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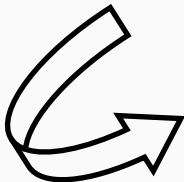
Web site:
www.lwvfresno.org



Monday, April 12
Regular Board Meeting
4 p.m. ZOOM

Friday, April 23
Climate Change Wkshp
12—1:30 p.m. ZOOM

Friday, April 30
Annual Meeting
11: 00 a.m.
ZOOM



Members and Guests
welcome to all meetings
and events

The FRESNO VOTER

and **Call**

to the **80**th Annual Meeting

Friday, April 30, 2021
11:00 a.m.

Mayor Jerry Dyer
featured speaker



Join the ceremony to honor our
past presidents

Elect new officers and directors

*This issue contains annual updates on director portfolios:
Behavioral Health, Climate Change, Education, Land Use,
Voter Services, Water*



AGENDA

**First Call to State Convention 2021
LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO
ATTEND OR BE A DELEGATE**

fourkasts@gmail.com

The 68th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California will be held June 11 - June 13 via **Zoom** virtual teleconference meetings

The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life . Attendance is open to everyone; all members are eligible to attend.

Each local league is allowed a number of delegates depending on the size of its membership. Registration rate for delegates is \$75 per person. This gives you participation and voting access during all plenary sessions and access to workshops, caucuses, plus other events throughout the week. Non-voting attendees are welcome to observe plenary and participate in workshops, caucuses, and other events at a flat-fee registration rate of \$25 per person. Registration will open in a few weeks.

One of the League's priorities is to foster a more inclusive culture and increase the diversity of the organization and its leadership. LWVC has set aside a scholarship fund to help reduce barriers for those who would otherwise be unable to attend Convention.



- Welcome and Call to Order (quorum equals 10% or 15)
- Rules of the Day
- Appointment of Reading Committee
- Membership Report
- Portfolio Remarks
- Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee

• **Honoring Our Past Presidents**

on Our 80th Anniversary

*Linda Mack * Lynne Rodriguez * Nancy Richardson *
Mary Savala * Jane Worsley * Shirley Valett *
Joan Lipton * Jacquie Canfield * Ann Kaufher *
Francine Farber * Nyla Zender * Marianne Kast **

• **Featured Speaker Mayor Jerry Dyer**



Parliamentarian: Cathy Caples

- ♦ 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

BETTE PETERSON

Bette Peterson, a member since 2007, died on March 16 at age 98. A generous and frequent benefactor of the League, she had donated more than \$60,000 over some years to fund mini-grants for teachers and scholarships for needy students, focusing on those who were from diverse backgrounds. She loved theater, the opera and travel abroad. She especially treasured her many trips to Paris, which she continued even in her 80's. A diminutive person, she enjoyed driving around Fresno in a shiny red sports car in her later years.

Donations in her memory may be made to the League, Habitat for Humanity Fresno, or Poverello House.

**The Voter is a monthly publication
of the League of Women Voters of Fresno
Mailing address: 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno CA 93710
Volume 80, No.4 Editor, Francine M. Farber**



In recent weeks we've begun to sense that our lives are changing, that our long months of sheltering in place are slowly leading toward a return to some forms of social, educational, and public gatherings

How have we, the League of Women Voters of Fresno, fared during this pandemic year? I'd say we've done OK. Our membership has held steady despite the deaths of some of our longest-term members. We've adapted to meeting online via Zoom, and have held monthly Board meetings and member presentations since April, 2020. Committees that were engaged before the pandemic have been able to meet (online), and we've continued to reach out to our members with our excellent *Fresno Voter* newsletter and weekly e-newsletters.

The pandemic complicated our planned celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Our Madden Library photo exhibit, "100 Notable Women from Our Community" is on hold until the public may safely view the exhibit. In November the Fresno Community Chorus will present an original choral work accompanied by strings and including Fresno poet Gladys Ruiz' work, "A Hundred Years of a Thousand Tries."

