

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS\* OF MONTEREY COUNTY

# "THE VOTER" NEWSLET

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / March 2021, Volume 93, Number 6



Wednesday, March 10, 2021 "Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District: Creating Healthy Communities & Natural Landscapes through Coalitions"

r. Rafael Payan, Executive Director, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), will discuss the formation and purpose of the Park District and its properties. League members will be gratified to hear that the League played a role in the formation of the District, which has, since 1972, been instrumental in creating twenty-four parks and open spaces, twelve of which it now operates. Dr. Payan (at right in photo) will share the highlights of the 2021-25 Strategic Plan, its goals, objectives and strategies.

Recent initiatives achieved by MPRPD and its partners include the creation of the Joyce Stevens Monterey Pine Preserve and the acquisition of the Rancho Cañada Golf Club, expanding access to the 4,500 acre Palo Corona Regional Park and its conversion into

natural native habitat. Dr. Payan will share his ideas about MPRPD's potential opportunities in science research, recreation, environmental education, community health, and safety. As well, he will discuss the Park District's challenges including COVID, social equity, natural disasters, lack of cooperation between jurisdictions, and decreased funding. (continued on page 2)

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### How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free March LWVMryCo General Meeting and presentation will be conducted over the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform, and use **Zoom Chat** for Questions & Answers. 11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting via [LWVMryCo] on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on Monday, March 8th for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

**Not a member?** All LWVMryCo General Meetings are open to the public at no cost. Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to also receive the link and instructions.

You can even join these meetings using a conventional telephone. Phone numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes. (continued from page 1)

Payan will explain the importance of coalition-building as a guiding principle. Though only just over a dozen team members strong, this tiny but mighty organization is recognized as one of the nation's most innovative—a tribute to MPRPD's dedicated staff and partner organizations.

Dr. Rafael Payan was appointed Executive Director, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District in 2013. He has 40 years' experience in the parks and resource conservation sectors, serving as a US National Park Service Ranger; Deputy Director, Arizona State Parks; and Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Director, Pima County, Arizona.

Payan has been part of many award-winning teams and projects including the creation of **Kartchner Caverns State Park, Arizona** (highlighted in **National Geographic's** 100-Year Anniversary publication), and the **Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan** (recipient of the **American** 

**Planning Association's** highest award for environmental planning in the United States).

Dr. Payan has a BS in Landscape Architecture, and a BA in Park and Resource Administration from Texas Tech University; an MPA Public Finance, Arizona State University; and a PhD Natural Resource Policy & Economics, University of Arizona.

The American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration recognizes Payan as a top leader and educator in his field, training new parks directors. He is a member of the Fort Apache Heritage Foundation, whose mission is to preserve and advance Western Apache culture, and lead Project Manager for the conversion of an Apache Wars-era military fort at Whiteriver, Arizona, into a community park and town center for the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Beverly Bean, PR Chair

# HOPE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

here is hope for the **Equal Rights Amendment** (ERA). Since it's been so long in the ratification process, to recall specifically, the ERA states that:

- 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex;
- 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article; and
- 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

Alice Paul, suffragist, feminist and champion of the 19th Amendment, started the ball rolling in 1923 when she authored the ERA. It took Congress until 1972 to pass it, but it also required the vote of 38 states to ratify it: by 1982

only 35 states had done so. **Nevada** stepped up and ratified in 2017 (the first in 40 years), and **Illinois** ratified in 2018. Then, in January 2020, **Virginia also ratified the ERA**.

The President of the League of Women Voters of Virginia, Deb Wake, said: "The Constitution is the bedrock of our laws, and the Equal Rights Amendment will provide enduring protection. Virginians overwhelmingly support ratification,

and by ratifying the ERA, Virginia's General Assembly represents the will of the people."

Most recently, on February 13th, 2021, the House of Representatives dissolved the time limit written in the Amendment's introduction, so the issue is now on to the Senate—a mere 98 years after passing Congress.

Ratification represented great work

by coalitions of many, including League members. The LWV of Virginia commended all who worked on the issue, and congratulated its members on this milestone, stating that, "The Equal Rights Amendment will further equal rights under law and help combat systemic discrimination."

The **ERA Coalition** (*eracoalition.org*), stated that, "Progress on equality for women is coming from all sides now with new leadership in the Senate and the House."

Advocates can't help but be excited and encouraged that the new Administration is actively supportive: **Kamala Harris** had said in her 2020 campaign that she would "prioritize passing the ERA as part of her plan for women's economic empowerment."

