

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY (LWVBC)



Voter

Dear League Members & Friends,

Spring is such an amazing time of year in Butte County with lovely blossoms everywhere! Your League remains active on a number of fronts due to the diligent work of our members.

The nationwide **Sunshine Week** just concluded as I write this so transparency in government is much on my mind. As Lincoln reminded the nation in his Gettysburg address, ours is a government “of the people, by the people, for the people.” Government exists for our benefit and is accountable to us, its citizens. “Sunshine” or openness in government refers to two distinct areas: access to public records and access to public meetings. We just learned more about the first part in our recent program *Law Enforcement Records: Public or Private?*

The second part is our ongoing effort through **the LWVBC Observer Corps, the hardworking cadre of League members** who attends governmental meetings, watches what decisions are made and how they are being made, notes what happens and reports annually to the League. From some of our longest serving Observers (for decades!), including Mary Kowta, Ramona Flynn and Linda Furr, to our newest Observer Kim Shaffer, League members are monitoring both the issues being discussed as well as the process by which they are being discussed. Observers, with their visible presence -- complete with League of Women Voters button and Observer ribbon -- keep elected and appointed officials on notice that the League of Women Voters promotes open, transparent, and accountable government.

Educating the public about issues impacting our communities and identifying potential areas where action or improvement is needed are an essential part of the Observer Corps. Please join us for our annual Observer Reports on Friday, April 5 from 4-6pm and Sunday, April 7 from 1-3pm. Learn more about the collective impact we are making.

Yours In Making Democracy Work,
Debra Barger
President



March 2019

Inside this Issue:

LAST CALL... Nominations for 2019-2021 Board Officers and Directors being sought!

Learn about the LWVBC Convention in Pasadena and consider serving as a voting delegate for LWVBC

Join our Youth Voter Registration Outreach Project for Spring 2019

Celebrate Women’s History Month and the powerful women who have come before us

Join our annual Observer Corps Reports

Help plan *The Power of 100* new Centennial Fundraiser and save the date: Sunday, August 18

Learn about our new Circles of Giving to support the work of the League, plus

Spring Calendar of Events

And CHECK US out on Facebook and our website lwvbuttecounty.org

LWV of Butte County
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(530) 895-VOTE (8683)

Nominations Needed for 2019-2021 LWVBC Officers and Directors

We need your leadership skills! The LWVBC Nomination Committee is seeking to build a slate of officers and directors to join the LWVBC Board for 2019-2021 and wants to hear for you. There are numerous ways to make an impact by serving on the LWVBC Board so will you please consider one of the many roles available?

We are **seeking a President, a 1st Vice President, and a Secretary, along with program directors including Observer Corps, Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.** With 2020 being both a presidential election year and a census year, plus ongoing local issues, there are many different opportunities to channel your passion for the grassroots work of the League. As we say, Making Democracy Work is exciting, but it is not a spectator sport. Also in 2020 are the 100th birthday of the LWV and the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment giving women the right to vote. Later in this newsletter are just a few of the stories of women who took that first step to help lead the way so how about joining this great tradition? Claire Greene, Chair, and her Nomination Committee members, Kathy Sweet, Suellen Rowilson, Elaina McReynolds, and Carol Burr, are eager to talk with you if you have an interest in joining the Board or have someone to suggest as a nominee. **Please call Claire at 530-514-1949 or email her at celiegreene@gmail.com.** You are also welcome to leave your suggestions at the League Office by calling 530-895-8683 so they can be passed on to the committee.

Program Planning Update

We gathered ideas at our Local and State Position Planning meeting held on February 9 with members seated around tables deep in discussion about current positions and possibilities for improvements. Everyone was so engrossed in the conversations that we had to call time so each table could summarize recommendations for the entire group. Possible updates through the concurrence process were also discussed. No comprehensive new studies were proposed. Following that planning meeting, the LWVBC Board voted to recommend, in addition to the ongoing Making Democracy Work campaign, that LWV California consider the impact of climate change, particularly on affordable housing stocks, for the 2019-2021 program addressed at the State Convention at the end of this May. So that we can be more educated on the complex topic of climate change impacts on the Northstate, planning is already underway for a fall speaker series in a collaboration with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and at CSU, Chico, led by Marvey Mueller. If you would like to be part of the series planning, watch the League web calendar or e-Bulletin for an upcoming April meeting.

