



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY

Voter

Dear League Members,

I hope you are as pleased as I am about the excellent League work we accomplished during the election season. It was nonstop for several months but we achieved our mission of voter education through our Forums, Pros & Cons programs & Voters Edge. Bravo to each member who participated.

Our work goes on and the need to practice our mission remains constant. Thanks to all who participated in our recent Program Planning for the League of Women Voters of California. And, all members are encouraged to participate on **February 18, 2017, 1pm** at the League office to review our **Local Action positions**. Do we need to study a local issue? Do we need to update an existing Position? Your input -- your voice -- will help guide the direction we take.

We encourage the active participation of citizens in government. We work to increase the understanding of major public policy issues. We influence public policy through education and advocacy. Sounds like a great elevator speech, right? It is! And it is what we do! Of course, the challenge is to steadfastly promote our mission and to bring it alive even during difficult or complex political times.

The League offers each of us the opportunity to have a steady and reasoned voice in our democracy -- no matter how raucous the world may appear. Our mission is education and advocacy. We have a wide spectrum of political opinions within our membership yet we all remain committed to our mission.....building citizen participation in the democratic process, engaging the community and finding positive solutions to public issues. Together we are doing just that.

See our calendar for upcoming programs and please attend. Many wonderful League activities are in our future!

The longer I serve the League the more grateful I am to be a member of this splendid organization.

Thanks to all,

Margaret Swick

President, League of Women Voters of Butte County

January 2017 Newsletter

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LWV of Butte County
PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927
www.lwvbuttecounty.org
(530) 895-VOTE

Remembering Anne Nordhus and Mary Watters



Above: Anne Nordhus, Mary Watters, Lyla Gregg & Gerda Lydon at the League Holiday Party in December 2007.

Many League members attended **Memorial Services in early October and late December** for our long-time members and colleagues, **Anne Nordhus and Mary Watters**. The loss of our dear friends has been felt and recognized throughout the community, as both women had tremendous impacts on core institutions and organizations in the North Valley. It is particularly heart-warming to see them cheerfully celebrating with good League chums in the above photo – a little less than 10 years ago – on the occasion of Lyla Gregg having received our Mita Markland Award for Community Service, a distinction shared by each of them in the photo.

Anne and Mary had many things in common, in fact, aside from their involvement and Presidencies with the League. Both were born in Illinois (albeit 5 years and 350 miles apart) and ultimately landed in Chico with their husbands to raise families here and fulfill their ambitions as educators and community activists.

Anne was a member of the Park Commission and long-time volunteer for Chico Friends of the Library. Mary volunteered with Head Start and was instrumental in the creation of the Chico Cooperative Nursery School. Both believed in the power of local engagement, and gave generously of their time – to their friends & causes.

Mary brought me to the League, and Anne was Editor of the “Voter” when I was President. To say that they were mentors is an understatement. They were more like godmothers to us, and we will always have their memories and the life and League lessons they shared.

Sharon Wallace, Voter Editor

Carrying-on the good work of Robert Spain, Webmaster for the League

Our webmaster, **Robert Spain, age 58, died unexpectedly** on November 3, 2016. Robert was our webmaster for several years. He was wonderfully responsive to the League and always calm & kind. He made all effort to improve our website and his expertise is missed.

The League of Women Voters was in the process of joining **League Easy Web** at the time of Robert's death. That process has now been completed **thanks to the help of Helen Gesick and William Tefteller**. We will benefit enormously from joining and sharing this service with Leagues throughout California. LEW provides a fast, easy and affordable structure.

Helen Gesick has managed this set up for us. Thank Helen at everyone opportunity. Please take the time to get familiar with our new website: <http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org>

It is a work in progress but I think you will enjoy it. Posting takes place regularly. We are making every attempt keep the website up to date and to make sure that League information is fully available to our membership.

The website is the first place to look for League information. Use it to:

- Check the Events calendar
- Read the Voter
- Review By-laws
- Read Local Action Positions
- Keep track of League business
- Pay dues or join the League

Make our new & improved Website a part of your life!

Margaret Swick

THURSDAY, Jan. 26 - Potluck & Program about Crude Oil Trains

Our Potluck & Program "**Crude Oil Trains, Butte County and the Safety Illusion**" will be held this **Thursday, January 26, beginning at 6 pm** at the Chico First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave.

League member **Dave Garcia**, who has been a spokesperson for Chico350.Org and the recent Frack-Free Butte County initiative, will lead the presentation with a screening of two short videos — "On the Wrong Track" and "Boom" — which examine the dangers of crude oil derailments. Unknown to most residents, **dangerous crude oil trains with volatile "Bakken crude" and "Canadian tar sands"** have been making their way through the Feather River Canyon above Lake Oroville, and through Oroville and Chico, to refineries in the San Francisco Bay Area and San Luis Obispo County. Following the videos, Dave will discuss the safety and environmental risks of such trains traveling through our region.

