Kings 800 page Draft plan. This was quite a challenging task. We have also participated in public workshops and regional meetings about, drought resilient water planning, groundwater markets, groundwater recharge, and water issues in disadvantaged communities.

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 issues, water quality, rural/agricultural issues, and matters of local importance. For example, there is diversity in farm size and products in our area. This includes an estimated 2,000 Southeast Asian farmers who live in the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area and have small farms in the North Kings agency. Some of these farmers participate in farmers markets in the Bay Area, Southern California, and the Central Coast, in addition to local farmers markets.

# Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans

The Behavioral Health Board made five recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in 2019. The Department of Behavioral Health addressed each recommendation. Not all have been completed to the satisfaction of the Department or the Board, but progress has been made.

The number one recommendation was to develop a system to educate and inform community members of behavioral health services that are available and how to access those services. The 24/7 Access Line has been expanded but most residents in the community still are unaware of the access number—1-800-654-3937; the Board would like better publicity for that important resource.

Though our county has an inpatient psychiatric facility for adolescents, there are too few young children requiring inpatient hospitalization to support such a unit in Fresno County. The Department has strengthened services for young children through a contracted program with Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, and has expanded services at higher levels of care for young children. We are hopeful that the planned facility to be located in Madera County will allow young children to be placed near their homes when hospitalization is necessary.

Permanent supportive housing continues to be a major need, not only for those currently experiencing homelessness, but also for other clients with behavioral health disorders.

The Board has advocated for an employment program that would provide job development, job placement, and job coaching for clients with behavioral health disorders who wish to work.

Our Board has supported certification for Peer Support Specialists with lived experience who work with clients. Unfortunately, both Governor Brown and Governor Newsom vetoed similar bills. Senator Beall has introduced SB 803 to allow for the certification process. We will advocate for the passage of this bill to provide the respect, appreciation, and financial compensation that Peer Support Specialists deserve.

This year we have a new list of recommendations, some of which build on the past year. It will take advocacy and support to see the accomplishment of yet more programs for those individuals with behavioral health disorders who are living in our community.

# Affordable Housing

by Nyla Zender

The Affordable Housing Committee researched a number of different aspects of this issue. The Fresno area needs approximately 41,000 affordable housing units. Renovated afford-



able properties will have higher resale value making them unaffordable. Fresno does have some tools they can use. They can issue low interest rate loans and state and federal grants to add to baseline city allocations. For this to happen we need receptive City Council members who will also accept affordable housing throughout the city.

The Fresno Community & Economic Development Partnership is proposing a Southwest Fresno Community Health Hub that can provide services the community identifies as needed, such as physical and mental health care, education, healthy food and nutrition, affordable housing, workforce development training and civic engagement. The top priority is to have authentic resident involvement to build a sense of community ownership and responsibility for the Health Hub.

The Urban Institute's 2018 research on economic mobility in California's largest cities shows that Fresno ranks 59<sup>th</sup> out of 59 for economic and racial disparity. In response to that data the Central Valley Community Foundation sponsored a 10-year plan called the DRIVE Initiative (Developing the Region's Inclusive and Vibrant Economy) that is designed to address these issues.

A few of our members attended the San Joaquin Valley Affordable Housing Summit Conference. Some issues discussed were a holistic approach to mental health and housing, grants to fund planning for housing and transportation and creative solutions for addressing homelessness.

Some City Council members recommended forming a committee to study the General Plan to find out why housing numbers were inadequate. They want to enlarge the Sphere of Influence to provide large areas of land for housing developers. The League responded that we support the current Plan and that the reason we are not building enough homes is not because of the plan but because of those who make housing decisions.

