

THE VOTER

June 2026

Empowering Voters - Defending Democracy

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A Message from the LWVML Presidential Triad

Happy 5th Birthday to us!

Our League of Women Voters of the Mother Lode first met in January of 2018 with 32 founding members, led by Patti Cherry. Initially, we were a MAS, Member-At-State, unit, which is a small or newly formed unit. A MAS unit operates directly under the state League office, which handles all administrative functions for the unit.

We went right to work registering voters. Observer Corps began monitoring the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and the Sonora City Council. In January of 2020, we held our first Candidates Forum. We were off and running!

Then the COVID pandemic hit. Undaunted, we continued monitoring both the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and the Sonora City Council via Zoom. Although, as a group, we were not particularly tech-oriented (we still aren't), we embraced Zoom, allowing the LWVML Board and General Membership meetings to continue. A frequent catchphrase of those days was, "We can't hear you. Unmute!"

In October of 2020, we held our second Candidates Forum, following pandemic protocols. Thanks to Access Tuolumne and Jerry Day, a skeleton League crew was able to broadcast the Board of Supervisors runoff candidates' forum for voters.

By January 2021, we became restless. Like Pinocchio's lesser-known sister, Pinocchia, we longed to be a 'real girl', a full-fledged League. Under the leadership of Leonides Russell, our President at the time, and the guidance of Jeanne Brown, our LWVC coach, the process began. Countless Zoom meetings later, the documents for incorporation were submitted to the League of Women Voters of the United States. The wait began. Did we qualify? Have we forgotten anything? Finally, we got word. In May 2021, it was official! The League of Women Voters of the Mother Lode was recognized as an official League! Congratulations to us!

For the past eight years, we have been a presence in our communities, in both Tuolumne and Calaveras counties. We have earned a reputation for our fair, professional forums; registered countless voters; written Op Ed pieces for the Union Democrat and Calaveras Enterprise; spoken out at public meetings on community issues; provided voter and community education, and this is just a partial list.

Join us at our June 6th General Membership Annual Meeting to celebrate our 5th Anniversary as a Full League, and our 8th Anniversary as a force in our communities. We will be voting for our 2026-2027 officers and board members, learning about the Constitution, and celebrating ourselves. We have only just begun!

Maria Benech, Jane Braga, and Leonides Russell



Please Save The Date and Volunteer

Once again, LWVML will be doing a fundraiser with the Murphy's Creek Theater. We will be hosting the preview night for their production of "What the Constitution Means to Me." You can buy tickets at our General Meeting on Saturday and take additional ones to sell.

Heidi Schreck, the playwright and main character, performs some scenes as her modern self and others as her 15-year-old self. The play was a finalist for the 1989 Pulitzer Prize in Drama. Schreck funded her entire college education with these debates. The play's themes include immigration and domestic violence as they relate to women in her family. She also dives into the 14th Amendment, describing the pitfalls of the Constitution and discussing citizenship rights and what it means to be an American.

Fundraiser **LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF THE MOTHER LODGE

What the Constitution Means to Me Thursday,
August 6, 2026

Pulitzer Prize Finalist

...a thought-provoking play by Heidi Schreck that explores the profound impact of the U.S. Constitution on the lives of individuals, particularly women.



Murphys Creek Theater
580 S. Algiers St., Murphys, CA

6:00-7:00 Reception
7:00-9:00 Performance

TICKETS \$25 available at MOUNTAIN BOOKSTORE
or contact Brenda at BMCHENRY209@GMAIL.COM

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the organizing committee, help set up and take down at the event, bring a sweet or savory appetizer to the reception, post flyers in your area, and, of course, to sell tickets. If you are interested, attend the Membership/Fundraising Meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 pm at the Senior Center in Sonora or contact Patricia Horsthius at 209-559-5242.

How You Can Renew/Join

Renew/join today online at LWVML.org. Your dues support national, state, and local League efforts. When you go to the website, you will see the "Join" button in the top right corner of your screen. Remember to identify our local league, League of Women Voters of the Mother Lode. This ensures you remain on our mailing list, or if you are a new member, you will receive our monthly newsletter and other important messages (not too many, though).

LWVML is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are tax-deductible—tax ID #873922182. LWVML receives only \$15 of the \$75 from National dues. This part is tax-deductible, but the remaining \$60 is not. LWV and LWVC activities include political lobbying and advocacy, which disqualifies donations from being considered as charitable donations.

