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Web site:  
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The *Fresno*  
**VOTER**

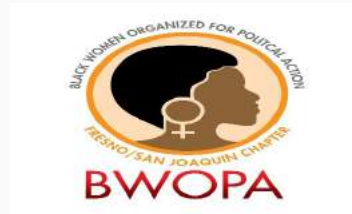
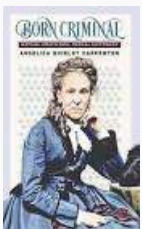


Thursday, February 6  
Congressional  
Candidates Forum  
Fresno State, 5-8 pm.  
Peters Auditorium

Monday, Feb. 10  
Centennial Event  
Women of Color  
Symposium  
Late February  
Centennial Event  
Fresno City College  
Details to be announced

Monday, March 9  
5 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
League Office, Stone Soup

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.  
Woodward Park Library  
Angelica Carpenter, author  
"Born Criminal"  
Centennial Event



**MOR-WISDOM ROOM**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF FRESNO



**Join Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA),  
the Mor~Wisdom Room and the League of Women Voters in a  
conversation with:**

**Harriet Tubman**

**Sojourner Truth**

**Frances (Fannie) Baird Williams**

**Monday, February 10, 2020**

**BWOPA General 5:30 – Special Program 6:00**

**Vision View Business Center \* Mor~Wisdom Room**

**4974 E. Clinton Way \* Fresno 93727**

*At Special Event in Celebration of the Suffrage Centennial*

# President's Message



## It's time for Program Planning!

In League-language, “program” means issues that members have chosen for study, education and action at the local, state, and/or national levels. Each year we also decide which issues we will emphasize in our local work. Then, in alternating years we consider the “program” for the state League or the national League. This year, we will consider the program for the LWVUS, the national League.

**The LWV Fresno Board of Directors has recommended continuing the local priorities adopted last April:**

- ◆ **Climate Change**
- ◆ **Get Out the Vote**
- ◆ **Preschool Education.**

Since 2016 the LWVUS program has been the “Campaign for Making Democracy Work.” This broad title includes the work that is the core mission of the League: voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics, redistricting, etc. At each biennial national convention, additional resolutions are offered, debated, and voted on. The following resolutions were added to the League program for 2018-2020:

- ◆ making gun control and safety and gun ownership limitations a priority in the LWVUS lobbying efforts
- ◆ placing an emphasis on the ERA this year and every year until the ERA is ratified and becomes a U.S. Constitutional Amendment
- ◆ reaffirming the League’s long-held position that the Electoral College should be abolished
- ◆ supporting efforts to price carbon emissions
- ◆ reaffirming the League’s commitment to the constitutional right of privacy and an individual’s right to make reproductive choices
- ◆ supporting climate assessment criteria that ensures energy policies align with current climate science

**Now it is time to make suggestions for the 2020-2022 LWVUS program. The LWVUS Board of Directors has suggested continuing the “Campaign to Make Democracy Work.”**  
*(continued on page 8)*

## MEMBER NEWS

**Please edit your roster**



### ROSEMARY HILLMAN

Rosemary Hillman, a member since 2006, passed away on December 21 at age 92. She was active in LWVF and enjoyed supporting membership events, providing the clubhouse at her residence for new member socials and addressing envelopes to prospects.

Rosemary was a native Minnesotan. After receiving a B.A. in education from the University of Minnesota she was an entertainment coordinator for the USO in post-war Berlin. She authored articles on teaching immigrant children and finished her career as a counselor at Dos Pueblos High School.

**The Voter is a monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Fresno**

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

**Volume 79, No.2 Editor: Francine M. Farber**

# Climate Change



by Andrea Farber De Zubiria

Australia is still in the throes of enormous wildfires. While wildfire is a normal phenomenon in Australia, fires this year are burning earlier, longer and hotter than in the past. So many people are suffering from the toxic smoke and loss of life, homes and property. And of course, the news is filled with touching stories of the millions of animals that have died, been injured or lost their habitat.

In California, winter has brought a temporary respite from fire, but we are warned that megafires and a longer “fire season” are the new normal. These days, I maintain hope in the face of such discouraging information by learning about legislative efforts to decrease the carbon emissions that are warming the globe and leading to drought, fires, floods and other extreme weather events.

The LWVC supported a number of climate related bills through the 2019 session. Some of these became law, but most may go on into the 2020 sessions as two-year bills. The bills that were signed into law include methods to help coastal communities adapt to climate change using “natural infrastructure,” heavy duty vehicle smog

requirements, and protocols for defining offsets to clarify cap and trade policies.

