

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / November 2019, Volume 92, Number 3

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

Do Charter Schools Provide Real Choice?

At the November Lunch and Learn, **Dr. PK Diffenbaugh, Superintendent of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District**, will discuss the latest on Charter Schools, their impact on local districts, and how or if they meet the needs of elementary and secondary students.

Do Charter Schools provide a real choice for parents? How is the Charter School the same or different than a private school? What are the pros and cons of Charter Schools? Does it make a difference whether the Charter School was approved by the local district or a different authority such as the County or State? Do Charter Schools have to use the same tests that public schools must use? And many more topics surrounding current issues about Charter Schools and public education.

Prior to coming to MPUSD in 2014, Dr. Diffenbaugh served as **Director of 7-12 Instruction for Garden Grove Unified School District**, where he oversaw all aspects of the instructional program for ten intermediate and eight high schools. He also led the turnaround of **Sacramento High School**—under his leadership the school saw increases in the **Academic Performance Index**, a state ranking, an increase in **A-G U/CSU** college eligibility, and 75 percent of graduates accepted to four-year universities.

Dr. Diffenbaugh holds a **Doctorate in Educational Leadership** from **Harvard University**, an innovative partnership between the **Harvard Business School, Kennedy School of Government, and Graduate School of Education**. He began his career as a **5th Grade Teacher** in **Oakland**.

Bob Evans

Wednesday, 13 November: General Meeting

12 noon **Lunch** / 12:30 to 1:30 **Presentation**

(Lunch \$20 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by **International Cuisine of Pacific Grove**).

Reservations are a must for lunch!

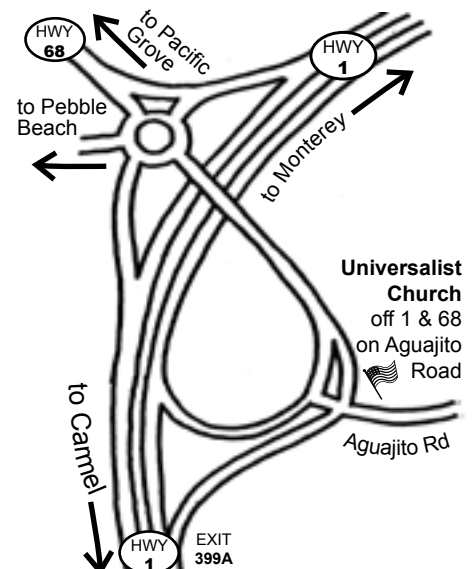
Contact Bev Kreps by Sunday, 10th November

(831) 648-8683, LWVMryCO@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



When it comes to talking about political issues LWV members are ready and capable. They like nothing more than engaging in a lively round of discussion with an erudite co-conversant.

In the coming holiday season we may confront few who can match those of us who nosh daily on history, current events and politics. But how do we remain patient with those who have few facts and murky science? How do we begin with those who don't follow the news? What's a good way to engage other adults, serious young adults, or a grandchild?

We don't often spark a meaningful conversation without skillful conversational follow-up ideas. Here are some ideas inspired by a conversation with **Bev Kreps**, League member and retired teacher:

First of all, because we don't want to talk down to anyone, find a suitable opening topic. It takes skill to engage each individual's interest. Think of good, focused questions to which the answer leads the direction of the discussion. As a League member you may want to talk about citizenship or history or social problems. Perhaps lead with something that a person might deal with daily, and which you

can build on together.

If for example, you wanted to discuss current issues with young people you might ask what they know about current events and issues, whether they spend classroom time on animal rights, the environment, vaccinations, or whatever happened to be in the social or political news.

With working adults you can ask their opinions on what they've heard in the news or what their friends and neighbors think. Finding a common issue takes thoughtfulness. Choose carefully to develop a high quality conversation.

The point is not to change other people's minds but to lead them to realize they have an opinion and they can make a difference. Adults have a very powerful weapon: their vote, their well-informed, carefully considered vote. They, along with others that agree with them can become a mighty force that in numbers can affect the direction our society goes.