Saturday, June 6th, 10 am to Noon

General Meeting— Tuolumne County Library, 480 Greenley Road, Sonora

This is our Annual Meeting. We will be voting on our slate of officers and budget for 2026/2027, reviewing our program focus for the coming year, learning about the U.S. Constitution from our very own Trudy Craig, who has put together a wonderful class on this critical document, and celebrating our 5th birthday with cake from Devon’s Delectables and ice cream. We need a quorum, so please join us! Thank you.

June and July Meetings/Events

Tuesday June 2nd, VOTE

Reminder, if you mail in your ballot on election day, make sure the post office hand cancels it for you, see them do it, just to be sure it will be counted. Better yet, use a drop off box!

Monday June 8th, 10:30 am

Homelessness Interest Group—Leonides Russell, Lead
Senior Center in Sonora

Wednesday June 10th, 1 pm to 3 pm

Membership/Fundraising — Patricia Horsthius Chair/
Deborah Rei Chair
Senior Center in Sonora

Friday June 19th, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Democracy Interest Group—Martha Rubin, Lead
Round Table Pizza in Angels Camp

Monday June 15th, 1 pm to 3 pm

Voter Services — Susan Medeiros, Chair
Jane Braga’s Home

Wednesday June 17th, 11:30 am

Water Interest Group—Jane Braga, Lead
Schnoogs

Wednesday June 17th, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Observer Corps — Jane Braga, Chair
Senior Center in Sonora

Monday June 29th, 11 am to 1 pm

LWVML Board
Senior Center in Sonora

Fire Interest Group—Maria Benech, Lead
On hiatus after the Living with Fire Series

No General Meeting in July

Wednesday July 8th, 8 am to 3 pm

LWVML Board Retreat
Murphys

TBA (date change due to the LWVML Board Retreat)

Membership/Fundraising — Patricia Horsthius Chair/
Deborah Rei Chair
Senior Center in Sonora

Monday July 13th, 10:30 am

Homelessness Interest Group—Leonides Russell, Lead
Senior Center in Sonora

Wednesday July 15th, 11:30 am

Water Interest Group—Jane Braga, Lead
Schnoogs

Wednesday July 15th, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Observer Corps — Jane Braga, Chair
Senior Center in Sonora

Friday July 17th, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Democracy Interest Group—Martha Rubin, Lead
Round Table Pizza in Angels Camp

Monday July 20th, 1 pm to 3 pm

Voter Services — Susan Medeiros, Chair
Jane Braga’s Home

Monday July 27th, 11 am to 1 pm

LWVML Board
Senior Center in Sonora

Fire Interest Group—On hiatus until September

Committees, **WHERE THE REAL WORK HAPPENS!**

Voter Services Committee:

Committee Members: Leonides Russell, Pam Vlach, Maria Benech, Cris Barsanti, Jane Braga, and Susan Medeiros (Chair)

Many thanks to the hard work of our 35 League volunteers, who in various and important ways contributed to putting on four successful LWVML Candidate Forums in Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties: Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Race (Abernathy and Wingo) on April 23rd; Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors District 3 Race (Kirk and McCaffrey) on April 29th; Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors District 2 Race (Brooks, Campbell, Green, Healy, Martinez, and Tamayo) on April 30th; and the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors District 5 Race (Clapp, Guidici, and Stopper) on May 7th. See photos on page 9.

Easy Voter Guides in Spanish and English were dispersed in the community as preparation for the June 2nd Primaries.

League members Leonides Russell and Jane Braga are assisting the Elections Office as community volunteers in processing ballots for the upcoming elections.

Pam Vlach and Tia Andersen (pictured below) represented LWVML at the Tuolumne County Volunteer Fair on April 23rd. It was an opportunity to share how the League carries out its mission of empowering voters and defending democracy. Individuals stopped by the League table and had questions regarding voter information. Our participation helped attendees gain awareness of the League as a non-partisan political organization that supports and strengthens its community.

We are looking ahead to our upcoming November election and need members who would be willing to volunteer to help with VOTE411.org, an online service to provide voters with candidate information. We will focus on local candidate races. Contact Susan Medeiros at susanmedeiros@gmail.com or 209-840-2066.

Our next Voter Services Committee meeting will be on Monday, June 15th, at 1:30 at the Senior Center in Sonora next to the Tuolumne County Library. All are welcome to attend.