## Here are the bills that the League will support in California, if and when they are reintroduced in 2020:

**AB 409** Funds the development of planning tools to help farmers transition to more climate-sensitive and sustainable agricultural practices.

**AB 479** Makes plant-based food and beverages more available to students, with benefits to health and carbon emissions.

**AB 975** Sets up coordination at the level of governments to promote and support California goals and policies regarding oceans, coasts and terrestrial adaptation to climate change. It would leverage best practices, infrastructure, institutions and research.

**AB 1080 and SB 54** - These companion bills require that plastic single-use packaging and products sold or distributed in California be reduced or recycled by 75 percent by 2030.

**SB 43** Requires The California Air Resources Board (CARB) to study the feasibility of assessing and assigning carbon intensity to retail products subject to the Sales and Use Tax Law.

**SB 168** Establishes the position of Chief Climate Resiliency Officer to serve as the statewide lead for planning and coordination of climate adaptation policy and implementation in California.

**SB 253** Provides incentives to farmers whose practices promote the well-being of ecosystems, air quality, and wildlife and their habitat.

**SB 667** Requires development of a 5-year investment strategy to meet organic waste reduction and recycling targets. To be done in coordination with Washington, Oregon and Nevada.

**SB 682** Requires adopting a climate accounting protocol to evaluate the potential of proposed climate mitigation and restoration actions based on radiative forcing – a quantitative measurement.

In the Central Valley, there are an increasing number of organizations and community leaders that are endorsing action on climate change, carbon pricing and HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. This past month, it was endorsed by the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition. There are 8 federal bills in various stages of the legislative process that involve carbon pricing but HR 763 has the most co-sponsors at 75. The LWVC strongly supports a carbon pricing strategy, but has not yet endorsed this specific legislation.

You can help fight climate change by contacting your members of Congress monthly. Ask them to support legislation that prices carbon to incentivize clean energy innovation and programs that encourage lower greenhouse gas emissions in our atmosphere

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



Juanita Stephenson (left)  
Sharon Levy



Dr. Diane Blair



(l to r) Mary Savala,  
Jane Worsley,  
Jennifer Williamson

## Pictures at an Exhibition

First Wives

Suffrage Centennial

Fresno City Hall

January 9, 2020

See story & more photos page 8

All Centennial Photos

By Howard Watkins

# Voter Services

by Liz Shields



The Get- Out-The-Vote (GOTV) group met to make arrangements for more voter registration events and distribution of information about the upcoming primary election at local farmers' markets, candidate forums and other venues. During the past month we have spoken to residents of three retirement homes and reregistered new residents. More are planned for this month.

Primary ballots will be mailed to all voters on February 3. While voters who have registered with a particular party will receive their party specific ballots, those who chose No Party Preference (NPP) when they registered to vote will find no presidential candidate names on their ballots. If these voters wish to cast a vote for a Democratic, Libertarian or American Independent Party candidate they may surrender their

NPP ballot to the Election Department office or at a Vote Center and receive a party ballot. If they wish to vote for a Republican, Green, or Peace and Freedom Party they must reregister under one of these parties and then receive a party ballot. They can do this up to and on Election Day, March 3.

I am concerned that many young people who may be first time voters will be confused by the process. I would like League members who know any young voters to alert them to the opportunity to vote for a presidential candidate by either of the two means mentioned above.

## Election News

We have been alerted by the Election Department that they will need us to unfold ballots starting soon after the ballots are mailed. The unfolding process will be much simpler this election as the tabulating equipment is more sophisticated than in the past. In addition we will be needed to staff the phone banks earlier than in previous elections as the Election Department expects voters to have more questions about Voter Center locations and other issues. Phone bank training will be announced soon.

I will be recruiting volunteers to help with the ballot unfolding and the phone bank when I receive notification from the Election Department so expect an email or a phone call SOON.  
[elizs44@yahoo.com](mailto:elizs44@yahoo.com)

# Behavioral Health

by Carolyn Evans



The Behavioral Health Board began its new year with the annual report from LPC Consulting Associates, Inc. that evaluates the Substance Use Disorder Prevention (SUD) Services provided by the Department of Behavioral Health. Three programs directed toward Fresno County youth are Saturday Night Live, focusing on alcohol prevention; Performing Above the High, focusing on tobacco and marijuana use; and Lock It Up, addressing inappropriate use of prescription medications.

