

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY (LWVBC)



# Voter

Dear League Members & Friends,

Best wishes for the New Year! The fall 2018 election season was an amazing one for our local League -- with a broader range of voter service activities throughout the County than we have ever done in our history -- even including some help on voter registration and ballot measure "Pros & Cons" in Tehama and Glenn Counties. The numbers are astounding because of the dedication and hard work of our members.

**We conducted eight Candidate Forums**, with a fabulous team under the leadership of **Carol Burr**, covering elections in Chico, Paradise, Oroville, Gridley, and Biggs. We conducted 11 "Pros & Cons" presentations on the 11 state ballot measures, plus local measures in Paradise and Oroville, led by **Carolyn Dusenbury and Laura Peterson**. We trained 25 voter registration team members, including student peer leaders at Chico State. We conducted **35 voter registration activities** in advance of the November 2018 elections, including a LWVBC booth at all Chico Thursday Night Markets in September, Oroville's Salmon Festival, Love Chapmantown Night Out, Paradise's Johnny Appleseed Days, Durham Country Market, and three National Voter Registration Day events in Chico, Gridley, and Paradise. We set a record with 61 voter registration forms completed in just two hours at CSU, Chico's Rock the Block event for new freshman.

Read more inside this newsletter about our diligent outreach efforts to underserved populations, including the special bilingual team (Spanish) ably led by **Marvey Mueller**. You will read more about increased Butte County voter turnout and what will voting look like for 2020 in our next *Voter* Newsletter from our Potluck & Program on Voting with County Clerk Candace Grubbs just held January 24. Please congratulate the fabulously talented **Linda MacMichael**, our Mita Markland Award winner for 2019.

Yes, the League of Women Voters of Butte County reached to every corner of the County and beyond to empower voters. The resilience of our community is heart-warming and we will continue our service throughout 2019!

Yours In Making Democracy Work,  
**Debra Barger**  
President



JANUARY 2019

*Inside this Issue:*

**LAST CALL... to RENEW League Membership for the 2019 LWV National Census!**

***We NEED Members Like you!***  
**Help DECIDE Programs for 2019-2021 and update local positions!**

**Drop in for the new "Ponderings with the President"**

**Join our Youth Voter Registration Outreach Project for Spring 2019**

**Come celebrate the LWV's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

**Volunteer to be an Observer, staff the office, serve on our LWVBC Board, or work on Voters Edge**

**Winter / Spring Calendar of Events**

***Please consider donating to the LWVBC today!***

**And CHECK US out on Facebook and our website  
[lwvbuttecounty.org](http://lwvbuttecounty.org)**

LWV of Butte County  
PO Box 965, Chico, CA 95927  
[www.lwvbuttecounty.org](http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org)  
(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

## MEMBERS MATTER for our Census Counts & Program Planning!

**MEMBERS Matter and our LWV census is January 31, 2019 so please join LWVBC or renew your membership.** Across California, thousands of heroic League members and volunteers are educating community members, winning policy victories, and making sure elected officials are accountable and transparent. Join us in this critical work!

**Your INPUT and ideas are NEEDED at our Local and State Position Planning meeting on February 9.** We will discuss the state positions so you can give guidance to the LWVBC Board when we submit our input to LWV of California in preparation for 2019-2021 actions addressed at the State Convention at the end of this May. League members are also invited to review our existing local position statements and make recommendations about whether to keep or restudy or even drop statements representing studies we have done in the past. Typically, we retain most positions unless they have become outdated. Your Board has also been reviewing local positions statements from other Leagues for possible updates for LWVBC through an adoption process called concurrence. Concurrence is the act of agreeing with — or concurring with — a statement of position. A decision-making technique used by the League for some time, concurrence can work several ways. Groups of League members or League boards can concur with 1) recommendations of a resource committee or a unit group; 2) decision statements formulated by League boards; or, 3) positions reached by another League or Leagues. Rather than undertake a full study locally, the results of studies undertaken by another league may be considered through concurrence.

Locally, we have position statements on a variety of subjects we will be reviewing: **Government/Butte County Budgeting Process; Library; Natural Resources/Parks and Greenways; Bidwell Park; Energy; Land Use and Planning; Transportation; Water Resources of Butte County; Social Policy/Education; Health Care Delivery; Housing; and Juvenile Justice.** Please review our local positions on our web site at <https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county/positions>. At the same time, we invite you to think about burning issues you would like the League to address. Such issues may need to be framed in a scope of study, but it is the idea and your passion that start it off! Other Leagues have positions on such issues as Police and Community Relations, Environment/Climate Change, and more so might you advocate for adopting any of these positions through concurrence? Please join us for Position Planning at the Social Hall, First Baptist Church at 850 Palmetto in Chico on Saturday, February 9 from 9:30-11:30am. We also have an opening for a program event for April so please come with your suggestions!