We enjoyed the presentation of *Elizabeth Started All the Trouble*, an adaptation of Doreen Rappoport's children's book by

Fresno State theater professor Gina Sandi-Diaz and her students. And, "The History of Women in the Military," another centennial tribute, is featured on the Clovis Veterans Memorial District website. Kudos to our Centennial Committee whose work continues as its members find ways to honor this momentous occasion.

We honored Linda Penner, our Women's Equality Day awardee, and Janet Claassen, our Lipton Award winner last August. We enjoyed presentations by Sen. Anna Caballero & Matt Levin, Dr. Thomas Loewenheim, Oliver Baines, and Helen Hutchison.. We prepared ballots for counting and answered phones at the Fresno County Elections office during the November election, and we participated in the Civic Education Center web dialogue, *Women's Rights: Past Present and Future*.



Two events specially mark this year for me: We have finally come to the end of litigation in *Sierra Club, League of Women Voters of Fresno v. Friant Ranch* and are now pressing the County to comply with the courts' rulings. And also, we'll say goodbye to Liz Shields, Voter Services guru and longtime LWVF activist, as she relocates to Albuquerque to be near her family.

—Marianne Kast, President

LAND USE 2020-21

We continued to advocate for sound planning and for the conservation and protection of our county's natural resources during the past year.

We monitored applications for several private land use projects, among them the CEMEX application to develop a hard rock mine in the San Joaquin River bottom adjacent to Lost Lake Park, and the Friant Ranch application to construct a 2,500-unit residential community near the town of Friant. Both are still undergoing environmental review. The County of Fresno is preparing an Environmental Impact Review (EIR) for the CEMEX application and reviving the existing EIR for the Friant Ranch project.

During 2020, the League also monitored the County application to update the Gen-

eral Plan. If approved, the amended General Plan will guide land use development in rural Fresno County to 2040. The County is concurrently updating the plan and preparing an associated EIR. This past year the League expressed its opposition to a potential change in policy that would encourage urban sprawl.

All three projects — the Cemex, Friant Ranch and the General Plan update — will undergo public review this summer and fall, with final Board action anticipated by the end of 2021.

But there's a potential stumbling block. It's possible that the County may be unable to certify completion of the EIRs because the existing General Plan is out of compliance with critical state planning laws. The County has not, for example, incorporated into its General Plan the information, policies and strate-

gies needed to address air quality, modern transportation strategies and adaptation to climate change.



This is one reason why in late 2020 and in early 2021 the League submitted comments to the County expressing dissatisfaction with the fact that the County's last two annual reports on the implementation of the General Plan did not include the required assessment of the degree to which the County's General Plan complies with state planning guidelines.

— Radley Reep 3

EDUCATION 2020-21



We have continued to report on Fresno Unified trustee activities to our members. In addition, we have expanded our participation with community partners around the topics of early learning and childcare, K-12 civic education and participation, and college completion. These partnerships widen our monitoring ability and our voice in advocating for League interests in enlarging educational opportunity and success in Fresno County.

Grant to increase childcare workforce

Our membership in The Children's Movement (TCM) and its association with the Cradle to Career (C2C) group of education leaders includes an Education Forum subgroup that provides reports on all sectors of local education providers, from early learning and childcare to college. A big grant is coming to the area to grow our childcare workforce through recruitment and training. The League has met with the Career Technical education staff at Fresno Unified to elaborate a program for daycare training and certification among high school students.

We have been a member of the Civic Education Partnership (and its spin-off the Civic Education Center) since its founding. That organization has been advocating for improved civics education particularly through active student participation in the community. It has become clear that both knowledge about our form of government and belief in its principles are in decline. The active experiences in democratic experiences that we are advocating are more important than ever.

Reviving civics curriculum

A national group, Educating for Democracy, has developed resources for teachers of civics, government, and history to revive the curriculum in those areas. The League has sent those materials to Fresno Unified staff and trustees and advocated for their use in a public statement at a Board meeting.