Stay tuned for more action and ultimate success!

Compiled by contributions from **Beverly Bean** and **Whitney Stewart Gravel** 

# \*\* LWV NON-PARTISAN POLICY \*\*\*

ne of the most important pillars of the League of Women Voters across the country is its position of **non-partisanship**. The national League has been offering online workshops on the topic that serve to remind us all of the need to stay with our position. I have been attending the meetings and provide a summary of what I heard in the first meeting's one-and-a-half hours of discussion:

The League says, "Hyper-partisan refers to

individuals adopting the extreme and unyielding bias for one party over all others that is exhibited through fierce disagreement of and disdain for all ideas and positions outside of the favored party." Unfortunately we have seen an increase in partisan and hyperpartisan activities throughout the country in recent decades.

We obviously **don't support candidates** in any party. We also **don't support non-partisan seats** (such things as school boards, judges, etc.). We **don't endorse candidates for appointed positions** and try to be **neutral on nominees** except in very extreme circumstances.

In practice, the League has **positions**, **promotes legislation**, **advocates** and **lobbies** on well-researched policies that have been approved covering more than a hundred concerns. **We are not apolitical**. We do have an interest in political

affairs and know them to be significant. **We do have convictions that we support.** The rights of all voters are our basic concern. We want to be the trusted resource in each community when discussing voting and elections.

For example, there has been much recent research on **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** (DEI). Support for these important concepts is ongoing and has approved policy by the national LWV. We also support **expanding in-person** 

voting, vote-by-mail and voting rights for all states. The Texas LWV opposed Governor Abbott's limiting of drop boxes to one in each county in the last 2020 election. They protected 120,000 voters and encouraged drive-through polling places.

The LWV welcomes our input and The rights of all voters research. We are all invited to find are our basic concern. issues we care about and work with tes in any the League at local, state and national level on forming positions that enlighten voters.

Due to the length of the presentation and the number of questions from attendees that the League received from this first webinar, a follow-up meeting was scheduled for late February. They planned to be joined by their first presenter, Paul Murphy, as well as members of the LWVUS staff to provide answers and additional resources. I will give you a report on this meeting in the April issue.

Beverly Kreps, Social Policy Chair

# LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: CAROLE ERICKSON

arole Erickson has been a member of LWVMC for more than 20 years. She regularly attends meetings but reports that due to other obligations, "I do the temporary, short-term League projects and I've attended the Conservation and Natural Resources Committees."

Carole is pleased about a connection to the national League that her granddaughter, **Grace Erickson** 

Palmer, made as a student at New York University. "Grace interned for a semester with the League office in Washington, DC, and she and her supervisor found a disused closet with documents by Carrie Chapman Catt, the founder of the League of Women Voters—papers people had looked for but not discovered over the years."

Born in **Monterey**, Carole has lived in this area her entire life, a fifth generation Californian. "I went to **Monterey High School** and then to **MPC**. I married and had two children and then, when my daughters were in junior high school, I enrolled at **UC Santa Cruz**, majoring in music," she says.

After graduating, she stayed on at UCSC, teaching piano and performing as a soloist in chamber music and as an accompanist for other soloists.

However, Carole changed paths again about six years later. "I went to **UCSF** to get my **BS** in nursing," she relates. "I

became a licensed **RN/PHN** and **midwife**. I did an internship with the midwifery service that included two supervising CNMs and just three students in a busy hospital practice, all while also completing the final semester for our BSNs and California Boards for registered nursing."

After that, Carole worked for a doctor in **Santa Cruz** and later commuted to work for a well-known

home birth midwifery service in San Jose. "After five years, I polished off the other side of my degree as a public health nurse and was hired at MPC as the sole nurse in the college's Student Health Service" she says. "No more middle-of-the-night drives to Santa Clara or Santa Cruz counties for deliveries!" She held her MPC position for 20 years, retiring in 2005.

In addition to her varied professional careers, Carole is an original member

of Safe Ag Safe Schools, a group that works to halt the use of pesticides near schoolyards. "We've had a few victories, but lots of battles," she reports. "The damage that pesticides can do to child development has been well studied for 30-plus years, but unfortunately the Federal and California Governments are heavily influenced by the chemical and agriculture industries that don't read peer-reviewed studies."