If you were unable to join us for the program planning update, there is still time for you to make suggestions on any of our local positions: **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>. For a comprehensive overview of League positions, you may also want to review the state and national positions found on the LWVC web site: <https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions>. If you have suggestions on potential local position modifications, call and leave a message at the League Office at 895-8683 or email presidentlwvbutte@gmail.com before the April 11 LWVBC Board meeting so we can consider your insights as we finalize any proposed positions updates. Such potential updates will be included in the meeting packet that will be distributed electronically no later than April 23 in time for all members to review them in preparation for voting at the annual business meeting on May 23 at Chico's Dorothy Johnson Center.

League Office Updates

- We have signed a month to month lease for our suite at 635 Flume with the new owner Brandon Harris. We have also executed a new sublease to share the space and costs with Altacal/Snow Goose Festival. We are now responsible for maintenance per the lease, including a new required agreement for ongoing HVAC maintenance.
- Donate your recyclables in the name of the League and call for an easy pick-up. William Todd-Mancillas has offered to come pick up your recyclables (aluminum cans and CRV glass and plastics) to take to the Work Training Center so the that cash value will come to the League of Women Voters of Butte County as a donation. Call William at 893-4940 or 781-2912 to arrange for pick-up. And thanks!

ABC's of the LWVC Convention plus Scholarship Application to Attend

The League of Women Voters California (LWVC) Convention is a biennial gathering of League leaders and members from across the state who convene to provide direction to the state League for the next two years; pass the LWVC budget for the next two years; direct the LWVC/Education Fund program for the next two years; and inspire and energize each other sharing best practices and proven solutions in workshops, caucuses, and interactions League to League. **Why attend Convention as a voting delegate?** First and foremost, the LWVC Convention allows us to engage with other Leaguers: learn, discuss, caucus, and appreciate the power and responsibility of being a Leaguer. And use our voice to determine the League's direction for the next two years! What matters to you? What do you think the League's focus should be? You can bring the weight and ideas from Butte County to the state convention.

Please **join us on Tuesday, April 9 at 6pm in the League Office** to learn in-depth information about the LWVC Convention and more details about how you might represent LWVBC as a voting delegate. Here is quick overview of logistics: The LWVC Convention is May 31 - June 2, 2019 in Pasadena, CA; it's a full schedule of events with the first Plenary session starting at 10am on Friday, May 31 and the final session ending at noon on Sunday, June 2. LWV of Butte County, based on our total member count, is allocated 4 voting delegates (the president and 3 additional members) for the Convention. The general agenda is here: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/2019-agenda/> with final details to be published in the convention workbook.

The LWVBC 2018-2019 budget allotted \$1700 for the Convention, which provides \$425 per each of the 4 voting delegates. The early bird convention registration fee is \$395 so travel costs and meals are the responsibility of the member. LWVBC has booked two double rooms to share at the Convention hotel, the Westin Pasadena, and some LWVBC Board members are helping finance those lodging costs. **Convention Scholarship Application:** One of the League's priorities is to foster a more inclusive culture and increase the diversity of our organization and our leadership. To accomplish this, an LWVC Equity Task Force was formed at the 2018 LWV National Convention in Chicago. The Equity Task Force and LWVC Board have decided to prioritize, at least initially, **increasing the racial and age diversity of our Leagues**, with one of the first initiatives to diversify delegate participation and have a more representative decision-making body at the 2019 LWVC Convention. As part of this effort, the California State Board has set aside a scholarship fund to help reduce barriers for those who would otherwise be unable to attend Convention. LWVC hopes that these attendees will come as delegates, so that they may take a more active role in the proceedings. There is a limited amount of funding, so we encourage you to apply as soon as possible: <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/>. The scholarship application deadline is March 30. Recipients will be notified no later than April 15.

