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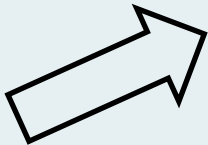
Info.lwvfresno@gmail.com

Web site:  
www.lwvfresno.org



Monday, April 14  
Regular Board Meeting  
4 p.m. Stone Soup  
In person

Saturday, April 26  
Annual Meeting



April 22

JUN



## THE FRESNO VOTER

*And Call*

## TO THE 85TH ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday**

**April 26 10 a.m.**

**Stone Soup**

**Speakers**

**Election of Officers**

**Light Luncheon**

Lunch Reservations required  
at \$25 per person  
call 559-226-8693; or 559-224-  
5241 by April 17

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**Special Guests**

**CENTRAL VALLEY**

**DAILY PODCAST**

**KVPR's 7 a.m. Show**

**Featuring**

**Elizabeth Arakelian**

**Host**



**Jonathan Linden**

**Producer**



## AGENDA FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

- ◆ Welcome; Call to Order (quorum equals 15% or 25)
- ◆ Rules of the Day
- ◆ Appointment of Reading Committee
- ◆ Membership Report
- ◆ Approval of Budget
- ◆ Approval of By-law Amendments
- ◆ Election of Officers, Directors, Nominating Committee
- ◆ Ratification of State and Local Priorities
- ◆ Instructions to State LWV Convention

### Honoring our Past Presidents

Linda Mack, Lynne Rodriguez, Nancy Richardson,  
Ann Kaufher, Francine Farber, Nyla Zender,  
Marianne Kast

### Honoring our Life Members (1974 and earlier)

Hanna Krebs, Linda Mack, Lynn Rodriguez,  
Bernice Stone, Margaret Sharp

## *Know the Rules*

### **Parliamentarian: Amy Schmidt**

- ◆ 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.

**The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV Fresno**

**Mailing address: 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710**

**Volume 66 No. 4 Editor: Francine M. Farber**



**March 2025**

**Judiciary study:** We are still working on getting an attorney to guide this discussion. Members are asked to reserve a place at this meeting for planning purposes.

**Annual meeting:** It was decided that we will have a brunch, rather than lunch. Anna Caballaro is the suggested speaker. Patty will take minutes as her last official act and Faye will be the reader.

**Climate Action:** Health issues and other circumstances have down-sized this committee to some degree. We need to find a person interested in water issues to attend the LWVC Water committee meetings. This is important to balance out our central Cal needs compared with southern and northern California water interests.

**Nominating Committee:** We need two directors and 3 members. Faye and Sue volunteered to be on the committee and other names were suggested. Francine will contact them.

**Mural:** It was devastating to learn that a new owner is taking over the building with the wall. Our artist has met with the current owners and is anxious to get going. We are in a holding position again.

**State Convention:** The Convention dates are June 21 and 22 with workshops and special events planned from June 17- 20. Cost to be an official representative is \$75, with \$30 the cost to be an observer without voting rights.

**Chapter Spot:** The new member setup continues to be difficult to access. Our coach will talk with the other coaches about this and see how universal the problems are.

**Mentoring new members:** With 16 new members recently, it seems important to work out a plan for involving more experienced members with helping them understand league's procedures and priorities. When calling our affinity lists for the Annual Meeting we should keep this in mind.

**LWVF IS A 501 C3 non-profit organization and all donations, including dues, are tax deductible.**

**Donations are always accepted for the RBG Scholarship Fund at San Joaquin College of Law, the League's general fund, and any other purpose. Your estate planning is encouraged to consider LWVF. Please make out checks to LWVF and send to Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710.**

## Education

by Kay Bertken



School districts around the country and state are adjusting to the new federal administration's DEI dictates and the potential closure of the Department of Education. Fresno Unified has already been sued by the Pacific Legal Foundation, alleging racial preferences in the African American Academic Acceleration Program(A4). The Pacific Legal Foundation's website describes itself as "a national non-profit law firm that defends Americans threatened by government overreach and abuse."

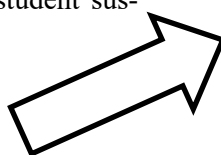
The A4 program was established several years ago to deal with the academic discrepancy between the district's African American students and others. While the program does not just serve African American students, the name is an issue. There is fear of other issues arising here and elsewhere over ethnic based clubs and graduation ceremonies.