## New “Ponderings with the President” Open House each Month

Do you have questions about how to be a LWVBC delegate for the LWV State Convention in Pasadena this May? Want to know more about the work of the national or state Leagues to defend democracy for 2019? Curious about the National Popular Vote (NPV)? Passionate about an issue that our local League should address? Thinking of running for political office and would like to see a workshop?

Whatever you are interested in, please come join LWVBC President Debra Barger for a new series called “Ponderings with the President.” These informal discussions over a cup of tea or coffee will be at the League Office in Chico **every third Wednesday of the month.** Drop in on this new LWVBC Open House *whenever you can for however long you desire to address any topic you would like to ponder.* Make a note on your calendar for any or all of these upcoming third Wednesdays any time between **4:30 and 6pm: February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19, 2019.** Let’s ponder together!

## League Office Updates

- The building on Flume where the LWVBC is a tenant has a new owner. Despite a sizeable rent increase, the LWVBC Board has decided to continue our month to month lease for now, still sharing the space and costs with Altacal/Snow Goose Festival. More soon.
- With no paid staff, we could use an office manager or volunteers to staff our office, especially during peak election season. Might you be interested?
- The Woman's Hour - The Great Fight to Win the Vote by Elaine Weiss is a nail-biting story of one of the greatest political battles in American history: the ratification of the constitutional amendment that granted women the right to vote. You can check out the book from the League Office.
- Do you have extra office supplies, e.g., printer paper, index cards, markers, pencils, post-it notes, etc.? Donate your supplies to the LWVBC office!

## How to Become More Active in the League

In addition to renewing your yearly League membership, which in itself helps empower the organization at all levels. There are also easy and fun ways to help with the work that we do locally. Below are just a few of the ways to engage and enjoy your Membership with the League!

- Attend League meetings and events on the Calendar, like the upcoming Position Planning event Feb. 9
- Help plan and execute our Youth Voter Registration Project for area high schools and Butte College
- Be a photographer at our events to promote LWVBC through social media
- Become an Observer
- Help plan our new fundraising activities as we focus on more on supporting the work of our League
- Help with *The Voter* (write articles or assemble the publication) or the LWVBC web site
- Consider being nominated to serve on the LWV Board
- Share your thoughts, ideas, and recommendations with Board members about how we can make our League more effective.

We look forward to seeing you at our many programs and events during 2019 where we can talk more about active and invigorating participation in the League.

## Happy 99th Birthday LWV! Come celebrate with cake!

We are looking good for 99 years old so come say Happy Birthday! Having been **founded on February 14, 1920, the League of Women Voters is turning 99!** Come join us for some cake to celebrate. Stop by the League Office at 635 Flume Street in Chico any time Thursday afternoon (12 noon to 5pm) on February 14—yes, it's Valentine's Day too so Love the League and enjoy some birthday cake. 99 years of the League of Women Voters activities to empower voters and defend democracy is worth celebrating!

Our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration is just around the corner for 2020. With such a rich history of the League, we want to plan many events to educate while we celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment giving women the right to vote. What ideas do you have and how would like to participate???

## Join Voter's Edge Team

Voter's Edge California (VEC) is a joint project of MapLight and the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF). It is a one-stop online tool where CA voters can access for a full, personalized ballot just by entering an address and get in-depth information on candidates, measures, and who supports them, as well as view candidate biographies, top priorities, endorsements, and detailed information about who funds their campaigns. **Jane Wanderer is our County Coordinator** for all Butte County races/candidates to ensure all local candidate information gets submitted for posting on Voter's Edge. We want to train and build a team ready for an ambitious goal of 100% local candidate participation under Jane's leadership. Candidate filings for March 2020 primary races will be certified by the Secretary of State on December 26, 2019 so we need to get ready.