Spring 2019 Youth Voter Registration Project Updates

We are making progress on our spring 2019 **Youth Voter Registration Project** with partial funding by the national League of Women Voters Educational Fund (LWVEF). Our first outreach was to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) with Marvey Mueller and Debra Barger. Next up is outreach at the Butte Community College Engagement Fair on March 28 to recruit student peer leaders and increase youth voter registration, with Margarita Ayala and Andy Holcombe covering the Fair. Then LWVBC is meeting with Butte County Elections Office personnel on Monday morning April 8 for elections updates and potential new tools to foster more youth engagement.

Our first youth-focused **voter registration training is on April 8 from 4-6pm in the League Office as we target Chico and Paradise High School students, and Butte Community College**. We will conduct **one more voter registration training this spring on April 16 at 9am**. If you have yet to be trained on voter registration or would like an update, please join us! We will also hold a project meeting on Tuesday, April 16, at 5:30pm in the League Office so come see how you might be able to contribute. In the wake of the Camp Fire, we have much to explain regarding the difference between domicile and residence that is critically important, especially for Concow, East Chico, and Paradise voters. To ensure we reach as many students as possible in targeted schools, we are still planning a multipronged effort of in-person presentations to individual classrooms, presentations at school assemblies, and collaboration with trained student peer leaders to serve as registrars for regular presence in each area school. Do you have other ideas on how to promote youth voter registration? Please let us know.

If you want to be involved in the project, but cannot join us on any of the above dates, please call the League Office (895-8683) to let us know of your interest or email Debra Barger (presidentlvwbutte@gmail.com). Read on for how important youth voter registration is -- along with get out the vote efforts -- since 18-25-year olds have the lowest voter turnout, nationally and locally.