Observer Corps (OC):

Committee Members: Lynn Johnson, Leonides Russell, Susan Medeiros, Stefani Reichle, Maria Benech, Cris Barsanti, and Jane Braga (Chair)

Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors (BOS)

May 12th. Supervisors Holland and Kirk were absent. Concerns about transparency and potential Brown Act violations were raised by staff and by a member of the audience.

There were some heated discussions. One was between CAO Root and Supervisor Campbell about the alleged misuse of grant funds and internal accounting mechanisms.

A discussion about updating the Strategic Goals and Rules and Regulations sections of the Governance Manual got heated as well. There were also disagreements among Supervisors Brandon and Holland and CAO Root.

Supervisor Griefer reported that 'they' are hearing 'great things' about County Government now, that County Government has 'turned the page', and that 'there are increased applications to county jobs now.'

BOS voted 3:0:0 to leave the mobile home park annual fee for defending rent control as is.

Observer Corps continued:

May 19th. Supervisor Holland did not wear a hat today! All supervisors were present. No Brown Act violations. There was disagreement about the speaker in Public Comment, making accusations against Supervisor Kirk. Was this campaigning? County Counsel said 'no.'

BOS voted to move \$25,000 from the Contingency Fund to replace or repair needed infrastructure at Lake Tulloch. Supervisor Campbell pointed out that, although the dollar amount was different, BOS approved contingency funds for this, but not to keep fire services going. Passed 5:0.

Discussion about standardizing employee background checks. Kirk's suggestion. Discussed in the last meeting, but Kirk was absent. Supervisor Campbell pointed out that it had been discussed and voted on at the last meeting. It's unnecessary and should be left up to HR and their staff. Heated, snippy discussion. Tabled 3:2:0. Further input by County counsel needed.

Sonora City Council

May 4th. All present. Pat Perry, town historian, gave a brief history of the city. Council passed a resolution to recognize and celebrate the 175th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Sonora.

May 19th. A representative from State Senator Alvarado-Gil's office presented a framed certificate recognizing the 175th anniversary of Sonora's incorporation as a city.

Amendments to the General Plan and updates to the Safety Element were approved. 5:0.

First reading to amend the City of Sonora Municipal Code regulating tobacco product sales and considering a fee schedule was waived. There was a discussion regarding the balance between protecting youth and protecting businesses that are already facing increased fees from the state this year.

Direction to Tyler, CDD, to come back June 1st with new language that would include: no new fees, penalties for non-compliance, a letter to the state requesting some of their fee back to help retailers with compliance, and a ban on flavored tobacco products, Kratom, and nitrous sales to minors.

Police Chief Turu announced that citizens may now text 911 and dispatchers will receive it.

Tuolumne Utility District (TUD)

May 12th. All present. Grant-funded, ongoing consolidation project with the Muller Mutual Water System (MMWS) report updated. Involves 2 miles of pipeline replaced with 2 mains, fire hydrants, service meters, and vaults. After consolidation, the 55 customers will be served and billed by TUD. Supervisor Ringen questioned the use of an outside company for the project. Why couldn't the TUD crew do work? Staff responded that TUD crews were committed to the Sierra Pines project, the water treatment facility going in near Twain Harte. Vote 4:1. Director Ringen voted no. Note. MMWS is in Tuolumne County. They requested consolidation in 2019. The state provided a \$4.6 million grant to pay for the consolidation.

May 26th. All present. Report out of closed session – approval of local union contract. FY 2026-2027 presented. Budget of \$1.39 million CIP budget for FY. Not included is a \$27 million grant for the Sierra Pines Project. TUD has \$35.6 million in active grants for the next 7 years. They are still pursuing more. TUD has purchased paving equipment for small paving repairs. TUD will do small projects. Larger jobs will be contracted out. The equipment savings will be realized within 2 years. The county used to do this. Now TUD does it. FY 2026-2027 Operating Budget presented. A budget is a Planned Spending Document. Service charges are 91% of revenue. Very healthy Capital Reserves. TUD has \$54 million in grants and loans. This is outside the operating budget.

Fill and Spill. On May 16th, the water snow melt hit 00. There are about 20 days of runoff after the end of the melt. The county is still in Spill now. Will continue to monitor Spill. The spill goes into Lyons and Pinecrest.

Homelessness Interest Group (HIG)

Members: Ted Michaud, Patricia Horsthuis, Trudy Craig, Suzanne Hennessy, Cindy Roberts, and Leonides Russell (Lead)

HIG members interviewed the 2 directors of the Jamestown Family Resource Center regarding the services they provide to unhoused students and families. Some services include emergency food supplies, clothing, and help finding adequate housing.