## Grant Application Funded for Spring 2019 Youth Voter Registration Project

We are excited to announce that our grant application for a spring 2019 **Youth Voter Registration Project** was funded by the national League of Women Voters Educational Fund (LWVEF). Building on the successful youth voter outreach efforts initiated for fall 2018, we will be visiting five area high schools and Butte Community College for this project to increase youth voter registration. To ensure we reach as many students as possible in the targeted schools, we will plan for a multipronged effort of in person presentations to individual classrooms, presentations at school assemblies, and collaboration with trained student leaders to serve as peer registrars for a weekly presence in each school. Do you have other ideas on how to promote youth voter registration?

As part of our grant commitment, we must also conduct get-out-the-vote communications so we will be creating and implementing new administrative processes for gathering voter pledge information and systematically following up with text and emails for upcoming elections in 2020. We would welcome your participation in this important youth registration project, so please **join us at the Project launch meeting scheduled on Tuesday, February 19 at 5:30pm in the League Office**. If you want to be involved in the project, but cannot join us on Feb. 19, please call the League Office (530-895-8683) to let us know of your interest or email President Debra Barger ([presidentlvwbutte@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlvwbutte@gmail.com)). Even if you have not been trained to do voter registration, please join us because more training sessions are possible. We may even decide to conduct mock elections for students to help them prepare for the voting process since research shows this to be one of the reasons for lower youth voter turnout. Whether you are skilled at public presentations or prefer to serve as part of the administrative support team for this essential project, there is a role for you! Even as our fall outreach helped register more youth than ever before, voter turnout among 18 to 25-year olds was just barely over 50% for the November 2018 elections in Butte County. That is actually higher than the national average for this age population, so we want to work toward making this percentage grow for the future. Please help!

## Fall 2018 Voter Registration Outreach to Underserved Populations

Our League learned so much about the many varied citizens of Butte County as we renewed our commitment to empower voters who may not be prepared to exercise their right to vote. As the LWV urges on our buttons: *First Register! Then Vote!* Mid-term elections historically have lower voter turnout, so LWVBC hoped

to build a solid foundation for voter outreach which we can expand upon for 2020. 2020 election prep is arriving more quickly than we might think with primaries now moved to the first Tuesday in March! What does it mean to reach out to underserved voters? Given that barely half of 18 to 25-year-olds register to vote nationally, we targeted Chico State, Butte College, and Inspire High School to conduct youth voter outreach efforts. Early in the fall, we learned that some students mistakenly thought there was not an election until 2020. Such is the power of a presidential race that “midterm” elections do not gain the attention of the electorate and frequently have lower voter turnout. Capturing the attention of first-time voters in midterm elections can build a stronger foundation for subsequent elections.

To reach homeless voters for November 2018 elections, we conducted voter registration tabling at Torres Community Shelter. For assisted living residents, we conducted presentations at Jarvis Gardens. The most extensive voter registration efforts we conducted through the diligent work of a bilingual team of dedicated individuals who conducted voter outreach to the Hispanic community. The Butte County League of Women Voters Bilingual Voter Registration Team, led by Marvey Mueller, included Marian Baldy, Dick Baldy, Margarita Ayala, Charlotte Ekland, Roy Ekland, and Deb Halfpenny. “Thanks to the recommendations and contacts of Maria Shahid and Nancy Bryant, we were directed to events, resource centers, commercial businesses, clubs and everywhere else potential Latino voters might be,” said Marvey Mueller. “In the end, our team of seven volunteers attended 27 boothing events and distributed over 5000 bilingual brochures and 300 bilingual voter registration forms. We hit every library, health center, immigration attorney office, resource office and Mexican restaurant in Butte County with the California Secretary of State’s bilingual brochures. In the last month we participated in the Butte County Hispanic Resource Council’s preparation for *La Dia de Campesino*.”

“While we will never know exactly how many Latino voters ended up voting because of our efforts, we do know that, for the first time, our League of Women Voters reached out to welcome them into the voting process,” continued Mueller. “We were thanked often for our efforts and felt that our work was appreciated and rewarding. We plan to participate with the Hispanic Resource Council on an ongoing basis and hope to work with them to build a strategy for early registration for 2020.”

## Linda MacMichael Recognized with the LWVBC Mita Markland Award

The LWVBC recognized member Linda MacMichael with our most prestigious Mita Markland award on Thursday, January 24, 2019. Linda was recognized for her outstanding service in the many roles she has played for the League and for the community. She came to Chico to attend Chico State and had a very



successful career in CSU Admissions, before serving as the first administrator for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSU, Chico. With her wide-ranging interests and phenomenal talents, Linda also served the community as a board member for the Blue Room Theater and Enloe Hospital. For the League, Linda has contributed in numerous ways: for the Annual Winetasting, as Treasurer, acting President, and as moderator for multiple Butte County candidate forums.