Elections Update from County Clerk Candace Grubbs

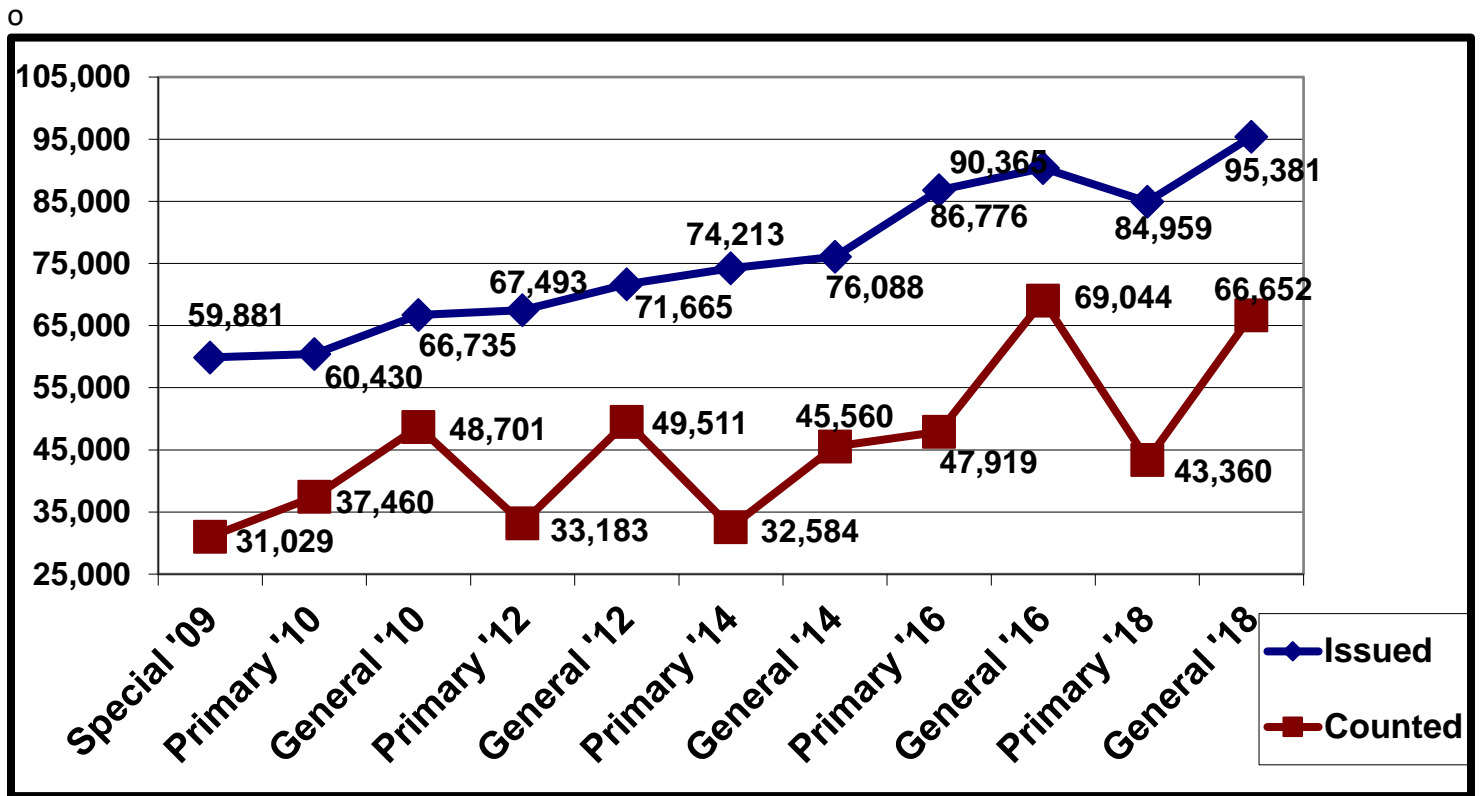
For our January Potluck program, County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters Candace Grubbs provided a fascinating keynote address rich with data about voting in Butte County. League members and the general public learned so much! The Division Program and Services conducts all federal, state, county, city, school and special district elections, along with a wide variety of additional services, including

- Maintains all voter files for the county and all districts and provides vote by mail services
- Processes and certifies initiative, referendum, recall and candidate nomination petitions
- Maintains & maps all precinct and district boundaries
- Locates & surveys accessible polling places, provides ADA equipment and signs to locations in need
- Recruits, appoints, and trains election day workers, 700+/- for major Elections
- Programs and tests electronic touchscreen voting equipment & ballot count system
- Conducts official canvass of the vote and conducts any recounts requested

For the March 3, 2020 Primary, Petitions in Lieu of Filing Fee begins September 27 candidate filing begins November 12 and the State Candidate Certified list will be sent December 26, 2019. (That means League primary candidate forum preparation starts before the year is out!).

The LWVBC's ambitious voter registration efforts last fall appeared to have helped move the needle in Butte County with 122,774 registered voters for 2018, the most registrants ever for mid-term general elections and 200 more registrants than there were for the 2012 presidential election. Paper at polls voting method comprised 25% of total ballots cast in the 2012 Primary, which declined to 15% by the 2018 Primary with the touch screen method also declining, just by a slower margin. There is a clear upward trend in vote by mail in the County. In the 2012 Primary, there were 57,628 people who registered vote by mail (VBM) comprising 50.2% of voters in the Butte County. By the 2014 Primary, it had increased to 54.2% of voters and by the 2018 Primary, people registering VBM, comprising 64.2% of voters. As the table below indicates, there continues to be a gap between vote by mail ballots issued and those counted, but again the trend is clear, with significantly more 2018 midterm VBM ballots cast, second only to the 2016 general election.