At a recent FUSD board meeting, trustees heard a report on the completed community, staff and student meetings and surveys for the development of the next Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). These meetings will inform the development of a three-year expenditure plan for the projected \$1.67 billion in district funding over that period. The summary results of that input are not yet available.

A report on current year Local Control Funding Formula expenditures and outcomes was also presented. That report compared test outcomes with baseline measures and with the optimistic desired outcomes that had been specified in the LCAP. Most of the indicators improved but did not meet their desired outcome goals. For example, on the California Science Test, the one-year outcome improved over baseline 16.8% vs. 16% but fell short of the desired 21% goal.

Other measures that improved but fell short of goals included : distance from standard in both English and math on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, A-G completion rates; % of seniors who are "Prepared" on the College and Career Indicator; graduation rate; chronic absentee rate; and student suspension rate.

“



## Behavioral Health

by Sherri Gibson



Vocational and educational services are provided to some clients of Fresno County's Behavioral Health Department in conjunction with the Department of Rehabilitation. These services include life skills and daily living support, connection to educational programs, job preparation, job seeking assistance, placement services and coaching. A minimum of 100 persons per year access these services. Last year 212 persons received one of these services.

One of the services provided to the homeless population is low barrier lodging, known as The Lodge. This lodging is not a shelter but is targeted for high risk unhoused populations. The focus is on meeting basic needs first, then providing opportunities for behavioral health services. The program is peer driven, with 24/7 peer support. The success of the program is evaluated by how many clients are linked to mental health or substance abuse programs. Last year 377 persons were placed at The Lodge and 160 engaged in services.

The Lodge program will be extended this year with a focus on adaptations to explore whether it can be expanded to serve other populations.

The Lodge provides temporary housing while working with Peer Support Specialists to build rapport with a goal of accepting services. Individuals who are experiencing homelessness in combination with severe mental illness and substance abuse may be referred to The Lodge.

[sgibson@russellsmithinc.com](mailto:sgibson@russellsmithinc.com)

## THANK YOU

A generous contribution was received this month from Jim and Diana Durham

"Student expulsion rate" met the desired outcome while other measures worsened relative to baseline. Among those were: the rate of juniors scoring "ready" or "conditionally ready" in both English Language Arts and Math on the early assessment on a computerized state test of common core standards; Transitional Kindergarten math mastery and social emotional mastery; and the high school drop-out rate.

[kaybertken752@gmail.com](mailto:kaybertken752@gmail.com)

# Bylaw changes for member ratification

Multiple changes were made to the bylaws this year promoted by the new LWVUS approach to membership and dues and the requirement to adapt bylaws to conform to the LWVUS and LWVC formats. To do that, non-substantive changes included: rearranging the order of some articles, changing numbering of sections, and making minor changes in wording.

More substantive changes, many dictated by the LWVUS and LWVC, others follow reflecting simplification of overly prescriptive details:

**Article III**, Section 2. Eliminated student members as a category of membership.

**Article IV**, Section 1. Eliminated the designation of the board vice president as the “Executive Vice President.”

Section 2. Added “the office of president may be held concurrently by more than one person”.

Section 5. Added to the duties of the treasurer was the preparation of “a financial report within 120 days of the close of the fiscal year.”

**Article V**, Section 5. Eliminated the enumeration of specific causes for declaring a vacancy on the board.

Section 6. Eliminated all provisions for delegating league management to an outside agent or agency.

Section 7. Eliminated the provision of specified mode and timing of notification to officers of a regular meeting.

Section 8. Simplified notification requirements for special meetings.

Section 10. Eliminated multiple specific restrictions on the conduct of asynchronous electronic meetings. (We do not hold these.)

**Article VI**. This new article concerning committees was created out of previous sections of Article V “The Board of Directors.” Multiple references to compensation for directors or committee members were removed from Article V and VI.

Section 2. Duties of the Executive Committee to inform the whole board of actions was elaborated to require pre-approval of decisions related to topics not previously addressed by the board.

**Article VII**. The old Article VII related to the details of indemnifying the board was eliminated in favor of a simplified Section 8 statement under the new Article VII “Financial Administration.” Section 2. Replaced the old dues provisions in this Section to conform with new LWVUS dues procedures. “All members shall pay membership dues in accordance with the LWVUS policy except for those exempted from dues.”

