

# LWV<sup>®</sup> Voter

June 2024

## President's Message

Dear Leaguers,

As summer settles in, don't forget our:

**Upcoming Weather Forecasting Program:** Please attend, and invite your friends to, the Natural Resources Committee's **June 20 Program on developments in Weather Forecasting**, featuring Action News Now Meteorologist Patrick Wright. We'll be meeting at the Chico Baptist Church at 850 Palmetto at 7 p.m. for this **IN-PERSON ONLY** meeting. *No recording will be available, so don't miss it!*

Thanks to your presence and potluck dishes, our **May 22, 2024, Annual Meeting** was a success. We elected new board members, approved a budget, bylaws revisions, and program priorities for 2024–2025. Also, we recognized outgoing Treasurer Sandra Flake for her work over 5 years on the board, including her determined leadership in guiding our League toward 501c3 tax-exempt status. Sandra became the first LWVBC member since 2020 to receive the Mita Markland Award for outstanding community service. *See more about the award on page 2.*

**Special Feature on Two Pillars of our League:** Intern Sierra Josfan recently interviewed two long-time and dedicated League members: **Carol Burr and Toni Reid**. Please see this insightful article (pg. four) on their years of service and what keeps them inspired.

**Save the Date for Fall Coffee:** We have reserved the St. John's Episcopal Church Community Room for **Saturday, September 14**, for the traditional fall member meeting. Speaker(s) to be determined.

Stay cool!

*Satsie Veith & Janet Rechtman*, Co-Presidents

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# Annual Meeting, May 22, 2024



*Top Row (left to right): Sandra Flake, Treasurer; Maureen Kirk, Nominating Committee; Satsie Veith, Co-President; Corky LeTellier, Director Voter Registration; Claire Greene; VP Voter Services; Janet Rechtman, Co-President; Alexandra Shand, Incoming Treasurer.*

*Bottom Row (left to right): Kathleen Kaiser, Nominating Committee; Nicole Drummond, Incoming Director Social Policy; Toni Reid, Director Natural Resources; Carol Holzgrafe, Secretary; Marcia Moore, VP Membership; Caroline Langen, Director Observers.*

The 2024 Annual Meeting climaxed with an event not on the agenda: the presentation to Treasurer Sandra Flake of the **Mita Markland Award for Outstanding Community Service**. The 2010 recipient, Carol Burr, explained the history and meaning of the award, which was launched in 2003 with the posthumous presentation to Mita Markland, for her many contributions to LWVBC and the

community at large. Sandra was an obvious choice for the award given her five years on the board, one as Government Director and four as Treasurer, and her dedication to the complex task of our transition to 501c3 status.



*Sandra joins the following honorees:*

- Toni Reid 2020
- Linda MacMichael 2019
- Rose Kelley 2016
- Jane Wanderer 2014
- Linda Furr 2013
- Ramona Flynn 2013
- Betsy Kruger 2012
- James Gregg 2011
- Carol Burr 2010
- Sharon Wallace 2010
- Marge Fredenburg 2007
- Veva Edson 2008
- Lyla Gregg 2007
- Gerda Lydon 2006
- Mary J. Watters 2005
- Anne Nordhus 2004
- Mita Markland 2003, Posthumously



*Mita Markland Award Plaques on display at LWVBC Office, 635 Flume.*



## LWVBC Members Start a Criminal Justice Committee

The League of Women Voters of California's Position on Criminal Justice *supports a criminal justice system that is "just, effective, equitable, transparent and that fosters trust at all stages including police practices."*

Our Position covers a lot of territory but primarily supports humane and non-discriminatory treatment for each person who comes in to the carceral system at any level.

The League of Women Voters of Butte County is establishing a Criminal Justice committee so that we can observe, review, watch and hopefully respond when needed to justice issues in Butte County that are within the parameters of our Position.

Many Americans believe that our criminal justice system presents some of the major human rights issues of our day. For instance, according to the Prison Policy Initiative we have over 1.9 million people in custody in the United States—more per capita than any other nation. Our jails hold over a 1/3 of that 1.9 million, most for minor offenses, most unable to afford bail, most waiting for trial.

Our committee's initial goal is to become knowledgeable about our Position and local issues particularly concerning the Sheriff's Department, the new jail, and mental health treatment in confinement.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Margaret Swick at [maswick4@icloud.com](mailto:maswick4@icloud.com). Please feel to come just to share your thoughts and ideas.

### Training Opportunity: June 21 LWVC Webinar on How to Write Pros & Cons

**Are you interested in writing Pros & Cons for your local measures, or writing Pros & Cons for the State League, but are intimidated or unsure about the process?**

LWVC First Vice President Carol Moon Goldberg will be leading a training webinar on how to write Pros & Cons for the League!