We have attended several California Legislative briefings and hearings related to higher education. Students have voiced concern particularly over transfer issues between the various systems. Our local higher education leaders have also been engaged around that issue as well as committing to more dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. These dual enrollment programs increase college enrollments generally, but also allow high school students to accelerate completion while accumulating credits toward a college degree. —Kay Bertken

VOTER SERVICES 2020-21

The county made an investment in updated equipment to facilitate ballot retrieval, voter verification and ballot counting when Vote-by-Mail became a requirement for every county in California.

Safety procedures at Vote Centers

Data from the March Primary on voters' responses to the new voting procedures enabled the Fresno County Elections Department to modify them for the presidential election to safeguard the health and safety of voters and election staff. For the November election Vote Centers were open for only three days prior to and on Election Day. Voting booths were six feet apart, and all were sanitized after each use. All personnel were masked with face shields. Voters were asked to wear masks. The number of people inside the Vote Centers at any one time was limited. Lines to enter to vote required social distancing. In addition Remote Accessible Vote by Mail was made available to all voters, rather than just those with a disability.



No Covid outbreaks


It is a credit to the vigilance of the staff at both the Warehouse and the Elections Office that no Covid-19 outbreaks were recorded there during the entire period. An outbreak would have resulted in shutting down the facilities for 14 days and quarantining those in contact with the infected person. Volunteers at the Warehouse were separated by large plastic sheets hanging between them.

Candidate Forums were on Zoom. Five minute interviews were conducted with candidates for each race. The questions and the time limits were identical for each participant. Thanks go to Marianne Kast and Janet Baker for arranging and recording the interviews, which were available on YouTube and on Voters Edge candidate profiles.

Zoom presentations on the propositions began with the Clovis Democratic Club on September 17 and continued for League members on September 30. Easy Voter Guides were distributed to La Familia Vota, retirement homes and ethnic restaurants providing take-out meals.

Many thanks go to 52 League members and their friends who unfolded ballots for a total of 726 hours earned for the League, as well as to the 28 League volunteers who answered voters' questions at the phone bank which resulted in 695.75 hours earned for the League. —Liz Shields

PROPOSED BUDGET 2021-2022

		2020-2021		2021-2022
		Adopted	Actual	Proposed
Income				
	4010 · MEMBERSHIP DUES	9,800.00	9,085.00	9,500.00
	4020 · DONATIONS	1,000.00	820.00	1,000.00
	4021 RBG SCHOLARSHIP		3,050.00	
	4040 · ANNUAL MTG INCOME	1,000.00	50.00	500.00
	4053 CENTENNIAL SPNSORS	3,000.00	2,000.00	
	4070 · UNDERWRITING	800.00	800.00	800.00
	4080 · VOTER SERVICES		28,030.04	1,000.00
	4100 · Other Income	1,000.00	30.00	
	6901 RELEASED RESTR FUND	38,000.00		18,500.00
Total Income		69,600.00	43,865.04	31,300.00
Expense				
	5010 · PMP/CA/US	8,500.00	8,160.00	8,160.00
	5030 · DUES/OTHER OR	100.00	100.00	100.00
	5110 · EDUCATION PROGRAM PRIORITIES		500.00	
	5120 · VOTER SERVICES/VOTER'S EDGE	400.00	800.00	400.00
	5130 RBG SCHOLARSHIPS		3,050.00	
	5210 · ANNUAL MTG EXPENSE	700.00	0.00	150.00
	5230 · NAT'L/STATE CONVENTION	1,500.00	50.00	300.00
	5250 OTHER CONFERENCES	250.00		250.00
	5310 · BOARD EXPENSE		11.98	
	5320 · EQUIPMENT PURCHASE	750.00		2,500.00
	5330 · FILING FEES	100.00	80.00	100.00
	5340 · LIABILITY INSURANCE	250.00	391.36	400.00
	5350 · MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES	2,000.00	424.17	500.00
	5351 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATE EVENTS	35,000.00	3,791.44	5,000.00
	5360 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	500.00	347.55	500.00
	5370 · POSTAGE	1,000.00	1,019.31	1,100.00
	5380 · PRINTING	3,500.00	3,336.19	3,590.00
	5390 · RENT	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00
	5420 · TELEPHONE	600.00	496.85	600.00
	5430 · WEBSITE LEW	350.00	700.00	350.00
	5520 LEGAL FEES	3,000.00	3,763.55	1,500.00
	5530 · Bank/PayPal Fees	100.00	16.40	100.00
	5540 · Professional Services	3,000.00	1,250.00	1,500.00
				