Based primarily on student surveys, the consultants reported that consumption of alcohol and cigarettes has declined a bit, with a slight increase in marijuana use. Proper storage and disposal of prescription medication has not changed significantly. A major problem confronting providers is partnering with schools, some of which are unwilling to cooperate with either the prevention programs or the survey of students. The

Department hopes that its contract with the County Superintendent of Schools for mental health services might be expanded to include these SUD prevention services.



Big news for the justice population is a proposal for a jail-based competency program that will allow court-ordered administra-

tion of medication for those judged incompetent to stand trial. Inmates often have long waits for beds at the state hospitals where they are treated until they are judged competent to stand trial; then once inmates return to the county jail, they may refuse medication and rapidly decompensate, requiring another trip to the state hospitals. The new designation for our jail would prevent this revolving-door process.

The Housing Update reported on Round 2 of No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding. The Department, in partnership with the Housing Authority and development sponsor UPholdings, has submitted applications for two new developments for a total of 116 housing units, with 57 units designated for NPLH clients, and 20 of those specifically for Transitional Aged Youth.

[evansalca@comcast.net](mailto:evansalca@comcast.net)



# Education

by Kay Bertken



The Board resumed meetings after winter break, considering two charter school petitions, a review of the District's Personalized Learning Initiative (PLI), and a reconsideration of the censure resolution regarding Trustee Slatic of last August.

## Denial of Aspen Charter

The Board was asked to review its lack of previous approval or denial of the petition of Aspen Charter to open a high school. That indecision resulted from the FUSD staff recommendation to conditionally approve the petition for just two years rather than the five ordinarily granted, based on several concerns with the petition including uncertainty about the school's proposed lease of a facility. Because Aspen could not appeal a "non-decision" to the County Schools, it was back on the FUSD agenda. The Board once again voted against approval; and based on the charter advocate's desire to have a resolution, they did vote to deny. Aspen will appeal to the Fresno County Office of Education, which has a history of approving appeals.

## Consideration of Western Sierra Charter

A new petition was discussed from Western Sierra Charter Schools, which runs an independent study elementary and high school program in Oakhurst in Madera County and a resource center in Fresno. The State of California designates any charter with less than 80% non seat-based instruction as an "independent study" program. The Western Sierra schools run programs that support home schooling. They meet with students to design programs of study, provide curricula and tutoring as well as scheduled classes and activities. Their Fresno resource center operates outside of the county where it is chartered. Under new



state law, that is no longer approved. The Board will vote on the petition at an upcoming meeting.

The District's Personalized Learning program, halfway through its fourth year, presented its positive achievement record. In 2018-2019 the program involved 630 volunteer teachers at 26 volunteer school sites. The program involves an 18 month rollout of teacher training blending personalized computer learning into a regular classroom setting. Two more sites are beginning the rollout training this year.

## PLI improves scores

In comparisons of 2018-2019 English Language Arts and math scores between students who had a PLI instructor and those who did not, students with PLI teachers were more likely to meet or exceed standards on the state tests in all grades 4 through 8 and in all those grades but 7<sup>th</sup> in math. Gains were reflected for all three years for African American and Hispanic subgroups and in the two years measured for special needs students.

## Slatic censure discussed

Addressing Trustee Slatic's censure was the final agenda item. Several members of the public spoke encouraging the Board to keep the censure as it was and suggested that his behavior had not changed. The trustees clearly expected Trustee Slatic to present some defense or suggestions for lightening the sanctions placed on him. Instead, he simply said the judge in his suit against the district over the censure would most likely require him to attempt to resolve the issue with the Board before it came to court.

After that statement, the rest of the trustees agreed that his behavior was still unacceptable and that he had not attended the anger management training which they had included as a prerequisite to restoring his unaccompanied access to campuses and his participation in Board committees.

After telling Trustee Slatic that he intimidated people, including herself, Trustee Casares suggested he go ahead and sue. The other trustees (all female) seem confident that they have the authority to censure him. Trustee Slatic has also filed suit to recover his attorney fees from a student who tried unsuccessfully to obtain a restraining order on him. Meanwhile, petitions for his recall have been prepared and signatures are being collected.

*kayb@csufresno.edu*

**NEXT MEETINGS:**

**FEBRUARY 12, FEBRUARY 26**

## Health Care

by Richard Bertken, M.D.



