



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / January 2019, Volume 91, Number 4

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

California Educational Challenges

At our first Lunch & Learn presentation for 2019, Dr. Eduardo Ochoa will discuss the role of education in meeting the country's economic, social, and political challenges. Improvements in our educational system are a crucial part of this subject. It's hard to see how we can ever lessen the harmful effects of inequality, for example, without providing improved education for all students from early childhood through post-secondary education. Although research has shown that a first-class education system can provide a tremendous payoff, there are a number of barriers that limit our ability to reap the potential benefits. Good education is very expensive, it takes a long time to fully realize the benefits, and the voters necessary to support increased resources for education are not necessarily direct beneficiaries. If we are to be successful, we must find a way to overcome these barriers.



Dr. Ochoa is imminently qualified to explain the national as well as local aspects of the role of education, both as President of California State University, Monterey Bay, and due to his a long and distinguished career as a professor and senior academic administrator. He has a Bachelor's degree in Physics, a Master's in Nuclear Science and Engineering, and a PhD in Economics. During the Obama Administration he served as US Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

As President of CSUMB, Dr. Ochoa has focused on promoting excellence in selective fields in response to regional needs, becoming a national leader in the development of new sustainable models of higher education, and in building the university's catalytic role in regional, cultural, and economic development.

James Emery, emeryjc@aol.com

LWVMC January 9, 2019 General Meeting

12 noon Lunch / 12:30 to 1:30 Presentation
(Lunch \$17 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by The Valley Grille).

Reservations are a must for lunch!

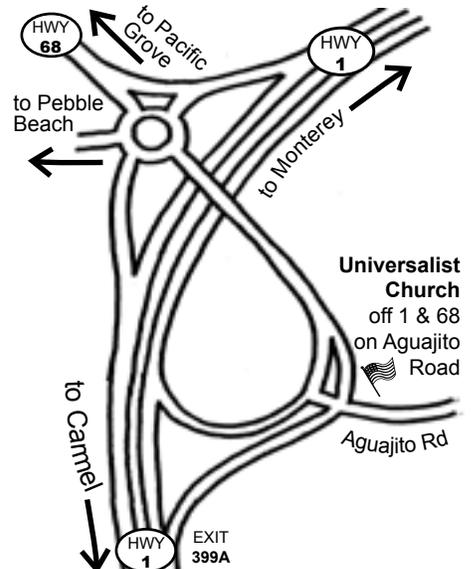
Contact Bev Kreps by Sunday, January 6.

(phone 224-3192 or e-mail bkreps1017@gmail.com)

Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is FREE.

Reminder to Members: The League pays the caterer in advance for everyone who makes a luncheon reservation, and guarantees a minimum of attendees.

L&L meets at: Unitarian Universalist Church http://uucmp.org
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



★★★ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2019** ★★★

Measure J

The **LWVMC** endorsed local measure **"Yes on J"** on the November ballot: it passed 56 to 44%. The measure directs the **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District** to conduct a public buyout study of **California American Water Company**. If feasible, the District will proceed with that objective.

The League was a signer of the ballot arguments in favor of Measure J and provided funds for advocacy. Thanks to our many league members who volunteered with the campaign.

And I learned that more people read the ballot information booklet than I expected. As President, my name appeared on the **"Yes on J"** ballot measure on behalf of LWVMC. My wife Susan said people were constantly saying to her, *"I didn't know your husband was so political!"*

Board Appointment

The **LWVMC Board** appointed **George Riley** to the Board (congratulations George, the vote was unanimous). George resigned before the election while he successfully campaigned for a seat on the **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board of Directors**.

Program Planning

Each year, League members meet to plan for the next program year. This year's **Program Planning meeting** is scheduled for **noon on Monday, February 11, 2019** at the **Mariposa Hall**

conference room. Members will plan for the June 2019 to May 2020 program year. For members who RSVP, an optional box lunch will be available.