Also present to answer questions from the audience will be **Russ Fowler**, Cal Fire-Butte County Fire Department Battalion Chief who has served as Butte County's Interagency HazMat Team Coordinator since 2007. He will address questions about emergency preparedness and the training of first responders in our area, as well as update us on communications between state and local agencies about the need for tighter safety regulations and procedures along the Union Pacific railroad. For more information about this program, please call Linda Furr at 893-1291.

Plan on bringing a friend, along with a small potluck dish to share. Looking forward to seeing you there!

League Members provide Voter Education throughout Butte County

The forum season was busy this year. And just when we were finished with the **16 forums**, there was a need to do one more for a Paradise Irrigation District recall election taking place in Paradise this month.

The League had the support and gratitude from the media. We asked BCAC-tv (Channel 11) to participate this year. Their willingness to partner with us allowed the public the opportunity to view the professionally filmed forums on channel 11 and later on our website. The candidates were able to share a link on their candidate websites that in turn promoted LWV. Additionally, we were pleased that the editors of all of the local newspapers promoted our efforts and joined us in questioning the candidates or sent stellar reporters.

In past years we have had a terrific partnership with the Gridley Chamber of Commerce. This year we reached out to the **Chambers of Oroville, Paradise and Chico** to help promote our work with their members. And in December we were given an unexpected financial gift from the Chico Chamber of Commerce in appreciation of our voter education work. We look forward to expanding these partnerships.

Chico Unified School District offered LWV their new multi-purpose room at an affordable rate when the Chico Chambers became unaffordable. The site offered plenty of seating, state of the art audio and an opportunity for taxpayers to see CUSD's newest building.

The forums also took on a new feel. We added a script for the moderators which included a brief description of the body and also the responsibilities and compensation for the office or seat. This additional overview led to a greater understanding of the scope of the work the elected officials will do.

The forums presented the opportunity for our members to volunteer as moderators, researchers of issues and the government bodies, question writers, sorters, timers, greeters, question gatherers and as our audio tech. It took 27 of us to achieve this monumental task. Please thank the following members for their forum work:

Linda MacMichael * Mary Flynn * Carolyn Dusenbury * Loretta Torres * Willim Tefteller * William Todd-Mancillas * Eileen Burke-Trent * Linn Hanson * Toni Reid * Claire Greene * Mahalley Allen * Mark Kowta * Mary Kowta * Sandy Boyd * Nancy Hanson * Carol Burr * Jane Wanderer * Laura Peterson * Sandi Shand * Keitha Corbit * Barb Evans * Robin DiFalco * Mary Jensen * Margaret Swick * Cris Boyle * Suellen Rowilson

Sincerely,
Rose Kelley, Voter Service Director

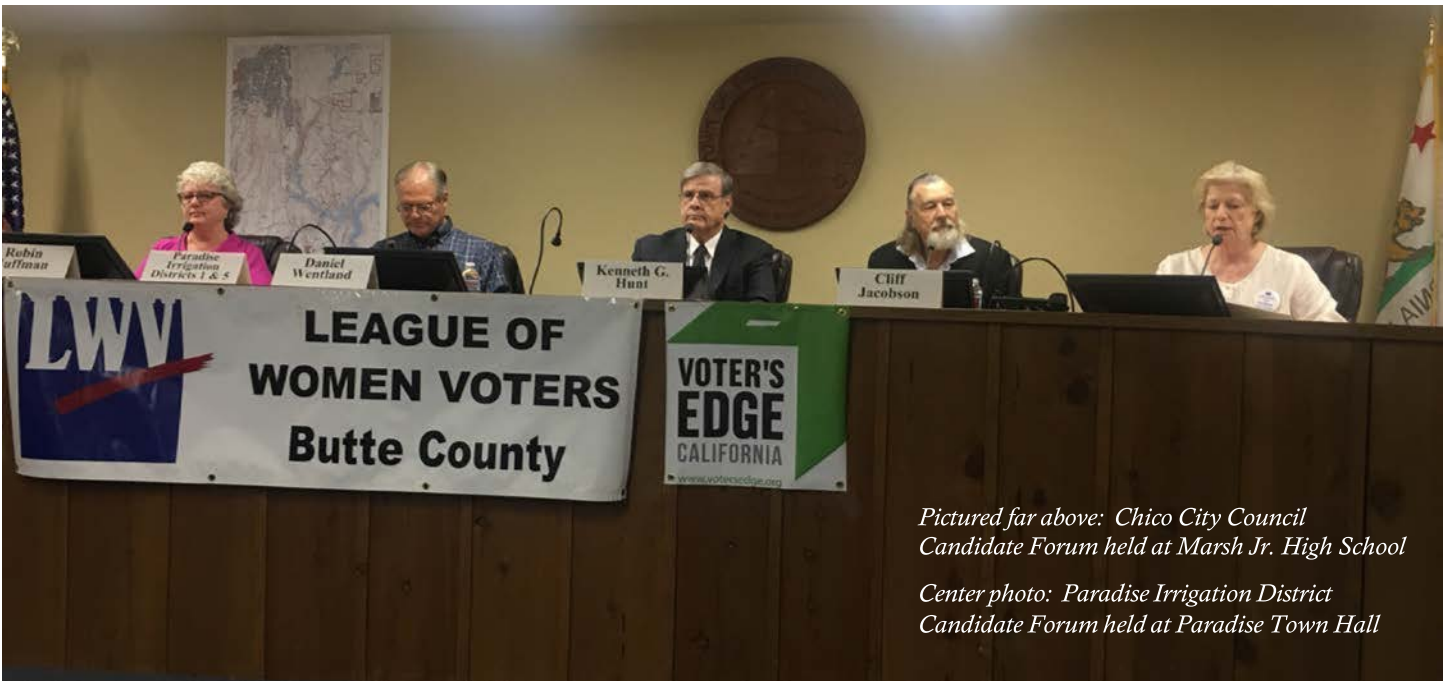
The “Pro & Con” Team of 12 very hard working members had a busy and successful election season, as well. The team made 13 presentations -- some to community organizations and a few at the Candidate Forums if there was time.

