



Voter

Dear League Members,

Even without an election this season in Butte County, we still have had a busy fall. Our League mission is education and advocacy. In League, Program refers to the issues that we choose for concerted study, education, and action at local, state, and national levels. Our focus for this fall was ongoing voter outreach and educational programs -- on a variety of important issues for our community.

If you were not able to join us at these wonderful events, **inside this issue you can learn more** about the economics of Oroville Dam, collaboration on civil discourse, and the latest League statewide action for 2018. We have launched quarterly New Member Orientations to engage even more talented people to become involved in the important work we do, and we have begun a local **Study of Bio Mass**. We continue to provide voter outreach, and as part of National Voter Registration Day, we collaborated with CSU, Chico to encourage and register even more young people to vote. And in the summer, several LWVBC members had the opportunity to be delegates at the State League Convention in Sacramento. The issues adopted by Convention delegates for 2017-2019 include:

- **Making Democracy Work** (election reform, redistricting, money in politics, voting rights, and expanding the electorate)
- **Natural Resources** (climate change, water, and land use)
- **Response to Changing Federal Policies and Budget Actions** (tax reform, healthcare, protecting the environment, and immigration).

We believe in respect for individuals, the value of diversity, the empowerment of the grassroot -- both within the League and in the community, and the power of collective decision making for the common good.

See our **Calendar of upcoming events** and please attend!

Yours in Making Democracy Work,

Debra Barger

President, League of Women Voters of Butte County

Winter 2017 Newsletter

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*Please consider donating to the
LWVBC today!*

Also contained within is a full
CALENDAR of events for
Winter & Spring 2018

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

Why we all should care about the Oroville Dam *by Carol Burr*

In 1957, the Oroville Facilities Project NO. 2100, better known as the Oroville Dam, was launched by the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) and licensed to what is now the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for 50 years. Eleven years later (1968) the dam was completed with 50,000 people celebrating the event.

It was a huge project — covering 41,000 acres of Butte County with the tallest dam in the U.S. and the second largest lake in California — to supply water, hydroelectric power, and flood control to the state. The hope of people living in Butte County — indeed, what was promised by the project leaders — was **that it would be an economic engine, bringing business, good jobs, recreational opportunities, and an enhanced quality of life.**

As the Oroville Dam came up for relicensing in 2007, Butte County knew it had not benefited so greatly from the project and had, in fact, lost taxable land and inexpensive electric power while servicing the project from local coffers. Lower water levels render several of the Lake Oroville boat launches unusable. The Board of Supervisors commissioned a report on the economic impacts of the dam that detailed the losses and expenses in an effort to tie the new license to the economic benefits promised when the dam was built, and **achieve some compensation for the millions of dollars of lost revenue.**

Project 2100 is still waiting for that economically equitable license, and it has also **become clear that the dam design and maintenance have created a hazard to those living downstream.** While residents elsewhere in California have benefited greatly from the water and power provided, the residents of Butte County face losing their homes and livelihoods.

Everyone in Butte County is a stakeholder in the Oroville Dam. The League forum on the economics of Oroville dam, held at the Southside Community Center in Oroville in September, offered a number of perspectives from a wide range of people. LWVBC obtained permission from several speakers to post their slide presentations. **To learn more** about Oroville dam and implications for the next 50-year license, go to: http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org/files/dwr_presentation_final_for_lwvbc_web.compressed.pdf



Photo of the Oroville Dam flood control spillway on February 9, 2017 after portions of the concrete slab broke free, causing major damage and directing water flows from its 35,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) releases to go sideways and beyond the spillway edge. This in turn caused substantial hillside erosion, and ultimately forced the evacuation of the Oroville area, as dam operators continued to manage flood stage flows, allowing water to go over the “top of the dam” emergency spillway for the first time in the history of the dam.

*Photo credit: Kelly M. Grow/
California Department of Water
Resources*

What Kind of Talk Does Democracy Need? A Workshop on Civil Discourse

Our League had the privilege of conducting a collaborative civil discourse workshop - *What Kind of Talk Does Democracy Need?* Guest Presenter Martha Cox, LWVC Board Member and Kettering Foundation Affiliated Facilitator lead the informative, hands-on workshop. Additional collaborators included the Office of Civic Engagement at CSU, Chico, LWV North County San Diego, LWV San Diego, and LWV of California.