At the meeting, members review existing positions, propose new studies, and select areas for emphasis. This process is applied to both LWVMC and the LWV California and gets us to think ahead. For the League to take action on a public issue, it must have a position applicable to that topic. So to be effective, we must anticipate future concerns to allow sufficient time to study them and take a position. Everyone is invited to attend the program planning meeting and think ahead!

Nominating Committee

Betty Matterson is **Chair of the Nominating Committee**. She and her committee will assemble a proposed slate of Officers and Board Members for the 2019-20 program year. If they contact you, please consider their proposal.

Lastly ...

... a plug for our **"Lunch & Learn" videos**, recorded and edited by **Joe Asling** and **Hebard Olsen**. The November meeting attracted a large crowd to hear **Jeffrey Froshman, Distinguished Lecturer CSUMB**, speak about how changes in the federal tax law may impact us. If you missed it or would like to see the presentation again, go to our website www.LWVmryco.org and click on "Luncheon Videos."

Dennis Mar, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

★★★ **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS** ★★★

WVMC staffed the **Marina Library polling place** in the November 2018 general election. We did our best to give voters a pleasant experience, though it was very busy. At one point we could have used more voting booths.

Thanks to members and their friends for volunteering: **Beverly Bean, Sandra Berman, Regina Doyle, Sally Gensberg, Alice Ann Glenn,**

Tamara Harris, Anne Herendeen, Richard Leslie, Patricia Mahoney, Catherine Marshall, Marilyn Maxner, Anton Prange, Sylvia Shih, and Dina Stansbury.

Representing LWVMC at a **Hacienda Carmel "Resource Fair"** were **Judi Lehman** and **Myrleen Fisher**. Thanks to them for promoting voting and handing out League literature at the event.



LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: SUE ERICKSON



LWVMC's newest Board member is **Sue Erickson, Director At-Large**, who has served only since last September. When she was interviewed in November, Sue said she'd been to only one Board meeting so far because *"in September I was in Croatia."* She adds that she feels she's still in "learn and listen" mode, but is enthusiastic about the future.



Sue first joined LWVMC in 2010, after she retired from a 38-year career as a teacher at **Robert Down Elementary School** in Pacific Grove. *"I went to UC Davis and graduated from Berkeley,"* she says. *"I got a degree in psychology and then got my teaching credential a year after that."*

"It was an absolutely amazing 38 years," Sue recalls of her time at Robert Down. *"One of the nicest things was knowing multiple siblings in a family, getting to know them all."* In retirement, she still volunteers at the school. *"I go in every Friday for three hours and volunteer in the classroom,"* she says.

Born in San Francisco, Sue has lived on the Monterey Peninsula since she was 10 years old, with the exception of her college years. When her family moved here, Sue enrolled at **Sunset School** in Carmel and shortly afterward met **David Erickson**, who would become her husband after they'd both finished college. *"We graduated from Sunset in 1962,"* Sue recalls, *"the last eighth grade graduation class at the school, and we're both Carmel High graduates."*

Returning here after college, Sue went to work as a teacher and David became a software engineer based in Silicon Valley. *"We ended up buying a condo up there so he had a place to stay and didn't*

have to commute every day," she says. *"David's retired now and in the middle of building a guest house."* The Ericksons have one daughter, **Kirsten**, who still lives locally and worked as a paralegal for many years until taking a recent break.

One passion that Sue and David share is world travel. *"We started traveling around 2000,"* she says, *"and we've got a long list of places we want to see. So far we've traveled to a lot of interesting places—England, Scotland, France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy, and we spent two and a half weeks in Croatia this fall. We've also been to India and China."* In addition, Sue visited Cuba with a friend.