Section 5. Details of the content of the annual financial report that are already specified by law were eliminated.

Section 6. A new Section 6 simplified the reporting requirements related to conflicts of interest of board members.

Section 7. Added the prohibition of contracts not authorized by the board.

Section 8. The new indemnification provision states. “The league is empowered to indemnify its officers, directors, and agents to the extent provided and within the limitations imposed by law.”

**Article VIII**. Section 4. The quorum requirement for the annual meeting was changed from 10% to 15% of members.

*(continued on page 7)*

## Healthcare

by Richard Bertken, M.D.



**B**ecause I wanted *not* to think about Medicaid cuts, I let some anthropology take over my medical column...

In 1979 China's President Deng Xiaoping issued an edict that couples would be allowed only one child. The government provided birth control and sterilizations, but where enforcement of the edict was most vigorous, many female fetuses were selectively aborted, and many newborn females were victims of infanticide. The results are still evident in China's high male to female ratio in its adult population, leading to restlessness and violence among unpaired men. Echoes of the past may be seen in its current unusually high male to female birth rate.

Six U.S. states have banned sex-selective abortion. While the issue of stopping in utero sex determination has been raised, no states have banned genotyping for gender or late pregnancy sonography. So how do the six states enforce the unenforceable? Publicizing the laws' remote chance of a criminal conviction is the only force behind the laws.

### The culture of women

The culture of women has been molded by menstruation, pregnancy, child-births, childrearing, and housewifery.

Still, throughout history some women have become rulers, military leaders, soldiers, diplomats, great artists and writers, and activists. In mid-life women have been given a natural reprieve by menopause which, despite its debits, ends the awful prospect of most females dying in childbirth. After menopause, women's lives stretch out longer than men's. In the developed countries they live about six years longer. Evolution seems to have supported longevity in women to provide for grandmothering and, in general, serving as village historians, counselors, and crisis consultants.



### Menopause not strictly for humans

As recently as a decade ago it was axiomatic that humans were the only animals to undergo menopause. Now marine mammalogists have discovered that whales—orcas, narwhals, belugas, and pilot whales—undergo menopause because their evolution favored enabling grandmothering and counseling their pods. These “village elders” are teachers and leaders who provide survival advantages over pods that have lost their grandmas. They are law-makers that govern the pods' formation, movement, and hunting practices. The males provide reproduction and defense against intruders plus assistance with food hunting.

### Ancient women-centric cultures in England

Recent news articles have highlighted the discovery of a women-centric Celtic region in the English County of Dorset that flourished during the Stone Age around 2000 years ago. The woman-centric nature of the area was suspected from the locations of gravesites but proven by refined genetic analysis. In this area, men migrated from their homes to other villages to find brides and then lived with her family in which his mother-in-law was the head of the household. This version of women-centric culture is known as “matrilocal,” but many versions have persisted to current times. Currently there are over 150 women-centric cultures around the globe, most located in remote and isolated locations.

At the peak of women-centric cultures is true matriarchy, where women are the leaders in moral, social, political, and cultural aspects of their society. However, even these matriarchies never approach the gender-dominance of the male-centric politics that dominate our current conflicts. Both past and present matriarchal cultures emphasize open discussion, debate, diplomacy, and decision-sharing, behaviors much needed in our current world.