VOTE BY MAIL STATISTICS



Effects of the Camp Fire have resulted in drops in Concow and Paradise. Many previous polling places communities no longer exist so elections logistics complex, even as there is a need to encourage area their registrations that will still allow them to vote elections, which is the issue of domicile vs. to Candace. Election preparation commences over election with approximately 500 poll workers hired Precinct Officers are needed for March 3, 2020, so opportunity for more League members to serve in Online and in person training options are available stipends. Watch for recruitment this fall!



registration for in those have become more voters to update by mail in local residence, according 200 days before each and trained. More there is an this important role. with modest pay

Candace Grubbs Photo by Kathy Sweet

League of Women Voters of Butte County CALENDAR for Spring 2019

Observer Corps Reports (members only), Friday, April 5, 4-6pm and Sunday, April 7, 1-3pm
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

Voter Registration Training, Monday, April 8, 4pm
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

ABC's of LWVC State Convention in Pasadena, CA, Tuesday, April 9, 6pm
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

Voter Registration Training, Tuesday, April 16, 9am
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

Youth Voter Registration Project Team Meeting, Tuesday, April 16, 5:30pm
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

Climate Change Speaker Series Planning Meeting in Collaboration with OLLI, TBD

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

American Creed showing and discussion in collaboration the Butte County Library, Thursday April 18 at
7pm
CSU, Chico campus, room TBD

LWVBC Fundraising Committee meeting, TBD

Learn How to be an Observer, Thursday, May 16, 5:30pm
League Office, 635 Flume, Chico

LWVBC Annual Business Meeting, Thursday, May 23, 6pm

March is Women's History Month so Let's Share Stories

March is Women's History Month! There are so many amazing women upon whose shoulders we stand that it seems fitting to share a few brief stories of phenomenal women from history in this Newsletter, and **continue the telling of powerful women's stories into our centennial year as a League.**

We have much to celebrate as we approach not only our 100th birthday, but also the 100th anniversary of the passage of 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. We begin with three stories of influential women, including two women who have direct connections to Butte County!



Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was born February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts. She was brought up in a Quaker family with long activist traditions. Early in her life she developed a sense of justice and moral zeal.

After teaching for fifteen years, she became active in temperance. Because she was a woman, she was not allowed to speak at temperance rallies. This experience, and her acquaintance with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, led her to join the women's rights movement in 1852. Soon after, she dedicated her life to woman suffrage.

Ignoring opposition and abuse, Anthony traveled, lectured, and canvassed across the nation for the vote. She also campaigned for the abolition of slavery, the right for women to own their own property and retain their earnings, and she advocated for women's labor organizations. In 1900, Anthony persuaded the University of Rochester to admit women. **Annie Bidwell hosted Anthony at the mansion in 1905 when Bidwell Park was officially donated.** Anthony, who never married, was aggressive and compassionate by nature. She had a keen mind and a great ability to inspire. She remained active until her death on March 13, 1906.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, born 1815 in New York, was an American suffragist, social activist, abolitionist, and leading figure of the early women's rights movement. Her Declaration of Sentiments, presented at the Seneca Falls Convention held in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, is often credited with initiating the first organized women's rights and women's suffrage movements in the United States. Stanton was president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association from 1890 until 1892.

Before Stanton narrowed her political focus almost exclusively to women's rights, she was an active abolitionist with her husband Henry Brewster Stanton (co-founder of the Republican Party) and cousin Gerrit Smith. Unlike many of those involved in the women's rights movement, Stanton addressed various issues pertaining to women beyond voting rights. Her concerns included women's parental and custody rights, property rights, employment and income rights, divorce, the economic health of the family, and birth control. She was also an outspoken supporter of the 19th-century temperance movement. In Washington DC, **Stanton attended Annie's 1866 wedding to John Bidwell. With Stanton, Annie was active in the suffrage, abolition, and temperance movements.**

After the American Civil War, Stanton's commitment to female suffrage caused a schism in the women's rights movement when she, together with Susan B. Anthony, declined to support passage of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. She opposed giving added legal protection and voting rights to African American men while women, black and white, were denied those same rights. Her position on this issue, together with her thoughts on organized Christianity and women's issues beyond voting rights, led to the formation of two separate women's rights organizations that were finally rejoined, with Stanton as president of the joint organization, about twenty years after her break from the original women's suffrage movement.