Total Expense		65,800.00	32,488.80	31,300.00
4001 · Funds Forward		3,800.00	11,376.24	0.00
Net Income				

Behavioral Health 2020-21



When shelter in-place orders were issued and closures occurred, the Department of Behavioral Health had to make a rapid shift to continue providing services to its clients. While crisis services, injections, lab work, and new medication starts remained in-person priorities, other services turned to telehealth via telephone and Internet options.

Telehealth a popular option

Telehealth has worked better than expected, and has provided needed behavioral health services. Some clients prefer meeting with health providers without leaving their homes or going into the office. Those living in rural areas, young people who are tech savvy, and some elderly and physically disabled clients especially are pleased with telehealth. Of course some individuals do not have access to technology, and others are uncomfortable with online communications, so traditional in-person services have been necessary for these individuals.

Vaccine for clients and staff

Staff members and contracted providers are receiving vaccinations so that they can safely serve clients, and as they become eligible, clients also are receiving vaccinations.

It appears as if mental health services to the community have remained stable throughout the pandemic. However, the numbers of those receiving services for substance use disorders has declined. The Department will need to monitor closely to make sure that clients are accessing care and following through with treatment.

Housing developments underway

Building and housing development have continued during the pandemic. No Place Like Home funded projects continue to progress, with the completion of the first housing complex scheduled to open within the next month. The Lodge, an Innovation project for those individuals needing but not engaged in services, also is near completion.

The Department completed its Mental Health Services Act Three-Year Plan without adding any new programs, other than Innovation projects for which the funding already exists.

All in all, the Department has done an outstanding job of serving its clients while adapting to a new mode of operation, and is to be commended for its work.

—Carolyn Evans

Climate Change 2020-21

In 2020 our committee continued to inform ourselves about climate solutions and share what we learned with you. We met with a number of local agencies to gain insight into their role in monitoring or lowering greenhouse gas production. These included the Council of Governments, The Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, the City of Fresno's Sustainability Manager and the Project Manager for the Transformative Climate Grant.

We viewed videos related to climate change and posted links to some on the LWVF facebook page. Several of us attended the Citizens' Climate Lobby biweekly study group to learn about carbon pricing, regenerative agriculture, communicating about climate across the political divide, nuclear energy, theories of behavior change and more.

Lenore Yousef joined the state league's Food, Soil and Ag Team to represent us. Ruth Afifi now provides us reports from the LWVUS Renewable Energy team. Our committee developed a comprehensive list of candidate questions regarding climate and policy for the November election and this was shared with the state Climate Task Force. Terri Figgs added a climate page to the LWV of Fresno website.

The web page includes links to state league activities related to climate as well as articles related to the San Joaquin Valley and the County of Fresno Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan. We are considering how we might monitor the implementation of these plans.



To commemorate the 51st anniversary of Earth Day this month, we will collaborate with Citizens' Climate Lobby Fresno and learn about some inspiring projects underway in South West Fresno, Chinatown and Downtown Fresno. Guest speakers will be Courtney Espinoza, Project Manager for Transform Fresno, and Sophia Pagaloutos, Fresno City Planner. From a City College satellite in South West Fresno to community gardens, solar panels, electric buses and more, these projects all had extensive community input. They will provide economic and social benefit to historically neglected areas, while reducing greenhouse gas production. Since the core funds for these projects come from cap and trade money, Connie Young will provide a primer on carbon pricing including cap and trade and carbon fee and dividend strategies.