Next meeting is Monday, June 8th at 10:30 at the Senior Center. All are welcome.

Fire Interest Group (FIG)

Members: Karen Caldwell, Martha Rubin, Maureen Kelley, Stefani Reichle, Elsie Bruno, Deborah Rei, Patricia Dunlap, Julie Johnson, and Maria Benech (Lead)

The Group is on hiatus until September, but we are looking into whether we, as a League, can comment on the closing of a fire station based on League positions.

In addition, if you missed the 3-day Living with Fire Series in March, this [link](#) will take you to the videos of many of the presentations and all the videos that were shown over the three days.

PS: If you attended Day 2 and filled out the UC Davis survey after you participated in their “game,” then you will receive a \$50 Amazon Gift Certificate from them. Check your email for a message from “M.V. Eitzel Solera.” This is not a scam.

If you have any questions, contact Maria Benech at runmcb@gmail.com or 209-559-3504.

Democracy (in action) Interest Group (DIG)

Members: Tia Andersen, Janis Ossa, Brenda McHenry, Trudy Craig, Irene Wetzels, Susan Medeiros, Maria Benech, and Martha Rubin (Lead)

The DIGs are LWVML's newest Interest Group, and we are looking for more League members who would like to focus on the challenges facing our democracy. We want to share our findings and concerns with our League and our communities so that people can take action to help defend our democracy.

We did not meet in May because of the many activities the League was already doing last month. The SAVE Act is also currently dead in the Senate, so we felt we could take the month off. We hope to see you in June.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month, at Angels Camp Round Table Pizza and via Zoom at 1:30. The next meeting is on June 19th. For more information, contact Martha Rubin at 650-619-7136 or email rubinmartha@gmail.com.

Water Interest Group (WIG)

Members: Patricia Horsthuis, Leonides Russell, Suzanne Hennessy, Jeff Hollis, Tom Parrington, Cris Barsanti, and Jane Braga (Lead)

Water! Water is a constant topic of interest all year long. In the colder months, we worry if there is enough snow for an adequate snowpack. In the warmer months, we worry if the reservoirs have enough water to get us through the hot summer months. Drought concerns have become constant in California. Senate Bill 552, SB552, mandates Drought Planning for Small Water Suppliers and Rural Communities. It requires these counties to create a Drought Resilience Plan (DRP). The WIGs are following the progress of this mandate here in Tuolumne County. We will keep you informed. We will meet Sean Hembree, Tuolumne County Senior Administrative Analyst, Natural Resources, at a future WIG meeting to discuss our DRP.

Water rights are a hot topic in Tuolumne County and throughout the state. Starting in March, the LWVC Water Committee began presenting a series of water articles for League newsletters. This month the LWVC Water Committee has provided a brief introduction to this complex, vital issue. Water Spotlight - Allocating and managing today's precious water resources, according to a centuries-old prior appropriation/riparian water-rights system, implicates principles of social and environmental justice as well as 21st century hydrologic knowledge. Read it below.

WIGs meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30, at Schnoog's Café.

Title: From Time Immemorial. Authors, Shirley Nixon & Jane Braga

Can you taste the dinosaur tears in your morning coffee?

The water supply on planet Earth is a zero-sum game: the total quantity remains constant, despite changes in form. Natural processes will eventually transform and propel every water molecule into a different form and phase of the perpetual water cycle. The water you drink today may have trickled from the eyes of a dinosaur millions of years ago. Glaciers melt and fill lakes and oceans; water evaporates into the atmosphere, falls as rain, is taken up by vegetation, or sinks into the ground, flows into rivers, or is integrated into the food chain.

Just as the water cycle is timeless and inevitable, so is the truism that water is life: for it is a human right. The air we collectively breathe is temporarily ours, but it cannot become personal property, and neither can water – because, like air, water belongs to us all. The California Constitution and Water Code make it possible for a person or entity to possess a conditional right to beneficially use a specific quantity of water in a specific place and for a specific time and purpose. But the state, as trustee for the people, controls and regulates such “water rights.”