Be an LWV warrior this coming season. Plant some seeds of hope and visions of change in the ones with whom you talk this holiday season.

Howard Fosler

BE AWARE OF BOGUS E-MAIL FROM LWV

Recently an unauthorized eMail was sent pretending to be me, **President Howard Fosler**, requesting money be sent to a third party on behalf of the League.

This was a scam, similar to one sent during President Dennis Mar's term.

Remember: You will be asked by mail, with a possible follow-up phone call, to pay your membership dues once a year. **But the LWVMC will never ask you to send money on our behalf to a third party.** If you get such a request, disregard it and notify us immediately.

(TIP: Look at the address of the sender: it's usually incorrect.)

We're sorry, but these things happen and we're working to prevent them. Unfortunately, there will always be someone out there ("Nigerian Princes" and "Lottery Winners") trying to unscrupulously separate you from your money!



NOTE: The LWV California joined LWVMC in sending this message requesting denial of CalAm's application for a Coastal Development permit.

To: Chair and Members, and Staff
California Coastal Commission
45 Fremont, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94105- 2219

Date: October 16, 2019

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County (LWVMC) urges the CA Coastal Commission (CCC) to **deny the California American Water application for a Coastal Development Permit for intake slant wells and desalination infrastructure** because the **Pure Water Monterey Expansion (PWM X)** is a vastly superior environmental alternative water supply project.

This League of Women Voters of Monterey County (LWVMC) has studied local water issues numerous times over the last few decades. The League completed separate studies and updated its position in 1982, 1995, 2003 and 2007. **Among many positions, the League supports maximizing conservation and reclamation for all water uses.** When the first desalination plant was being considered in 2009, we led the effort to increase the use of recycled water through the **Groundwater Replenishment Program (GWR)** and to downsize the desalination plant. Since that time, replenishing the Seaside Aquifer with reclaimed water has been refined and is now a viable alternative to a costly and environmentally damaging desalination plant.

The **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)** approved the CPCN permit (Certificate of Public Conveyance and Necessity) for Cal Am's desalination project in late 2018. Prior to the CPUC making that decision, it approved the basic Pure Water Monterey recycling project for 3,500 acre feet of new supply. It also held evidentiary hearings on an expansion of that project to add another 2,250 acre feet of new supply. However before the CPUC finished its review of the expansion, it proceeded to approve the basic desalination project, and asked for follow up reporting on PWM Expansion.

Additional information is now available on PWM X, particularly on cost and environmental impact differences with desalination. Recent electromagnetic imaging data are also available.
(continued on page 4)

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By comparison with PWM X, the intake wells and desalination project shows numerous disadvantages related to environmental impacts, environmental justice, cost, and size.

- Desalination has a very large energy need, with corresponding high GHG emissions. PWN X energy need is vastly less than the desal energy need.
- Energy supply for desalination is from PGE. PWN X supply is from recovered methane gas from the local landfill.
- Desalination will discharge brine to the Marine Sanctuary. PWN X will divert existing discharge for reclamation, and reduce total discharge into the Sanctuary.
- Coastal dune disturbances are significant with desalination in contrast to PWN X which has none.
- Recent demand numbers and analysis make it clear the desalination is over-sized at 6,252 afy. PWN X is consistent with projected demand needs for 30 – 40 years at 2,250 afy.
- Cost differences are absolutely stunning. Desalination is estimated at \$6,000/af, while PWN X is about \$2,200/af.
- The desalination project divides the larger community by taking groundwater/brackish water from a lower income community (Marina), offering no compensating benefits to it, and delivering product water to a higher income community (Peninsula).
- The desalination project further divides the Seaside community, since it is served partly by Cal Am, and partly by Marina Coast Water District (the threatened provider to Marina and Seaside).

Slant well technology is new and experimental. It is not in operational use for desalination intakes anywhere in the world. Slant wells are novel and untested and expensive. In theory, it may be ideal. But the reality on the Monterey Peninsula is that the proposed desalination project is excessive and unnecessary.

LWVMC supports desalination as a long range water planning option, but it must be pursued only after all efforts for a low impact project are exhausted.