Stanton died in 1902, having written both *The Woman's Bible* and her autobiography *Eighty Years and More*, and many other articles and pamphlets about female suffrage and women's rights.



Ida B. Wells

Ida B. Wells was enslaved at birth. She was born in Holly Springs, Mississippi, six months before the *Emancipation Proclamation*. A yellow fever epidemic orphaned Wells at 16 when her parents and some of her brothers and sisters died. To support her surviving brothers and sisters, she became a teacher for \$25 a month, leading the school to believe that she was already 18 in order to obtain the job.

Wells began writing for the Negro Press Association. Lynching in that time had become one common means by which African Americans were intimidated. She wrote against lynching and conducted touring speaking tours to Great Britain. When her paper was destroyed and she feared for her life, she moved to New York and then to Chicago.

In 1900, she spoke for woman suffrage, and worked with another Chicago woman, Jane Addams, to defeat an attempt to segregate Chicago's public school system. In 1913, Wells-Barnett organized the Alpha Suffrage League, an organization of African American women supporting woman suffrage. During the Woman Suffrage Parade of 1913 in Washington DC, white suffragists were concerned about losing the support of southern voters so asked African-American women to march separately at the end. Wells, however, joined the Illinois delegation in the middle of the march.

In 1924, Wells-Barnett failed in a bid to win election as president of the National Association of Colored Women, defeated by Mary McLeod Bethune. In 1930, she made an unsuccessful bid to be elected to the Illinois State Senate as an independent.



Watch for additional stories of amazing American women in the coming months:

[Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Alice Paul and more!](#)

LWVBC Winetasting is Retired: *The Power of 100* begins

At our January Potluck, it was announced we would no longer be doing an annual Wine Tasting event. When the League began this essential fundraiser to support our work, a wine tasting with homemade food from special recipes was a very unique event. The size and complexity of the Wine Tasting event demanded a significant number of League members to be “all hands-on deck” which has been an impressive team effort!

After 45 years, however, increased competition among such events and the wine merchant donations which made them possible have resulted in a very different landscape. More members indicated they would prefer to donate rather than prepare food, even before the League rented a commercial kitchen for the great food we were known to serve.

We had a successful event tradition that faced increasing challenges. That then raised the question, Is it time for a new tradition for LWVBC? The LWVBC Board decided our League could be better served by pursuing other fundraising activities that might connect more directly with the work of the League. We had suspended our annual fundraising letter plans in November because of the Camp Fire. But the work of our local League requires fundraising since our annual membership dues go to support the national and state leagues. Therefore, we are exploring new avenues of support and creating new traditions to sustain our work. We welcome your insights and ideas on how we might best do this. Join the Fundraising Committee. Watch the League calendar and an upcoming e-bulletin for the date and time of the committee meeting. If you want to share your ideas immediately, please email presidentlvwbutte@gmail.com.

The first major LWVBC event we will launch is **The Power of 100** on **Sunday, August 18 at Leon’s Bistro** in downtown Chico. This exciting event is for 100 people who will commit \$100 towards celebrating the women who were essential to the League’s 100 years of history. We may even promote period dress (although perhaps this time we will leave out whale bone). More details will be forthcoming soon about **The Power of 100** so stay tuned.

Let’s embrace the tradition of celebrating the amazing people who are Making Democracy Work!



- ✓ **Nominate yourself for the LWVBC Board for 2020**
- ✓ **Celebrate Women's History Month this March**
- ✓ **Join the Youth Voter Registration Project**
- ✓ **Come hear from the LWVBC Observer Corps**
- ✓ **Save the Date August 18 for *The Power of 100* event**

2018-19 LWV of Butte County Board

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Debra Barger | President |
| | 1st VP |
| Elaina McReynolds | 2 nd VP – Membership |
| Mahalley Allen | Secretary |
| Abe Baily | Treasurer |
| Carol Burr | Director – Voter Service |
| Sharon Wallace | 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.