After researching the California League's policies and procedures for “Pro & Con” presentations, we had to winnow the 17 state measures and 9 local and county measures. It was challenging to decide which ones we could address in an hour. We did further research and each member prepared a summary for one of the measures. From this discussion we had our final list of which ones we would present. We then measured them against how hard they were to understand and which were the most important to voters. This list ran the gamut from marijuana to plastic bags to the death penalty. Because we could not cover all measures, we also provided *Easy Voter* and *Pro & Con* pamphlets at all presentations.

We all felt that our information was well received overall, and we were pleased at the positive feedback. Pros & Cons are an important program of Voter Service, and we are pleased to be able to contribute.

Your Pro & Con Team members were: Carol Burr, Carolyn Dusenbury [Co-Chair], Barbara Evans, Claire Greene, Mary Jensen, Rose Kelley, Mark Kowta, Mary Kowta, Betsy Kruger, Nicole LaGrave, Toni Reid [Co-Chair], Margaret Swick and Loretta Ann Torres. Hats off to all!

Carolyn Dusenbury, Pro & Con Co- Chair



*Pictured far above: Chico City Council Candidate Forum held at Marsh Jr. High School
Center photo: Paradise Irrigation District Candidate Forum held at Paradise Town Hall*



Photo left: League President Margaret Swick presenting the Mita Markland Award to Rose Kelley, and the League Member of the Year Award to Jane Wanderer for their outstanding League and community service, particularly during this high-profile election season.

Rose served as Voter Service Director and coordinated all of the Candidate Forums in 5 cities throughout Butte County. Jane served again as our Voter's Edge coordinator (the League's election info website) and worked with another region in the south state, as well. Butte County's candidate participation online in Voter's Edge ranked 4th among 32 participating counties during this busy election cycle!

Observers Corner

Mary Kowta, LWV Observer Chair

As the new Chair of our dedicated corps of Observers, I'd like to update the League membership as to which councils and commissions we regularly Observe, and where we have additional needs that perhaps you might personally like to fill. **Currently, we have Observers** who regularly attend these meetings:

- BCAG & Air Quality Management District
- Butte County Board of Supervisors
- Bidwell Park & Playground
- CARD (Chico Area Recreation District)
- Chico City Council
- Chico Council Internal Affairs
- Chico Police Advisory Board
- Chico Planning Commission
- Chico Unified School Board
- Oroville City Council

We need Observers in Paradise, for both the Paradise Irrigation District and the Paradise Town Council.

In the months ahead, we would like to invite **interested League members to consider a "ride along"** opportunity to see what is involved in being an Observer. We hope you will join us!

Observer Reports will take place on **March 17 and 18** at the League office. This is a *League-members-only* chance to learn about the organizations that we Observe. We also have activities in the planning stages for Sunshine Week, March 12-18. This week is dedicated to shedding light on the Open Meeting Laws and Transparency in Government, principles that are at the heart of the League of Women Voters!