*rbertken@comcast.net*


### LWVC STATE CONVENTION

**JUNE 17-22, 2025**

**ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

**AND YOU TUBE**



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FRESNO				
Budget				
PROPOSED 2025-2026				
<b>Maureen Hayes, Treasurer</b>				<b>2025-2026</b>
				<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Income</b>				
	<b>4010 · MEMBERSHIP DUES</b>			1,944.00
	<b>4020 · DONATIONS</b>			3,000.00
	<b>4040 · ANNUAL MTG INCOME</b>			1,200.00
	<b>4021 · RBG SCHOLARSHIP FUND</b>			0.00
	<b>4053 · CENTENNIAL/MURAL PROJECT</b>			1,350.00
	<b>4070 · UNDERWRITING</b>			800.00
	<b>4080 · VOTER SERVICES</b>			7,500.00
	<b>4095 · INTEREST INCOME</b>			400.00
	<b>4041 · WED MEETING INCOME</b>			1,750.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>Total Income</b>			<b>17,944.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
	<b>5010 · PMP/CA/US</b>			1,000.00
	<b>5030 · DUES/OTHER ORGS</b>			50.00
	<b>5110 · EDUCATION PROGRAM PRIORITIES</b>			
	<b>5111 · BOARD/MEMBER EDUCATION</b>			
	<b>5130 · SCHOLARSHIPS</b>			0.00
	<b>5120 · VOTER SERVICES/VOTER'S EDGE</b>			1,000.00
	<b>5210 · ANNUAL MTG EXPENSE</b>			800.00
	<b>5230 · NAT'L/STATE CONVENTION</b>			1,200.00
	<b>5241 · WED MEETING EXPENSE</b>			1,500.00
	<b>5250 · OTHER CONFERENCES</b>			
	<b>5310 · BOARD EXPENSE</b>			0.00
	<b>5320 · EQUIPMENT PURCHASE</b>			500.00
	<b>5330 · FILING FEES</b>			100.00
	<b>5340 · LIABILITY INSURANCE</b>			275.00
	<b>5350 · MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES</b>			1,550.00
	<b>5351 · 2020 CELEBRATION EVENTS</b>			1,350.00
	<b>5360 · OFFICE SUPPLIES</b>			500.00
	<b>5370 · POSTAGE</b>			1,000.00
	<b>5380 · PRINTING</b>			4,000.00
	<b>5390 · RENT</b>			4,200.00
	<b>5410 · STUDENT UNIT</b>			0.00
	<b>5420 · TELEPHONE</b>			500.00
	<b>5430 · WEBSITE MYLO</b>			0.00
	<b>5520 · LEGAL FEES</b>			7,500.00
	<b>5530 · Bank/PayPal Fees</b>			200.00
	<b>5540 · Professional Services</b>			1,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>				<b>28,225.00</b>
<b>4001 · Funds Forward</b>				<b>-10,281.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>			<b>Net Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## Water News

by Diane Merrill



California Senator Alex Padilla and Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski announced bipartisan legislation to improve atmospheric river forecasting to reduce flood risks and bolster emergency preparedness.

Atmospheric rivers are often described as rivers in the sky and cause more than 80 percent of flood damage across the West. They can be hundreds of miles wide and can carry water vapor equivalent to multiple Mississippi Rivers.

This legislation would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a standalone atmospheric river forecast improvement program to:

- Develop accurate, effective, and actionable storm forecasts and warnings in collaboration with public and private weather forecasting organizations.
- Evaluate innovative observation tools and emerging technologies to improve atmospheric river analysis, modeling, forecasts and warnings:
- Authorize NOAA to procure equipment, aircraft, and personnel contracts to fully monitor atmospheric river events each winter.
- Improve atmospheric river hazard communication.
- Ensure that all states along the West Coast, including Alaska, will have at least one atmospheric river observatory.

Senator Padilla stated, "For the past several years, California communities have witnessed firsthand the ongoing threat of destructive flooding caused by increasingly intense and frequent atmospheric river storms. California has led the way in improving our understanding of these storms."

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2025-2026

Committee: Janet Baker; Francine Farber; Diane Merrill; Dolores O'Neal; Angela Presto

Co-Presidents: Kay Bertken, \* Robin Chiero \*

Treasurer: Maureen Hayes \*

Secretary: Faye Nennig \*\*

Services: Vice President, Sue Goldman \*

Director, Robin Chiero \*

Program Planning: Marianne Kast. \* Marie Slater \*\*

Membership: Diana Durham \*\*

Education : Kay Bertken \*

Voter Editor Francine Farber \*

At Large: Dolores O'Neal \*\*

Radley Reep \*\*

Student Unit: Naomi Bick \*\*

At Large members are available  
for assignments as needed

\* one year left on current term-

\*\*beginning two year term

Nominating Committee 2025-2026

Faye Nennig

Sue Goldman

Janice Maroot

Others to be announced

### Bylaw changes *(continued from page 4)*

Section 5. Eliminated a list of options for notifying members of the annual meeting.

Section 7. Eliminated specific references to every league record and document in favor of a general right of inspection by league members.