Join us on Friday, June 21 at 12:30 p.m., for this important opportunity. Register today!

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqceCpqz0pG93pp-ysedpAl\\_IeJ\\_OKJ8fH#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqceCpqz0pG93pp-ysedpAl_IeJ_OKJ8fH#/registration)

### 2024-2025 Program Priorities Approved

LWVBC members at the May 22, 2024, Annual Meeting voted to keep in place our program priorities as adopted at the 2024 Annual Meeting. They are:

**Social Policy:** Housing/Homelessness; Healthcare; Criminal Justice

**Government:** Election Integrity; Combatting Misinformation; Encouraging Voter Participation; Nonpartisan Redistricting

**Natural Resources:** Acting on Issues of Climate Change and Growth in Butte County

# League of Women Voters: A Legacy of Civic Engagement and Democracy, by Sierra Josfan

*Chico, California.* For nearly two decades, Carol Burr and Toni Reid have been pillars of the League of Women Voters, embodying the organization's commitment to democracy, community service, and political engagement. In an exclusive interview, they shared their experiences, perspectives, and insights into the League's role in today's political scene.

## Foundations of Engagement

Carol Burr traces her involvement in the League back to the early 2000s, when she joined the Chico organization. Inspired by a friend's engagement and her own motto, "breathing is a political act," Carol recognized that politics are a part of everyday life. "No way someone can say they aren't political," she asserts, highlighting



*Carol Burr*

the importance of informed participation.

Similarly, Toni Reid's journey began over a decade ago when a friend, a dedicated advocate for democracy, invited her to join the League. Over the years, they both found themselves deeply involved in League activities, serving in various capacities from board positions to community outreach.



*Toni Reid*

## League Activities and Impact

Carol served in a variety of positions with the League, from secretary to president, focusing on

voter assistance during election cycles. She emphasizes the league's non-partisan stance, rooted in the belief that what matters most is what's best for the community and not about personal biases. From voter registration drives to educational campaigns, Carol's contributions reflect the league's commitment to democratic participation.

Toni's engagement centered on voter registration efforts, from various locations like post offices, city halls, and retirement communities. Through her work, Toni embodies the league's mission to empower citizens and expand participation in the electoral process.

## League's Role in Today's Political Environment

Both Carol and Toni emphasize the league's unique position as a community-driven force for political awareness and action. Carol emphasizes the league's advocacy for issues that benefit the community, regardless of partisan affiliations. For her, feminism intersects with the League's mission for inclusive civic engagement.

Similarly, Toni highlights the importance of informed decision-making and the League's commitment to studying issues comprehensively before taking a stance. She emphasizes the League's role in fostering dialogue and consensus-building, essential elements of a strong democracy.

## Looking Ahead

As they reflect on their decades of service, Carol and Toni expressed optimism with a sense of urgency. They stress the importance of voting as a fundamental act of self-determination and civic responsibility. With the rise of younger generations as future voters, they see a changing environment where the League's principles of inclusivity and informed engagement will remain vital.

## Conclusion

Carol Burr and Toni Reid find a forum for significant civic involvement and advocacy within the League of Women Voters. Their dedication to democracy, community service, and political awareness exemplifies the League's longstanding legacy. As they continue to inspire and educate, they remind us that democracy thrives when citizens actively participate in shaping their collective future.



League of Women Voters of Butte County

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<https://my.lwv.org/california/butte-county/donate>

- ★ **Renew Your Membership**
- ★ **Donate**
- ★ **Recruit New Members**
- ★ **Volunteer for Board Positions**

**2023–24 LWVBC Board Members**

Satsie Veith	Co-President
Janet Rechtman	Co-President
Claire Greene	1st VP - Voter Service
Marcia Moore	2nd VP - Membership
Sandra Flake	Treasurer
Carol Holzgrafe	Secretary
Toni Reid	Director Natural Resources
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Social Policy
Caroline Langen	Director Observer Corps
Corky LeTellier	Director Voter Reg.
<i>Vacant</i>	Director County Liaison
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Assistant Voter Service
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Government
<i>Vacant</i>	Director Communications

**League of Women Voters of Butte County’s  
Mission and Board Meetings**

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the public to take 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, regardless of gender, age, or citizenship status, may become a League member; you must be at least 16 to vote on League issues.

LWVBC Board meetings are typically on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm on Zoom. All League members are welcome to attend. The Zoom link is posted on the Calendar page of the LWVBC website prior to the meeting.

To contact a Board member, please send an email to [lwvbutte@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbutte@gmail.com). Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate board member as needed.