PWM X is the most environmentally superior project available. And it is by far the most sensible and affordable supply.

LWVMC urges the Coastal Commission to deny the Coastal Development Permit for Cal Am's proposed slant wells and desal infrastructure in the coastal zone. LWVMC further urges CCC support for Pure Water Monterey Expansion, which is located completely outside the coastal zone.

Respectfully,

Howard Fosler

President, League of Women Voters of Monterey County



LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: SYLVIA SHIH



Sylvia Shih has been an active member of LWVMC since 2004 and she's served as both **Treasurer** and **Board Member at Large**. She's also been a volunteer at voting precincts and a number of candidate discussions.



Sylvia has a very interesting immigration story to tell. She applied for permanent residency in 1969, after she had gotten her third preference classification. *"I was rejected and told I had to leave the country in 30 days,"* she recalls, so she called a lawyer. *"He wanted \$2,000 and, back then, that was two-and-a-half months' salary!"*

Born in Taiwan, Sylvia moved to the US in 1965 to earn her **Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance** at **Stanford University**. After she graduated, however, she began a career in a much different field. *"I worked for IBM, where I did many things—systems programming, application programming, design and database management,"* Sylvia explains. First she worked for IBM in Endicott, NY, and later she moved to San Jose and worked at the company's **Silicon Valley Laboratory**.

So Sylvia called **US Immigration Services**. *"An old gentleman answered and told me I didn't have to leave, that I could get another letter in 30 days asking why I hadn't gone and then I could go to an inquiry to answer."* So 30 days later, she traveled to Buffalo, NY, and had a hearing with *"a judge, a prosecutor, a recording person and me,"* she says. *"They told me I wasn't supposed to work in America. I'd filled out a card telling them that I was working and where. I told them I'd been working all along, so if I wasn't supposed to, why they hadn't they told me?"* Apparently the Taiwanese Embassy was supposed to have informed her of that rule. *"Every immigrant I knew was working. I said I didn't know that everybody else lied about working, so I told the truth."*

Sylvia married **Charlie Turk** in 1982 and they moved to this area in 1988. She took a leave of absence from IBM in 1989, then retired in 1991, although she says she wasn't "officially" retired until 1996. *"I was too young to retire, so they let me take a leave of absence. I went back to work for one hour in 1996 so I could retire officially."*

Luckily, the judge listened sympathetically and appreciated both Sylvia's Stanford degree and her honesty. *"So I was able to get permanent resident status without paying that lawyer a dime!"* she says with a laugh. She also managed to help her roommate get permanent residency status.

Charlie died in 2007. Their family includes three daughters, a son and eight grandchildren. When we spoke, the daughter who lives in San Jose was about to visit Sylvia. *"She always stops by a Chinese restaurant in San Jose and brings me a takeout,"* she reported.

When asked about the League's future, Sylvia said, *"I want us to continue to hold political candidate forums. They're very important, but right now we're having trouble staffing those forums. I hope some younger people will help."*

In addition to being an active League member, Sylvia is on the **Board of the Monterey Peace and Justice Center** and she's active with **Public Water Now**. *"I walked the precinct for Measure J, which passed, and we're still doing rallies and protests,"* she says. On November 14th, she plans to take a bus to Half Moon Bay. There, she and other activists will attend the **Coastal Commission's meeting** about **California American Water's** application to build a desalination plant near Marina.

In the meantime, Sylvia, an American citizen for many years, plans to continue working hard to ensure that all American citizens maintain their crucial voting rights.

Nancy Baker Jacobs



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!

Call for Annual Membership letters were sent in July. If you haven't yet renewed, 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 always welcome!

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

Checks payable to LWVMC

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.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WHOOO hasn't RENEWED?!

We've sent letters, we've phoned, we've begged in this column.
Don't make us send out the owls!



Not sure if you renewed?
Need help paying your dues?

Write, call, or fill in the form at left and mail it. However you do it, stay connected with us **and keep our League strong.**

Renew your 2019/2020 Membership now!