North State Leagues were invited to attend, and a Board member from the LWV of the Redding Area was able to join us. Martha Cox engaged us in collaborative and deliberative dialogue to address a specific problem in our community -- substance abuse. A broad range of resource materials were provided to facilitate our understanding. Drawing upon a Resource Guide on Public Engagement from the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation, Cox shared core principles for public engagement comprised of seven recommendations reflecting the common beliefs and understandings of those working in the field of public engagement, conflict resolution, and collaboration -- with the aim of creating clarity for practitioners, public managers, and community leaders about the fundamental components of quality public engagement.

If you visit www.ncdd.org/pep, you will see that many of these principles reflect the work of the League: careful planning and preparation, inclusion and demographic diversity, collaboration and shared purpose, openness and learning, transparency and trust; impact and action; and sustained engagement and participatory culture. Our participants expressed great interest in exploring Civil Discourse and Public Engagement further for betterment of our community, and for moving dialog and solutions forward.



The photo at left shows workshop presenter Martha Cox observing the progress of a participant group as they surveyed themselves to find actionable community solutions to the problem of substance abuse.

Read more about the workshop in the Chico News & Review's coverage of the event:

<https://www.newsreview.com/chico/finding-civility/content?oid=25329601>

Photo courtesy of Evan Tuchinsky

Join us for our
Annual Potluck & Program

“Emergency Planning & Preparedness”

Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 6 pm

First Baptist Church Social Hall
850 Palmetto Ave, Chico

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

Voter Service & Candidate Forum Planning, January 4th

We are already starting the planning process for **2018 Candidate Forums** in preparation for the June Elections. Candidate Forums are an essential component of Voter Service for the League. Please join the planning effort and learn more about the process and how you can be a part of it.

The first 2018 Forum Planning meeting will be held in the League Office on Thursday, January 4 at 5:30 pm. We are also talking about succession planning since Rose Kelley, Voter Service Director is planning to move to the Dakotas. Before her new house is completely built, we want to identify League members interested in shadowing Rose to take over Candidate Forums. If you would like more information before Jan. 4, please contact Rose Kelley. And we hope to see some new faces at the initial planning meeting, along with our more seasoned Voter Service volunteers to help lead the League way!

Why Donating to the League Makes a Big Difference

The League does not endorse any political candidate or party. Our primary goal is to provide citizens an opportunity to hear candidates speak on their positions and provide information from both sides of ballot measures and initiatives. It does, however, cost money to provide venues for forums and printed materials on state and local ballot measures. While our local League collects member dues, they almost all go to support the state and national Leagues. It is only through fundraising that we can pay for **local** operating costs and expenses for public venues.

Please help our local League continue this valuable work with a tax deductible donation to the LWVBC Endowment Fund held with the North Valley Community Foundation. You received a recent letter with an envelope for mailing a check. You also have the option to donate online safely:

Donate Today! Click on the link below to find all that you need to know in order to donate:
<https://www.nvcf.org/fund/league-of-women-voters-of-butte-county-endowment-fund/>



45th Annual
***Wine Tasting
& Light Buffet***

**Sunday
April 15, 2018**
Save the Date!

A Special *Thank You* to our Hosts

Jan & Steve Dilg

for hosting another lovely
Holiday Party
this month!

In addition to the fine Cooley Ranch wine and the scrumptious treats brought by members, **Margaret Bomberg** added her usual touch with special mugs & fun socks!

LWVC Supports new Prop 13 Reform Legislation

Big News! After almost 40 years, the LWVC is seizing the moment to close the corporate loophole in Proposition 13 that keeps too many companies from paying their fair share.

Since 2015, the League has been a part of the “Make It Fair” coalition. Californians **deserve world-class schools and universities, quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes.** That is what our taxes should pay for. It’s past time to close this loophole and stop letting big business rob our schools and local communities, impoverish future generations, and endanger California’s economic future. **The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018** is the responsible, fair, and long-overdue tax system to ensure California can thrive now and in the future.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will create a “**split roll**”; **non-residential, non-agricultural commercial property will be reassessed** on a regular basis. This will lead to an estimated increase in property tax of over **\$11 billion** per year—**revenue that will go directly to schools and local governments.**

Our local League will be an important partner in this advocacy work! Would you like to learn more and join this effort? We will gather at on **Tuesday, January 16 at 7:30 pm** (right after the LWVBC Board meeting) to discuss action. If you would like more information, please contact Debra Barger at debra_barger@lwvbuttecounty.org.