Carole is also active in the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, currently serving on the steering committee, and she's participated in a dozen of the Monterey County Chapter's

Peace Lantern Ceremonies. In addition, she was on the Board of the Peace Coalition of Monterey County for several years, and is a longtime member of the Monterey Peninsula Friends (Quakers).

Because of her lifelong passion for helping those less fortunate, Carole has volunteered with the **Joining Hands Benefit Shop** for the last decade. Joining Hands earns funds for Monterey County's homeless and unsheltered and distributes unneeded or unsold merchandise to farm-worker families in the Salinas Valley. She's also helped with the weekly distribution of **Monterey County Food Bank** food boxes at **St. Philip's Church** in Carmel Valley.

In addition, from its inception until the current pandemic shutdown, Carole worked as a volunteer

cook with **Gathering for Women**, and she spent 15 years with the **Rice Plus Project**, packing food for delivery to farm-worker families in **Watsonville** and **Salinas**.

In retirement, Carole lives in her Carmel Valley home of 50 years. "I live with my own fruit trees, berry vines and garden," she says. "I still consider myself a pianist first and then a gardener."

When asked what she'd like to see our local League chapter do in the future, Carole said she'd love to see more young people get involved. "That would mean talking to them about what the League does for elections and its various activities," she says, adding that "the issues young people are interested in are all pretty vital for keeping the world on track as much as possible through sustainability, equity and peaceful solutions."

Carole Erickson looks forward to the return of our LWVMC in-person luncheon meetings with their always-interesting and interested group of people.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

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# LWVMRYCO LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS 2021



ach spring, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) requests local leagues meet with their own state legislators. Our League participated in these meetings with Monterey County State Senators and Assemblymembers.

The purpose of these interviews is to: give local leagues greater understanding legislators' viewpoints; provide the LWVC with background for lobbying purposes; and raise the visibility of the League among elected officials. This year's questions were on:

Land Use & Climate Change "What are the most important considerations in the effort to reach a net drawdown of greenhouse gases from non-urban lands?"

Housing & Homelessness "What can be done to reform exclusionary single-family zoning to allow more available affordable housing?"

**COVID-19 Economic Recovery** "What should be done to ensure that recovery programs are equitable and meet the needs of the most impacted?"

**Personal Priorities** "What are your personal legislative priorities?"

29th Assembly District Leagues from Santa Cruz, San Jose/Santa Clara, and Monterey

Counties met with Assemblymember Mark Stone on January 22nd. Local participants were Howard Fosler and MaryEllen Dick.



#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Stone commented on the importance of California's Cap-and-Trade Program. He acknowledged the challenge of managing forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands in a way that sequesters carbon and addresses water supply issues, especially since 70% of our forest lands are under federal control.

**HOUSING** Stone commented on the pushback from local governments over state legislation designed to ensure a supply of **multi-family dwellings** and to address **infill issues**. He would like to see more "carrots" and fewer "sticks" to move communities to rethink the notion of **traditional single-family housing**.

COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY Stone noted that the state administration's proposed COVID recovery budget is short on details, especially on how to ensure that funds are distributed equitably to those who have been hurt most.

PERSONAL PRIORITIES Stone's priorities include: child welfare, juvenile justice, issues around liability insurance, and dealing with sea level rise.

30th Assembly District
Leagues from San Jose/
Santa Clara and Monterey
County met with Robert
Rivas on February 2nd.
Local participants were
Howard Fosler, Alice Ann
Glenn, Dennis Mar, and
Sharon Miller.



CLIMATE CHANGE Rivas stressed the importance of providing incentives to change farming practices to meet climate challenges to the environment and the food supply. Rivas serves as the Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee.

**HOUSING** Rivas sees the need to provide **innovative tools to local governments** to help



meet housing goals such as streamlining the process for agricultural companies to build workforce housing on

their land, or easing restrictions on **Accessory Dwelling Units**.

**COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY** Rivas said that "undocumented workers cannot be left out." They are essential workers who grow our food yet are ineligible for federal stimulus money or access to healthcare.

PERSONAL PRIORITIES Rivas's priorities include pre-COVID issues which the pandemic has exacerbated: funding for early childhood education, family food security, farmworker safety from environmental pollutants, and access to broadband Internet.

12th Senate District
Leagues from Fresno
and Monterey Counties
met with Anna Caballero
on January 29. Local
participant was Dennis
Mar.



#### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Caballero said **science-based agricultural practices** can aid in carbon sequestration. The proper incentives are needed.