Linda MacMichael, center, with previous Markland Award recipients Sharon Wallace, left, and Carol Burr, right.

Photo by Kathy Sweet



## League of Women Voters of Butte County CALENDAR for Winter/Spring 2019

**State and Local League Position Planning for Members**, Saturday, February 9, 9:30 -11:30am  
Social Hall, First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto, Chico

**Quarterly New Member Orientation**, Sunday, Feb. 10, 3pm  
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

**Happy 99th Birthday League of Women Voters!** Thursday, Feb. 14, Noon to 5pm  
Drop in celebration with birthday cake, League Office

**Youth Voter Registration Project Launch**, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 5:30pm  
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

**"Ponderings with the President" Open House**, every third Wednesday of the month  
Wednesday, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, and June 19, 4:30pm - 6pm  
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

**How to be an Observer Training**, Tuesday, February 26, 5:30pm  
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

**Youth Voter Registration Project Team Meeting**, Thursday, March 7, 5:30pm  
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

**Shining the Light on Government for Sunshine Week** (March 10-16), Thursday, March 14, 7pm  
Butte County (Chico Branch) Library, 1108 Sherman Avenue, Chico

**Observer Reports (members only)**, March TBA  
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

**LWVBC Annual Business Meeting**, Thursday, May 23, 6pm  
Location TBD



LWVBC participated in the Chico Women's March on January 19, 2019 and staffed our first a voter registration effort for the year in the downtown plaza with the coordination of Elaina McReynolds.

Photo: Carol Burr (left) and Kathy Kaiser (right) carry the League banner during the March.

## Donate Recyclables and Credit the League

If you, your friends or neighbors take recyclables (aluminum cans and CRV glass and plastics) to the Work Training Center at 2300 Fair Street in Chico, and tell the cashier to credit the value owed to the League of Women Voters of Butte County, that cash value will come to us as a donation!

This is a win for the League, the environment, and for clients of the Work Training Center (disabled adults). You can check out the good work they do at <http://wtcinc.org>.

## Volunteer for the LWVBC Observer Corps

**Members of LWVBC regularly observe numerous councils and commissions to ensure transparency in government.** Yet we also have additional needs that perhaps you might personally fill. Currently, we have Observers who attend these meetings:

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

**We still need Observers for the Chico Property Based Investment District (PBID), Feather River Recreation and Parks District (Oroville), and the South Feather River Water & Power Authority (Oroville).** If you are interested in being an Observer for the League, please call the League Office at 530-895-8683 or email [presidentlvwbutte@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlvwbutte@gmail.com) or join us for the our upcoming mini-training session on “How to Become an Observer” on Tuesday, February 26 at 5:30pm in the League Office. Stay tuned for more details on the Observer reports coming in March.

## Social Media and LWVBC

We encourage our Members to “keep up with the times” by using more forms of digital technology whenever possible and appropriate. For instance, [CHECK OUT our website](#), thanks to our web master and League member **Helen Gesick**, for the latest information on League activities!

So, please **Visit, Like, and Share** our information with your Friends on Facebook -- here and around the world! And send photos for us to post of League activities – email to [LWVbutte@gmail.com](mailto:LWVbutte@gmail.com). **Jane Wanderer**, as our Facebook administrator, monitors national and state LWV issues for reposting at LWVBC.

League of Women Voters of Butte County  
P.O. Box 965  
Chico, CA 95927

[www.lwvbuttecounty.org](http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org)



- ✓ **Time to RENEW** your Membership with the League
- ✓ **Join the Youth Voter Registration Project**
- ✓ **Donate to the League**
- ✓ **Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday LWV!!**

**2018-19 LWV of Butte County Board**

Debra Barger	President
	1st VP
Elaina McReynolds	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP – Membership
Mahalley Allen	Secretary
Abe Baily	Treasurer
Carol Burr	Director – Voter Service
Sharon Wallace	Director
Krista Stone	Director
Janet Taylor	Director
Kathy Kaiser	Director
Susie Serrano	Director
William Todd-Mancillas	Director
Andy Holcombe	Director

**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.

*LWV Board meetings are the 2nd Thursdays monthly @ 5:30 pm in the League office, 635 Flume Street in Chico. All League members are welcome to attend and participate. To reach a Board member, either use their contact info found on our roster provided at Member Meetings, or call 530-895-VOTE (8683) to leave a message.*