Laws and principles governing surface water use in the United States reflect the abundance of water in a geographic region and the relative ease of access to it. Where natural rivers, lakes and streams can support equitable sharing of supplies, adjacent landowners can acquire riparian rights to divert water for use on those adjacent lands. Such Riparian Water Rights are common in the eastern USA, but are fewer in arid western states including California. Most surface water rights in California are acquired through a “first in time – first in right” aka “Prior Appropriation” regime that allows conveying water to non-adjacent lands. Such water rights are prioritized according to the date the holder plans to put the water to use; and in times of scarcity, senior-in-priority water-users are not required to share the dwindling resource – even if it means junior-in-priority right-holders receive nothing.

¹ “Beneficial use” is a legal term-of-art applied to water rights. Also known as the “reasonable use doctrine,” it is embodied in Article X of the California Constitution and state water code. All California water rights, regardless of when obtained, are subject to the continuing authority of the state to prevent waste and unreasonable use. *United States v. State Water Resources Control Board* (1986), 182 Cal.App.3d 82, commonly referred to as the “Racanelli Decision.”

² California’s trustee responsibilities under the “public trust doctrine” are explained in *National Audubon Society v. Superior Court*, a 1983 California Supreme Court case involving City of Los Angeles water diversions that harmed Mono Lake.

³ Under a California riparian right, water can only be diverted if it is used on land that drains back to the source from which it was taken. It cannot be diverted if the source-water is unnaturally flowing due to release from upstream storage or importation from another watershed. If there is insufficient water available for competing riparian users, they must share the available supply according to their needs.

⁴ In California, the date of submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) of an approved application for water use is the priority date. A diagram showing steps in the water right application & permitting process:

Continued from page 7, Title: From Time Immemorial. Authors, Shirley Nixon & Jane Braga

The “First in Time, First in Right – Priority Appropriation” system of water allocation: A rough analogy to illustrate the complexities of applying it today:

Imagine the public highway system as a stand-in for public water resources (rivers, lakes, streams). Individual people can't own stretches of state highways, but they have a right to use them when riding in passenger cars or buses, so long as the vehicles are lawfully registered and bear state-issued license plates. Efficient highways depend upon their capacities to handle numbers of vehicles. If every licensed vehicle simultaneously left its parking-spot to go somewhere, streets and highways would be grid-locked and useless – unable to physically accommodate the demand. To problem-solve this “over-allocated” situation using the prior-appropriation doctrine would mean allowing first highway-access to the oldest clunkers because of the early dates of their license-plates. Following them would be the next-in-time registered vehicles, and so on, until the highway system is so clogged that it can no longer handle new traffic. Junior right-holders -- persons with later-licensed cars – may never reach their intended destinations. But – older vehicles can be gas guzzlers and newer-licensed ones may allow people to travel more efficiently. Unfortunately, the system doesn't allow jumping the priority line.

Senior Water Rights & Over-Allocation of a Declining Resource

What happens – metaphorically speaking - if everyone holding a permit or license to use California surface water “turns on the taps” at once, and attempts to use the full quantity of water shown on the face of their water right (their “on paper” water right)? Because appropriative senior-right holders are not required to share water as in the riparian rights regime, they are entitled to use the full water quantity shown on their “paper,” even when that could make water unavailable for junior right-holders. Hence the more senior a water right, the more valuable it is in times of scarcity, and in the face of climate change when there is more water-resource uncertainty.

Complex water laws and regulations attempt to prevent abuses of the prior appropriation system by measures such as the “use it or lose it” (aka relinquishment) doctrine that allows the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) to revoke a water right if the holder has failed to beneficially use it without a justifiable reason, or has abandoned the water-works project. If a senior water right is revoked or a quantity of it reduced for non-use, then that “paper water” can be better counted-upon to be physically present in the waterway in the future, and perhaps can be allocated to a new water-seeker. Detailed information about applying these and other California water laws and procedures can be found at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/board_info/faqs.html#toc178761088

Allocating and managing today's precious water resources accordingly to a centuries-old prior appropriation water-rights system implicates principles of social and environmental justice as well as 21st century hydrologic knowledge. Some thorny issues and present-day water availability problems include:

- Quantifying and prioritizing as-yet unrecognized Tribal water rights. Some Native American tribes possess water rights dating to “time immemorial,” or to the 1800's when the government created federal reservations for tribes dislocated from ancestral lands. For example, not covered in this article (watch for a subsequent one) are complexities of superimposing tribal water rights to the present-day status of ever-diminishing flows of the Colorado River.
- Protecting, if not defining and/or quantifying the water rights of nature and public trust interests in healthy ecosystems, and managing water rights according.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/board_info/docs/wr_appprocess.pdf From a water management as well as regulatory perspective, it is important for applicants to diligently develop their projects so that estimates and decisions about remaining water availability can be made on later applications for water from the same source.