		2019-2020		2020-2021
		Adopted	Actual	Proposed
<b>Income</b>				
	4010 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	9,000.00	9,760.00	9,800.00
	4020 · DONATIONS	1,000.00	626.00	1,000.00
	4030 GRANTS		5,000.00	
	4040 · ANNUAL MTG INCOME	1,000.00	1,230.00	1,000.00
	4053 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION		37,696.00	3,000.00
	4070 · UNDERWRITING	900.00	800.00	800.00
	4080 · VOTER SERVICES	2,500.00	1,515.00	15,000.00
	4090 RESERVE FUND		22,754.23	
	4100 · Other Income	1,500.00	1,135.00	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>				
<b>Income</b>		15,900.00	80,516.23	31,600.00
<b>Expense</b>				
	5010 · PMP/CA/US	7,730.00	8,310.00	8,500.00
	5030 · DUES/OTHER ORGS	100.00	50.00	100.00
	5120 · VOTER SERVICES/VOTER'S EDGE	400.00		400.00
	5210 · ANNUAL MTG EXPENSE	500.00	660.00	700.00
	5230 · NAT'L/STATE CONVENTION	1,500.00	910.42	1,500.00
	5250 OTHER CONFERENCES	325.00	230.00	250.00
	5320 · EQUIPMENT PURCHASE/RENTAL	100.00	374.00	750.00
	5330 · FILING FEES	100.00	59.95	100.00
	5340 · LIABILITY INSURANCE	220.00	50.00	250.00
	5350 · MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES	750.00	1,135.40	2,000.00
	5351 CENTENNIAL EVENTS		1,399.75	35,000.00
	5360 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	150.00	256.01	500.00
	5370 · POSTAGE	625.00	805.75	1,000.00
	5380 · PRINTING	2,500.00	3,236.61	3,500.00
	5390 · RENT	4,550.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
	5420 · TELEPHONE	450.00	562.97	600.00
	5440 COST OF GOODS		281.33	
	5430 · WEBSITE MYLO	350.00		350.00
	5510 LEGAL FEES	1,000.00	2,807.78	3,000.00
	5530 · BANK/PAYPAL FEES	20.00	70.21	100.00
	5540 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0.00	5,125.00	3,000.00
<b>Total</b>				
<b>Expense</b>		21,370.00	30,525.18	65,800.00
4001 · Released from Temp Re- striction		5,470.00		38,000.00
<b>Net In- come</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>49,991.05</b>	<b>3,800.00</b>

**Proposed  
Budget**

**2020-2021**

**Terri Figgs,  
Treasurer**

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Submitted by the Nominating Committee for 2020-2021**

**Mary Savala, Chair; Francine Farber, Jennifer Williamson**

### **OFFICERS**

President: Marianne Kast \*

Executive VP: Vacancy

Vice President for Voter Services: Liz Shields \*

Vice President for Natural Resources: Vacancy \*\*

Secretary: Marie Slater \*

Treasurer: Terri Figgs\*\*

### **Nominating Committee for 2021-2022**

To be appointed: Jennifer Williamson

Laura Silberman

Francine Farber

### **DIRECTORS**

Program Planning: Pat Campbell \* and Sandy Williams \*\*

Membership: Dolores O'Neal \*

Water: Diane Merrill \*

Education: Kay Bertken: \*\*

Voter Services: Sue Goldman \*

Student Unit: To be announced

Voter Editor: Francine Farber \*\*

\*\* = new two-year terms

\* = one-year left on current term

## **RECOMMENDED 2020—2021 LOCAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **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**

### **NATIONAL PRIORITIES**

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

**Concurrence Proposals approved by LWVF which will go to the national convention in June:**


- **support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.**
- **add “Climate Emergency” to the LWVUS-proposed program, allowing each League to focus on its particular climate concerns. .**





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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Vice President, Administration	Nyla Zender
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Director, Voter Services	Sue Goldman
VP Natural Resources	Vacancy
Director, Water	Diane Merrill
Director, Education	Kay Bertken
Co-Directors, Program Planning	Pat Campbell
Director, Student Unit	Lisa Bryant
Director, Membership	Dolores O’Neal
Voter Editor	Francine Farber
Webmaster:	Jacque Canfield

**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: \_\_\_\_\_