>Welcome New Member
Evelyn Miller

(formerly LWV Madison, Wisconsin and LWV Tucson AZ member)

1105 Yolanda Court, Seaside CA 93955
ironwoodhilldesign@gmail.com (831) 920-1630

Corrections for Your Membership Roster
Jean Stallings' new apartment is **#H-110**

Michael DeLapa's name was misspelled as "Delappa" in our last issue

Thank You to Our Generous Donors
Karen Strasser-Kauffman \$100
Myrleen Fisher \$35

Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director

WE CRITICALLY NEED A VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR, SALINAS VALLEY



*A **part time but crucial** position to better serve the Valley. Duties: organize candidate forums, Pro & Con presentations, and encourage Salinas Valley citizens to **vote!***

Mentoring and Guidance provided as needed.

Contact **Jeanne Turner**
LWVMryCo@gmail.com

★ UPCOMING LWVMC DATES ★
DATES / SPEAKERS / TOPICS / EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

DECEMBER 2019

Winter Holiday - No L&L

JANUARY 2020

8th / L&L *"CA Response to Climate Change"*

FEBRUARY 2020

12th / L&L *"Women Winning the Vote"*

MARCH 2020

11th / L&L *To Be Announced*

APRIL 2020

8th / L&L *"Proposition 13 Reform: Schools & Communities Funding Act"*

14th / *"League-Wide Day of Action: Women Power the Vote"*

MAY 2020

LWVMC 93rd Annual Meeting
"Monterey County as Blue (Health) Zone"

*Do your friends and the League a favor:
bring guests to Lunch & Learn meetings!*

 **League of Women Voters of Monterey County** 

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

★Officers

President

Howard Fosler*

Vice President

Kalah Bumba

Secretary

Marianne Gawain*

Treasurer

Marilyn Maxner*

★Directors

Government

James Emery

Public Relations & Luncheon Logistics

Beverly Bean

Membership

Lisa Hoivik

Natural Resources

George Riley*

Publicity Committee

Regina Doyle

Social Policy & Luncheon Reservations

Bev Kreps

State & National Action

Janet Brennan*

Voter Service:

Monterey Peninsula

Dennis Mar

Voter Service: Salinas Valley

(vacant and urgently searching for a replacement!)

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Bob Evans

Directors At-Large

Sue Erickson

Sharon Miller

Financial Review Committee

Dennis Mar

George Riley

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Facebook Master

Arlene Guest

LWVC Management

Training Advisor

(vacant)

National Women's History Alliance Liason

Howard Fosler

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Janet Brennan

Hetty Eddy

Lisa Hoivik

Videographer

Joe Asling

Voters Edge

Arlene Guest

The Voter Biographer

Nancy Baker Jacobs

(* = Executive Committee)

LWVMC The VOTER Published monthly except June/July/August/December
Articles & updates: **LWVMC Voter Editor**



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OF MONTEREY COUNTY
"THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER**

PO Box 1995 Monterey CA 93942
(831) 648-8683

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LWVMC Calendar



NOVEMBER 2019

JANUARY 2020

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 11 November, 1:30pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact: Howard Fosler

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 6 January, 1:30pm
Mariposa Hall, *contact: Howard Fosler*

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 13 November, 12 noon
"Charter Schools" Unitarian Universalist Church
490 Aguajito Road, Hwy 68/Hwy 1
contact: Bob Evans

Lunch & Learn with the League,
Wednesday, 8 January, 12 noon
*"California's Response to
Climate Change"*
Unitarian Universalist Church
contact: Beverly Bean

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 14 November, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, *contact: George Riley*

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 9 January, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, *contact: George Riley*

Publicity Committee Meeting
Monday, 18 November, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, *contact: Regina Doyle*

Publicity Committee Meeting
Monday, 13 January, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, *contact: Regina Doyle*

**DECEMBER 2019
WINTER BREAK**

**NO Board or Committee Meetings,
Lunch & Learn, or The Voter**

LWVMC WEBMASTER WANTED
Help maintain our website: <http://lwvmryco.org>
On-the-job training/guidance as needed.
contact: Bob Evans