LWV of Butte County CALENDAR for Winter & Spring 2018

Tuesday, January 16 at 7:30 pm, “Make it Fair - Prop 13 Reform” initial action planning meeting, following the 5:30 pm LWV Board Meeting @ the League office, 635 Flume Street, Chico

Tuesday, January 30 at 6 pm, Annual Potluck & Program on “Emergency Planning & Preparedness” @ 1st Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave

Saturday, February 17 afternoon workshop, “Let Your Voice Be Heard: Tips for Civic Engagement” co-sponsored with the AAUW Chapters of Chico and Paradise. More info TBA.

Sunday, February 25 at 4 pm, New Member Orientation @ the League office, 635 Flume St, Chico

March 11-17, “Sunshine Week” events – including The Brown Act “Lunch & Learn” Workshop on Wednesday, March 14 @ Shelley’s Catering, 2565 Zanella Way, Chico. \$15 per person for lunch.

Fri & Sat, March 22 & 23, Observer Reports @ the League office, times TBA – *For League Members Only*

Sunday, April 15 at 4-7 pm, Annual Wine Tasting Benefit @ Manzanita Place in Chico

May Candidate Forums throughout Butte County, locations and times TBA

Tuesday, May 22 at 6 pm, Annual Membership Business Meeting, location TBA

Tuesday, June 5 – California Primary Election

Observers Corner

Mary Kowta, LWV Observer Chair

The LWVBC regularly observe numerous councils and commissions, yet we also have additional needs that perhaps you might personally like to 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

We still need Observers in Paradise, particularly the Paradise Irrigation District, plus additional Chico City Council Observers. In 2018, we may also need Observers for the new entity being formed to oversee the Property Based Improvement District (PBID) for downtown Chico. The PBID is a self-imposed and self-governed property assessment that will raise funds from property owners in an area to provide management and improvement of the area. (Last July, the LWVBC observed the formation of a Chico PBID).

Sunshine Week, March 11-17. This week is dedicated to shedding light on the Open Meeting Laws & Transparency in Government, principles that are at the heart of the League of Women Voters! We will have a **“Lunch & Learn” about The Brown Act on Wednesday, March 14** at Shelley’s Catering, 2565 Zanella Way #A, in Chico for \$15 per person. **Observer Reports** will take place **Friday, March 23 & Saturday, March 24** at the League Office. This is a *League members-only* chance to learn about the agencies and commissions that we Observe. For more information, please contact Mary Kowta, Observers Chair, or Andy Holcombe.

The Nominating Committee wants to hear from members who would be willing to serve on the LWV of Butte County Board. There are 5 positions open on the Board for the 2018 - 2020 term. Please contact Andy Holcombe at andytlaw@aol.com 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 **Kathy Sweet, Kathy Kaiser, Mahalley Allen, Margaret Bomberg, and Chair Andy Holcombe**. 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!

Andy Holcombe, 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.

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

www.lwvbuttecounty.org

✓ Don't forget to Renew
your Membership with League

✓ Support your local League
by donating to the LWVBC
Endowment Fund

2017-18 LWV of Butte County – League Leaders

President	Debra Barger	Debra_Barger@lwvbuttecounty.org
1st VP	Toni Reid	Toni_Reid@lwvbuttecounty.org
2nd VP	Kathy Sweet	Kathy_Sweet@lwvbuttecounty.org
Secretary	Loretta Torres	Loretta_Torres@lwvbuttecounty.org
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Director	Barbara Evans	Barbara_Evans@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director – Observers	Mary Kowta	Mary_Kowta@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director	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	Janet Taylor	Janet_Taylor@lwvbuttecounty.org
Director	Mahalley Allen	Mahalley_Allen@lwvbuttecounty.org

LWV Board meetings are monthly @ 5:30 pm in the League office, 635 Flume Street in Chico. Upcoming Board meetings are January 16, February 13, March 12, April 16, and May 14. All League members are welcome to attend and participate. To reach a Board member, either use their email addresses listed above, or call 530-895-8683 to leave a message.