See
Page 7

—Andrea Farber De Zubiria / Lenore Yousef

Commemorating 51 Years of Earth Day

Celebrate the great things that
are happening to meet climate
and economic challenges in
historically disadvantaged parts
of Fresno



April 23 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Join us for a virtual tour of inspiring local
projects from the Transformative Climate
Communities grant that will lower greenhouse gas
emissions while creating economic benefits

Featured Speakers: Courtney Espinoza,
Project Manager, Transform Fresno
Sophia Pagoulatos, Manager,
Long Range Planning, City of Fresno

**Register in advance for this meeting
on the League website: www.lwvfresno.org**

For more information:

Andrea Farber De Zubiria
afarberdezub@gmail.com (559) 824-1083



WATER 2020-21

Public engagement in water planning is important because a reliable and high quality supply of surface and groundwater is essential for the well-being of local residents, and for the viability of our local economy. LWVF's water activities continue to focus on local groundwater sustainability planning, and representing our area on the LWV California Water Committee.



Planning efforts focus on Kings

Our local groundwater planning efforts have centered on the critically overdrafted Kings Groundwater Subbasin. Since 2017, League members have attended meetings of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which is tasked with managing the groundwater supply for the cities of Fresno, Clovis, Kerman, and the surrounding areas.

In January 2020 the Agency submitted a detailed Groundwater Sustainability Plan to the State. The goal is to bring local groundwater into a sustainable balance over a 20 year planning horizon from 2020 to 2040. Our League was one of three leagues in the state that participated in the development, and submitted detailed comments on its local plans.

The North Kings is now in the early stages of implementing its plan. Important tasks include making sure an extensive network of wells is in place to monitor groundwater levels and quality over twenty years, and putting together funding for groundwater recharge projects.

We focus on rural and ag issues

LWVF is an active participant in monthly Water Committee meetings, providing input to members from around the state on groundwater, rural/agricultural issues, and matters of local importance in our area of the San Joaquin Valley, including water supply, quality and affordability issues in disadvantaged rural communities.

The Water Committee also identifies legislation and State policies and programs for LWVC comment or support. LWVF participated with other leagues in a series of educational water articles. Our league's contribution is the article on groundwater management. The articles can be accessed at the state league's website.

—Diane Merrill 7

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2021– 2022

Francine Farber, Laura Silberman, Jennifer Williamson, Jane Worsley

Marianne Kast: President #

Terri Figgs: Executive Vice President #

Terri Figgs: Treasurer *

Secretary: Pat Campbell **

Voter Services: Sue Goldman *

Voter Editor Francine Farber **

Student Unit: On sabbatical

Education: Kay Bertken *

Membership: Dolores O'Neal **

Program Planning: Sandy Williams *

Water: Diane Merrill **

Director: Maureen Hayes **

Director: Janice Maroot **

Next year's nominating committee: *

Carolyn Evans, Marie Slater, Marsha Wagner

2 directors to be appointed at next board meeting

one year term

*** one year left on term**

**** two year new term**



RECOMMENDED 2020—2021 LOCAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

LOCAL PRIORITIES

- ◆ **Redistricting—Liz Shields, Sue Goldman, Chairs**
- ◆ **Homelessness—plans to be decided**

Other local interests will continue, including education, health care, climate change, water and others

STATE PRIORITIES

Our recommendations will be sent to LWV California



Redistricting

Homelessness

Environmental Concerns:

Land use, Water, Climate Change

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Executive Vice President	Vacancy
Vice President, Voter Services	Elizabeth Shields
Director, Voter Services	Sue Goldman
Secretary	Marie Slater
Treasurer	Terri Figgs
VP Natural Resources	Vacancy
Director, Water	Diane Merrill
Director, Education	Kay Bertken
Directors, Program Planning	Pat Campbell
	Sandy Williams
Director, Student Unit	To be announced
Director, Membership	Dolores O'Neal
Voter Editor	Francine Farber
<hr/>	
Webmaster	Jacque Canfield

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!
Men and Women age 16 and above Making Democracy Work

MISSION: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of interested individuals 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) ~ Student - Subsidized

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

.....
 Name _____ Ph. _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____