**T**he government can give you a health plan, but it can't give you an appointment. This is a catchphrase summary of my first article for *The Voter* in August 2013, announcing the local implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Considering our local shortage of health care professionals, the task of providing timely medical care to newly insured residents seemed insurmountable. The response of California's MediCal and ACA insurers has been admirable, especially in comparison with most other states. Even so, there has been a decline in licensed physicians practicing in central California since 2013, according to the California Health Care Foundation.

The decline in primary care physicians is particularly alarming. This is occurring despite growth in our regional residency training programs which are a key factor in sustaining a local workforce. We are seeing an aging population of physicians (along with our entire population) reducing their workload or retiring completely before they can be replaced.

Aging out of physicians is happening nationwide, along with projected shortages in nursing, dentistry, podiatry, optometry, and audiology. Nursing home and home health workers will be in short supply for our geriatric population. These uncomfortable realities require that universal, comprehensive health care advocates start explaining how their system will be staffed.

In a dream world, all our un- or under-employed industrial workers and (possibly) private health insurance workers (for example, billers and coders and actuaries) would be retrained for hands-on health care jobs. In the real world, these transitions would be difficult, unpopular, and uncommon.

The staffing shortfall is so thorny it invites wholesale re-design of the nation's health care. So far, forays into this arena have not worked so well. The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) reported last year that "emerging health care delivery trends designed to improve overall population health do not have a significant effect on physician shortage projections. Providing better care coordination across settings,

reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency visits, increasing use of advanced practice providers, reducing obesity and tobacco use, and applying managed care models and risk sharing agreements such as Accountable Care Organizations, only reduced demand for physicians by 2032 by 1%." By that date we would experience a shortage of about 80,000 physicians, assuming increased demand and projected rates of graduation from training.

AAMC also reported that we would need "an additional 95,900 doctors immediately if health care use patterns were equalized across race, insurance coverage, and geographic location" and that "underserved areas may experience the shortages more acutely, the need for more physicians will be felt everywhere."

Here are some steps we should take:

- produce more physicians by assertively increasing pre- and post-graduate training positions and by reducing the duration and absurd costs of medical education.
- continue to encourage foreign medical school graduates and osteopathy graduates to join our physician workforce.
- dramatically improve the functioning of our electronic medical records through intensive clinician feedback, by making them fully integrated or even universal, and by giving them some intelligence or even some machine learning.
- profoundly improve the income, role, and competencies of the primary physician, starting with the creation of Board of Principal Care Medicine and associated residencies, fellowships, and board certification testing.
- for at least non-procedural care, replace fee-for-service charges with value-based or salary-based pay.
- optimize the use of advanced non-physician personnel in routine medical activities such as immunizations, general preventive care, diabetes, hypertension, well-child care, pre-natal care, etc.
- facilitate medical care by internet-based test, photo, and video.

A consortium of state governments and the Health Resources and Services Administration are working on programs to incentivize physicians to practice in underserved areas, but it is not clear that government in general, nor the current candidates for the presidency, are fully mindful of the level of threat posed by our projected health care inadequacy.



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# Water News

by Diane Merrill



As reported previously, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act required that groundwater agencies in critically over-drafted groundwater basins submit detailed groundwater sustainability plans to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31. Three critically over-drafted basins are located mostly, or partially, in Fresno County.

DWR is tasked with reviewing these plans. Two of the major evaluation criteria are avoiding “significant and unreasonable lowering of groundwater levels”, and avoiding “significant and unreasonable degraded water quality.”

In December the LWVC was one of 50 organizations that signed on to a letter urging DWR to work with the State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board in reviewing these plans. The reason for this request is to make sure that both groundwater levels and water quality are properly addressed in the groundwater sustainability plans.

This is especially important for residents in rural disadvantaged communities that are dependent on groundwater for their water supply. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is the Regional Board that oversees water quality in both the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys.

The LWVC Water Committee is planning a face-to-face water meeting for committee members, probably in the spring. Past meetings have been held in Sacramento with the goal of sharing information and educating ourselves about the complex and diverse water issues in the various areas of California. This helps the Water Committee choose what issues to focus on so that we can make the most impact.



# Affordable Housing

by Nyla Zender



*Excerpts from the writings of Charles Marohn, Jr., Founder and President of Strong Towns and author of “Strong Towns: A Bottom-Up Revolution to Rebuild American Prosperity”*

“For most communities, rapid growth is relatively easy. They have state and federal funding, municipal bond debt financing as well as tax incentives and deferrals. Each transaction gives communities immediate fees and tax revenue, but also burdens them with the long-term responsibility to provide ongoing service, maintenance and replacement of worn-out infrastructure.