**Article XI.** Was added to describe the national and state conventions and the state council meeting.

**Article XII.** Section 2. A provision was added that amendments to the bylaws required by the LWVUS or LWVC could be approved by the board without approval at the annual meeting.

### Program Planning Priorities

At our Program Planning Meeting on February 13 members selected the following local priorities:

- Our lawsuit against the General Plan proposed by the County
- Ballot language for the Measure C Transportation Tax Renewal
- CEMEX and how to stave off the 100-year mining request
- Participation in the Federal Judiciary Study run by the U.S. League

Statewide we prioritized:

- Drinking water for unserved and underserved rural areas
- Affordable housing and housing for the unhoused
- Trees and fire mitigation as part of air quality concerns

## Climate Action

by Andrea Farber De Zubiria



In these hyper partisan times, it seems amazing that much of the environmental regulations and protections in place were established during a Republican presidency. The first Earth Day took place in April of 1970, in response to the growing awareness of the hazards of pesticide and aerosol use, oil spills, toxins dumped in rivers and more. There was a huge turn-out for the teach-ins, rallies and marches all over the country, including at Fresno State.

This galvanized public opinion and President Nixon soon established the Environmental Protection Agency, the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Act. The enormous issue of climate change, caused by emissions from burning coal, oil and gas that trap heat around the planet, was not yet in the public eye. For 2025, the national theme of Earth Day is 'Our Power, Our Planet', to emphasize the need to increase renewable energy like solar, wind, geothermal power and hydroelectric power.

This year, Fresno's Earth Day event will be at Fresno City College on Saturday April 12th from 10-4 on the West Lawn of the Old Administration Building. This free event is sponsored by the Environmental Collaborative of Central California (EcoCenCal) and the Fresno City College Math, Science and Engineering Division. The League of Women Voters of Fresno is one of the major contributors.

There's always music, entertainment and good food at Earth Day Fresno. At the Citizens' Climate Lobby yard sale, you can also shop for a cause. Donations for purchases will help send local youth to a climate conference and lobby day in DC this summer. Then you can get help to write your member of Congress about maintaining funds for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency or preserving the clean energy tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act.

If you want to know what local groups, businesses and government agencies are doing to address problems like plastic pollution, childhood asthma, climate change and the need to protect and improve natural habitats, Earth Day Fresno is a great place to connect, learn and get involved.

## Housing

by Marianne Kast



A few weeks ago I attended a presentation by Allie Thurmond Quinlan of Flintlock LAB hosted by Chinatown Fresno Foundation. Quinlan is a trainer for IncDev Alliance, an Arkansas-based organization that trains and mentors aspir-

ing small developers and also coaches civic leaders to create supportive regulating environments that nurture small-scale real estate development projects.



A small-scale development project might be converting an old home into an office or retail space plus a residence, or turning an abandoned storefront into attractive, income-producing spaces, or building a duplex in an established neighborhood. We often think of real estate development as only large scale, multi-story, multi-unit projects on larger parcels of land. The idea here is that a small developer, just a resident without extraordinary means, can learn to navigate the process of development and will work to improve a neighborhood that they love and are committed to. In turn, their efforts will create a community of like-minded neighbors who will continue to develop and improve their neighborhood.

This seems like a perfect opportunity for property owners and others who are interested in revitalizing Chinatown Fresno. Improving that iconic Fresno neighborhood would be a slow and obstacle-filled process, but the area stands to prosper greatly when high-speed rail delivers passengers to the proposed rail station, at the corner of Kern and G streets.

This presentation attracted about 75 people. The crowd included property owners, city officials, business persons, and advocates for Chinatown. There were enthusiastic questions and many seemed willing to enroll in IncDev Alliance's one-day Small Scale Development Workshop, scheduled for April 24. The cost for the workshop is \$170, with scholarships available. For more info, <https://www.incrementaldevelopment.org/events/fresnoworkshop>

[fourkasts@gmail.com](mailto:fourkasts@gmail.com)





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Webmaster Robin Chiero

# ***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 - \$75 is the recommended amount. However you can choose an amount, with \$20 being the least you can pay. Renew online at <https://portal.lwv.org/>**

**Please make your check payable to the US League of Women Voters, Fresno, and send to our local office at LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710. with registration form below**

.....  
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