If you have any interest in our "ride along" opportunity or learning more about League Observers, please don't hesitate to call me at (530) 342-6759.

Mary Kowta, Observers Chair

The Nominating Committee wants to hear from members who would be willing to serve on the LWV Board. There are 5 positions open on the Board for the 2017 - 2019 term. Please contact Ramona Flynn at rrflynn@sbcglobal.net or at 343-6423 if you are either interested in serving, or know of someone with leadership skills who may be interested.

The Nominating Committee is made up of **Linda Furr, Toni Reid, William Todd-Mancillas, Loretta Torres, and Chair Ramona Flynn**. We welcome the opportunity to speak with you at any time. When you see us at League events, feel free to approach us and let us know about your interests. We look forward to speaking with you!

Ramona Flynn, NomCom Chair

Our Mission...

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person 16 years or older, male or female, may become a League member.

Annual Potluck & Program

with League Member Dave Garcia

**“Oil Trains, Butte County
and the Safety Illusion”**

Thursday, January 26th

**Potluck starting at 6 pm
with a brief Member Business Meeting**

Chico First Baptist Church Social Hall
850 Palmetto Ave.

*Bring a friend, along with a Potluck dish to
share. Looking forward to seeing you there!*

*Come break Pizza-Bread with us
as we learn about*

**“The Electoral College”
Wednesday, February 22 at 6 pm**

Join League Moderator **Mahalley Allen**
along with confirmed Guest Speakers
Cynthia Bynoe and Diana Dwyer
for a panel discussion about the background
of the Electoral College, and how it works.

Chico First Baptist Church Social Hall
850 Palmetto Ave.

*For more information, contact Krista Stone at
kgallwitz77@yahoo.com*

A Special Thank You to our hosts

Jan & Steve Dilg

for another lovely Holiday Party in December!

And Thank You also to

Joan Stoner & Associates

For once again tending to our tax returns and for
other financial reporting assistance!

Consider attending the LWVC Convention

in Sacramento, just a short drive away this year!

Friday, June 2 – Sunday, June 4

with add-on events on Thursday, June 1.

Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento CA

For more info: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com>

LWV of Butte County CALENDAR for Winter & Spring 2017

Thursday, January 26 at 6 pm, Potluck & Program on Oil Trains @ 1st Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave

Monday, February 13 at 5:30 pm, LWV Board Meeting @ the League office, 635 Flume Street, Chico

Saturday, February 18 at 1 pm, Local Action Position Review @ the League office. ALL welcome!

Wednesday, February 22 at 6 pm, “The Electoral College” panel discussion @ Chico 1st Baptist Church

March 12-18, “Sunshine Week” events - TBA

Fri & Sat, March 17 & 18, Observer Reports @ the League office, times TBA – For League Members Only

Sunday, April 23 at 4-7 pm, Annual Wine Tasting Benefit @ Manzanita Place in Chico

Tuesday, May 23 at 6 pm, Annual Membership Business Meeting @ Chico 1st Baptist Church

Friday, June 2 – Sunday, June 4 – LWVC Convention in Sacramento w/theme: “A Capital Connection”

League of Women Voters of Butte County
P.O. Box 965
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CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

√ **“Potluck & Program” on Oil**

Trains - Thursday, Jan 26th
all the details inside!

√ **“The Electoral College” Panel**

Wednesday, Feb. 22nd @ 6 pm

√ **Observer Reports in March**

2017 LWV of Butte County – League Leaders

President	Margaret Swick	Margaret_Swick@lwvbuttecounty.org
1st VP	Toni Reid	Toni_Reid@lwvbuttecounty.org
Secretary	Diana Magrey	Diana_Magrey@lwvbuttecounty.org
Treasurer	Debra Barger	Debra_Barger@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director – At-Large	Barbara Evans	Barbara_Evans@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director – Observers	Mary Kowta	Mary_Kowta@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director – Government	Krista Stone	Krista_Stone@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director – Natural Resources	Claire Greene	Claire_Greene@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director – Membership	William Todd-Mancillas	William_Todd-Mancillas@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director – Voter Service	Rose Kelley	Rose_Kelley@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director -- Benefit WT Co-chair	Christine Boyle	Christine_Boyle@lwvbuttecounty.org
Off-Board - Benefit WT Co-chair	Sharon Wallace	Sharon_Wallace@lwvbuttecounty.org
Off-Board – Hospitality	Linda Lunsford	Linda_Lunsford@lwvbuttecounty.org

LWV Board meetings are currently the 2nd Monday of the month @ 5:30 pm in the League office, 635 Flume Street in Chico. All League members are welcome to attend and participate in our planning and action discussions. To reach a Board member, either use their email addresses listed above, or call 530-895-8683 to leave a message.