While the new big-box store, strip mall or drive-through restaurant may last only a couple of decades, the maintenance obligations from all that asphalt and new sewer lines are eternal. When we do the math on this development pattern the results are alarming.

The math reveals that most cities in North America are functionally insolvent. The new development does not produce enough wealth to fund the long-term maintenance of its own infrastructure or cover the cost of safety and other government services. It all works while infrastructure is still new or as long as new growth covers the cost of the next project. To truly assess our cities’ solvency, we must ask “are we experiencing productive growth?”. How much wealth is created on each acre of land? When cities are analyzed by this metric, even neighborhoods that are far from affluent, financially outperform the newest builds today. Acre by acre they produce more concentrated wealth and consume less public infrastructure and services.

In the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century we began what can be called an auto-centric pattern of growth that requires many acres to accommodate traffic flow, buffering and parking lots. An example of this growth pattern are the big-box retail stores that are generally cheaply built, one-story buildings surrounded by a parking lot that dwarfs the store itself. They produce a very small fraction of the value of traditional, mixed-use downtown development.

We need to allow for greater neighborhood density and productivity. We need to shift to a bottom-up approach and stay away from the frantic growth activity to once again become strong towns.”

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# Opening Centennial event a huge success

Over 100 members and guests attended the kick-off event for the League’s year of celebrating the Suffrage Centennial on January 9. Co-sponsored by the Office of the Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, the evening featured a portrait exhibit and talk as well as elegant refreshments and wine. The exhibit is free and open to the public on weekdays through February 2.

Lining the walls of the first and second floors of Fresno City Hall, the exhibit featured the portraits of each of the First Ladies of the United States, from Martha to Melania, mostly painted by portrait artist Lawrence Williams. After he died, the portrait of Michelle Obama was painted by local artist Ma Ly, while the picture of Melania Trump is a lithographed reproduction of her official White House portrait.

City Manager Wilma Quan, the first woman to hold that position in Fresno history, brought greetings from city government. Dr. Kathy Catania, Deputy Superintendent for the Fresno County Office of Education, related the origin of the portraits as a gift from Joe Levy, deceased CEO of Gottschalks. His wife, Sharon Levy, was present for the opening reception.

Francine Farber reviewed historic events leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution on August 26, 1920 and summarized other events planned by our league and community partners during 2020. The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Diane Blair, League member, professor at Fresno State, and expert in the history of the First Ladies.

Diane noted that although a few First Ladies spoke out in favor of suffrage, most either did not believe in it or because of their husbands’ political situation did not feel free to speak about it.

## Program Planning

*(continued from page 2)*

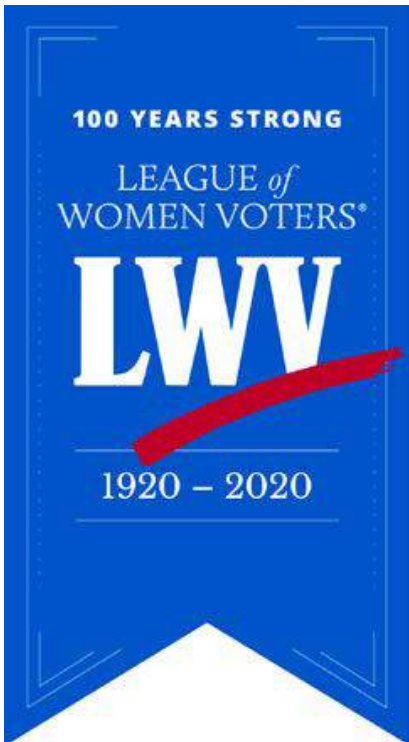
Also, two local Leagues have asked us to support additions to the national program. **The first proposal for concurrence is to support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation for all voters.** There are more details at this link: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/proposed-concurrence-electoral-systems>

**The second proposal is to add “Climate Emergency” to the LWVUS-proposed program.** This request is less specific, allowing each League to focus on its particular climate concerns.

Do you have a particular local issue you feel our League should be addressing?

Is there a national issue you think the League should be supporting nationally?

We’d like to hear from you by email ([fourkasts@gmail.com](mailto:fourkasts@gmail.com)) or phone (559 270-7937) by Feb. 6. Let us know what you’re thinking.



**Martha Jefferson**



**Abigail Fillmore**



**Mary Todd Lincoln**



**Mamie Eisenhower**

*First Ladies Portraits by Lawrence Williams*

*Photos by Howard Watkins*



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**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.**

.....  
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Address: \_\_\_\_\_