HOUSING Caballero is in favor of finding reasonable ways in areas zoned for R-1 (single family dwellings) to increasing densities through programs such as Accessory Dwelling Units. She noted that in her rural district many R-1 homes are already occupied

by two to three families. She is also sponsoring a bill to make underutilized shopping malls available for mixed development.



#### **COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

Caballero wants to ensure that programs to aid small business have sufficient funds to make a difference.

PERSONAL PRIORITIES Caballero's priorities include: eviction moratorium, that the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security)
Act provisions are equitably applied to all communities; replacement income for low-wage earners; and access to broadband Internet for underserved communities.

**17th Senate District** Leagues were scheduled to meet **John Laird** February 19.

Compiled by **Dennis Mar** with **MaryEllen Dick**, **Howard Fosler**, **Alice Ann Glenn**, and **Sharon Miller** 

# ★★★ CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING ★★★



ast month, Helen Hutchison (Immediate Past President LWVC, and current Director, ■LWVC Education Fund Board), broadcast an email on Redistricting California. She invited those interested in becoming Redistricting Speakers, or who just wanted to learn more about Redistricting, to register for two online Zoom training courses in February. I attended the meetings, and provide a brief update:

In a nutshell, the California Constitution requires that every 10 years (by August CALIFORNIA 15th) the California Citizens Redistricting Commission must adjust the maps for election districts and redraw the boundary lines to ensure each congressional, state senatorial, assembly, and State Board of Equalization district has about the same number of people (for more detail see: lwvc.org/issues/redistricting-california).

However, the redistricting process depends on data from the US Census which has been delayed several times as a result of COVID, changing the deadline for the Commission to complete its new district maps. Currently the deadline is 60 days after a previously announced emergency extension to December 15, 2021.

This deadline will leave a short window for Redistricting, including the local redistricting we hope to be involved with. It will certainly throw elections—and elections officials—into chaos as filings for 2022 elections begin early in the year.

> We can only hope that as Hutchison said, "You can rest assured that the LWVC, along with our partners, will be in communication with the state legislative leadership to ensure that redistricting occurs with sufficient time

for public input, and that elections officials have the time they need to administer the elections. I have no idea what this will look like, but I will make sure that local Leagues are among the first to know when there is a solution. We're all going to have a very active fall and winter!"

Sharon Miller, Voter Services Co-Director

## **NEW @ LWVMryCo Website**

https://my.lwv.org/california/ monterey-county/luncheon-videos

"The Future of Our Water Supply & CalAm Buyout" video with MPWMD Manager Dave Stoldt

"Challenges Facing Assembly District 30" video with Assemblymember Robert Rivas

Other great videos: "Climate Change: Global Causes, Local Impacts and the Way Ahead," and "Impacts of Climate Change on Sea Levels & Forest Fires" Plus volunteer, join, donate and learn about League action & policies!

**Bob Evans**, Website Coordinator

#### **VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR** WANTED FOR SALINAS VALLEY!



We need to be prepared for stronger outreach to the voters of Salinas in 2021 and beyond! This is a part-time but crucial position to better serve the Valley by organizing candidate forums, Pro & Con presentations, and encouraging Salinas Valley citizens to register and vote! Mentoring and guidance provided as needed.

> Contact Howard Fosler LWVMryCo@gmail.com

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

#### **&Welcome New Members**< **Nona Childress**

707 Pajaro Street, Salinas 93901 (831) 229-5746 / nonajean@hotmail.com

#### Anne Fitzpatrick

537 Corral de Tierra Rd, Salinas 93908 (831) 484-2369 / annefitz@razzolink.com

#### Karen Kelly

201 Hacienda Carmel, Carmel 93923-7947 (907) 750-1629 / karenmaxkelly@gmail.com

#### **Helen Shamble**

18135 Porter Street, Marina 93933 (408) 464-6932 / hshamble@gmail.com

#### Teresa Tracy

13309 Middle Canyon Rd, Carmel Valley 93924 (310) 944-1056 / trtracylaw@gmail.com

#### > Thank You to Our Generous Donors ◆

**Anne Fitzpatrick \$100** Jean and Darryl Donnelly \$50 Linda Gin \$35 Karen Kelly \$35 Teresa Tracy \$35

#### **∞**Contact Updates≪ Fran Gaver

new cellphone number: (831) 238-0766

#### **Betty Matterson**

new email address: bdmatterson@gmail.com

*▶* Please send updates to *◆ ♠* Janet Brennan, Membership Director

#### LWVMC WEBMASTER WANTED

Help maintain our website: http://lwvmryco.org On-the-job training/guidance as needed.

contact: Bob Evans



## Women Voters of **Monterey County**



#### Renew Your LWVMryCo Membership!

Renewal reminders were sent in July. If you haven't yet renewed, please send your annual fee (and perhaps a donation) using the form below, or at http://lwvmryco.org.

Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

#### **New Members Wanted!**

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

Use the form below or contact: LWVMC Membership Director Mail to LWVMryCo PO Box 1995 Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to LWVMC

#### Membership Levels

	<u>-</u>	
	\$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt \$200 Sojourner Truth \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton \$100 Susan B. Anthony \$ 95 Household <i>(2 persons, 1 add</i> \$ 65 Single membership	Iress)
Name(s)		
Address		
City	State Z	ip Code
Phone	e e-mail	
<ul> <li>Send e-mail reminders for luncheons</li> <li>Call to remind me of luncheons</li> <li>Scholarship requested</li> <li>Membership dues &amp; contributions to</li> </ul>		

LWVMryCo 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.

#### We Remember Kenneth Norman Helms

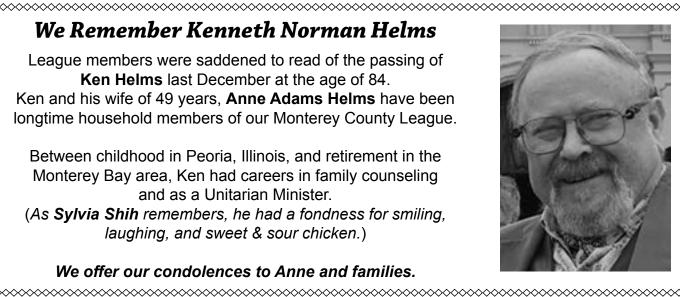
League members were saddened to read of the passing of **Ken Helms** last December at the age of 84.

Ken and his wife of 49 years, **Anne Adams Helms** have been longtime household members of our Monterey County League.

Between childhood in Peoria, Illinois, and retirement in the Monterey Bay area, Ken had careers in family counseling and as a Unitarian Minister.

(As **Sylvia Shih** remembers, he had a fondness for smiling. laughing, and sweet & sour chicken.)

We offer our condolences to Anne and families.



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## League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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

🛊 Officers President

Howard Fosler\*

Vice President vacant Secretary

Marianne Gawain\*

Treasurer

Marilyn Maxner\*

**▼**Directors Government

Natural Resources George Riley\*

Public Relations / Luncheon Logistics / Centennial Committee **Beverly Bean** 

(\* = Executive Committee)

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**Philomene Smith** 

Videographer Joe Asling

Voter Biographer **Nancy Baker Jacobs** 

Voter's Edge/Facebook **Arlene Guest** 

**Voter Registration Committee** Carol Kaplan

LWVMrvCo The VOTER

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Articles & Updates to LWVMryCo Voter Editor ReginaDoyle@aol.com

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

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# LWVMryCo Calendar 2021

**MARCH** 

LWVMC Board Meeting Zoom Online Monday, 1st March, 1:30pm

contact: LWVmryco@gmail.com to request [LWVMryCo] meeting phone number and code

LWVMC General Meeting Wednesday, 10th March, 11:45am "Monterey Regional Park District" Speaker: Dr. Rafael Payan, Director

Natural Resources Committee Meeting Zoom Online

Thursday, 11th March, 12 noon contact: George Riley, GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com to request meeting phone number and code

Other Committee Meetings POSTPONED until further notice.

\*\*Attend Zoom Meetings via telephone: "audio only" provided with meeting numbers & codes (see page 1)

**APRIL** 

LWVMC Board Meeting Zoom Online Monday, 5th April, 1:30pm

contact: LWVmryco@gmail.com to request [LWVMryCo] meeting phone number and code

LWVMC General Meeting Wednesday, 14th April, 11:45am "Wendy Root Askew: First 100 Days" Monterey County Supervisor, District 4

**MAY** 

LWVMC Board Meeting & 94th Annual Meeting Wednesday, 12th May, 12 noon

Guest Speakers: Kathy McKenzie & Glenn Church, authors of "Humbled: How California's Monterey Bay Escaped Industrial Ruin"

JUNE / JULY / AUGUST
SUMMER BREAK:

No General, Board or Committee Meetings, or Voter