⁵ At least in this analogy, the DMV has more plentiful mechanisms than the State Water Resources Control Board to detect improper or abandoned licenses.

Continued from page 8, Title: **From Time Immemorial**. Authors, Shirley Nixon & Jane Braga

Key Takeaways re: Surface Water Rights in California

- The State of California is Trustee of the public’s water, and must manage it in the public interest and according to the Public Trust Doctrine.
- Water-rights in California are overseen by the State Water Resources Control Board according to a regime based upon the Prior Appropriation Doctrine.
- A water right is a right to use a quantity of the public’s water at a certain time and place, and for a certain purpose. Its continuing use is subject to compliance with constitutional constraints as well as conditions imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board.
- A water right’s priority date is an important and valuable feature. In times of shortage, senior water right holders (with rights established earlier in time) may call for curtailment of junior users in order to receive their full water measure.

Candidate Forums, a huge success (and a lot of work)!

Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who made our four forums a huge success. Over 30 members joined in to help with one or more of these important events. All of them were well-attended, and many people watched them online as well. If you missed them, the links are below. Thank you to Access Tuolumne and Calaveras County Media for filming the forums and making them available for all of our residents.

[Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools April 23rd Forum](#)

[Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors District 3 April 29th Forum](#)

[Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors District 2 April 30th Forum](#)

[Calaveras County Board of Supervisors District 5 May 7th Forum](#)





May LWVML Board Decisions

- ◆ Annual Meeting Program finalized. A cake to celebrate our 5th birthday was added to the day.
- ◆ The League is celebrating Election Hero Day on Tuesday, October 20, 2026. We decided on recognition through a Letter to the Editor (not mentioning any names for safety reasons) as well as taking the workers in both counties homemade treats and a card as a thank you for all their work and dedication.
- ◆ Our annual Board Retreat will be on Wednesday, July 8th this year, 8:30 am to 3 pm. Brenda will work with her “Lunch Lady” for us. Maria will make scones. Janis will bring silverware, no plastic.
- ◆ We would like to start pre-registering high school students in our counties. Working with the schools and student groups to get their peers involved.
- ◆ Janis will work on getting our August speaker, a high school teacher. Mis/dis information and elections.
- ◆ Leo reported out on the May 2nd Regional Workshop. We want to make sure one or more people from our League attend these valuable sessions.
- ◆ National is promoting the Voting Rights Act Day of Action on August 8th. The Board agreed that we do not have the capacity to do anything for this. We have our fundraiser at the Murphys Creek Theatre on August 6th.
- ◆ We will be writing a piece for the papers on “Who the League is.” We want to define who we are, not let others do it (as some have on Facebook).
- ◆ Excellent discussion on DEI and what it means for the League. It will be a standing topic for our Annual Board Retreats.
- ◆ Board approved the final poster for our fundraiser in August, “What the Constitution Means to Me.”



League Cheer

Do you know another member who is:

- Ill or suffered the loss of a loved one;
- Celebrating an important accomplishment?

Call or text Augusta Parrington at 209-770-0211 or email her at aparrington13@gmail.com to ask her to send out a Care Card.

LWVML 2025/2026 BOARD OFFICERS:

Presidential Triad — **Maria Benech, Jane Braga, and Leonides Russell**
 Vice President - **Karen Caldwell**
 Treasurer — **Suzanne Hennessy**
 Recording Secretary — **Janis Ossa**
 Program Director—**Brenda McHenry**

Action Director—**Leonides Russell**
 Publicity Director - **Stefani Reichle**
 The Voter Editor—**Maria Benech**
 Membership Director - **Patricia Horsthuis**
 Voter Services Director—**Susan Medeiros**
 Observer Corp Director - **Jane Braga**
 Fundraising Director—**Deborah Rei**

LWVML 2025/2026 Non-Board Positions: Nominating Committee Chair - **Leslie Klay**; Nominating Committee Members - **Maureen Kelley** and **Charlene Dambacher**; Greeters — **Cris Barsanti** and **Jeff Klay**; Webmaster—**Dorene Hensler**; Historian—TBD

The League of Women Voters of the Mother Lode is a tax exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code: Tax ID #87-3922182.