The Ericksons' travel adventures are often shared with a group of friends. *"There are 14 of us in all,"* Sue explains, *"mostly people I knew from teaching—really friendly, flexible people. We rent a villa in different places for a week—we need seven bedrooms and seven bathrooms. Everybody tends to do their own things before and after spending that week together."*

When asked what goals she has for the League going forward, Sue reminisced about her reason for joining in the first place. *"I always looked at the League's stances on propositions and issues before voting,"* she explains. *"I'm still on a learning curve, but my goal is to go along with the League's goals. I want it to continue doing just what it's been doing. A lot of people look to the League for direction in voting."*

Once she's finished her learning curve, Sue Erickson looks forward to making her own significant contribution to LWVMC in the upcoming years.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome New Members

Lenette Brusstar, 711 Rosemont Avenue, PG 93950, 646-5949, lenettebrusstar@gmail.com

Joanne Kelly, PO Box 386, PG 93950, 375-6508 or 809-5196 (cell), cassego@comcast.net

Warren Anderson, 1251 Sylvan Road, Monterey CA 93940, 234-5661, warren@wanderson.com

Note a Change of Address

Lynne Penrose, 106 Orange Drive, Apt#10, Salinas CA 93904

Belated Thanks for a Donation

from Howard and Linda Fosler (\$105)

On-Time Thanks for a Donation

from Myrleen Fisher (\$35)

Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net

SUPPORT HR1 TO END THE INFLUENCE OF BIG MONEY



Corruption occurs when wealthy donors and powerful interests use political money to buy influence from officeholders. New legislation from Congress, HR1, will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the **Voting Rights Act**.

HR1 will: provide funding for House and presidential candidates to run without becoming obligated to influence-seeking funders; open the door to new candidates from all walks of life by providing them with the ability to raise money needed to run; and greatly reduce the power and influence of big money funders.

Take action! Contact your Representative and ask that small donor public financing be included as a priority in HR1. Go to <http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public>

Chris Carson, President, LWV US,
chriscarson@lwv.org



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!

Renew Your LWVMC Membership.

If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

Renewal letter and form gone astray?
Uncertain of your membership due date?
Wish to make a donation?
Want to become a new member?

Use the form below or contact:
Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director
LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to **LWVMC**
Mail to **LWVMC PO Box 1995**
Monterey, CA 93942

Membership Levels

- \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 65 Single membership

Name(s)

Address

City State Zip Code

Phone e-mail

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons
- Scholarship requested

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.

UPCOMING LUNCH & LEARN PROGRAMS 2019



February "Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Update"

March "The Impact of Transportation on Climate Change"

April "County Update by Supervisor Chris Lopez"

VACANT POSITION: VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR, SALINAS VALLEY



We need someone to cover Voter Service for the Salinas Valley area! It's a part time but crucial position that we need to better serve Valley voters. The job entails organizing candidates' forums, Pros & Cons presentations, and other duties related to encouraging Salinas citizens to vote.

Contact **Jeanne Turner, Voter Service Director** Monterey Peninsula jturner215@comcast.net.

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

Office / Board Meetings Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

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Salinas Valley Unit

(vacant and searching for a replacement)

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Voter Service:

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Jeanne Turner 373-7671
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Voter Service: Salinas Valley

(vacant and urgently searching for a replacement)

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LWVMC Calendar



JANUARY 2019

FEBRUARY 2019

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 7 January, 1:30 pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

LWVMC Program Planning Meeting
Monday, 11 February, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 9 January, 12 noon
"California Educational Challenges"
Guest Speaker: **Eduardo Ochoa**
Unitarian Universalist Church
490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel Hwy 1
emeryjc@aol.com

followed immediately by
General Board Meeting
Monday, 11 February, 1:30 pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 10 January, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 13 February, 12 noon
"Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Update"
Unitarian Universalist Church
490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel Hwy 1
Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Do Something NEW in the
NEW YEAR with the League
Attend a Board Meeting! Bring a friend to
Lunch & Learn! Join a Committee!
Nominate yourself for a Board Position!

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 14 February, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com