



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / November 2018, Volume 91, Number 3

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

How Will Changes In The Federal Tax Law Impact Us?

On December 22, 2017, President Donald Trump signed the **Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017** (www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1). Overall it will cost the federal government approximately \$1.5 trillion over the next decade and deliver windfall gains to wealthy households and profitable corporations, further widening the gap between those at the top of the income ladder and the rest of the nation. By shrinking revenues, it will leave the nation less prepared to deal with the many challenges ahead. Many experts believe the new law is fundamentally flawed and will require basic restructuring.

This month's guest speaker **Jeffrey Froshman** is a **Distinguished Lecturer at the CSUMB College of Business**, where he has taught since January 1996. Professor Froshman will help answer questions about the overall effects of the law (such as changing the income level of individual tax brackets, lowering tax rates, increasing the standard deductions and family tax credits, while itemized deductions are reduced and the personal exemptions are eliminated).

CSUMB awarded Froshman his title acknowledging his contribution to the students and the school. He currently teaches Income Tax and Intermediate Accounting. Jeff is a co-founder, past chairperson and still serves on the **College of Business Dean's Advisory Council**. He is a former Internal Revenue Service agent and has an MBA in Taxation from Golden Gate University. A retired CPA, he still is a practicing Certified Financial Planner. He lives in Santa Cruz with his wife, Merle, and daughter Kendra.

Bev Bean Beverlygb@gmail.com and **Bev Kreps** bkreps1017@gmail.com

LWVMC November 14, 2018 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!

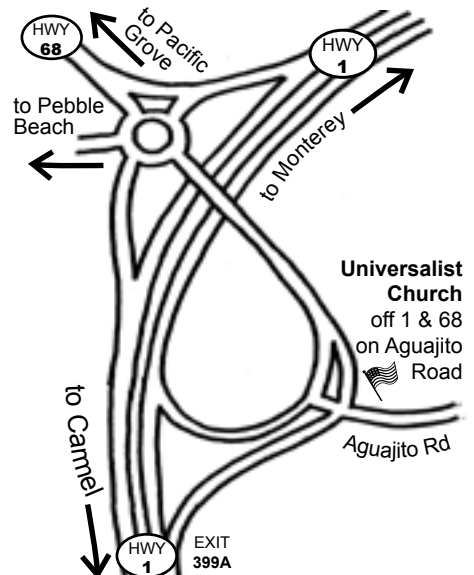
Contact Bev Kreps by Sunday, November 11.

(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 NOVEMBER 2018 ★ ★ ★

Candidate Forums

This campaign season has come to an end. But there is always the next election. I invite new League members to attend a candidates' forum to watch how the event comes together.

Forums are designed around issues. Candidates present their views on these policy questions. At times the audience might wish for a "Meet the Press" style of grilling the candidates. But that is not a part of a forum and the League leaves those questions to someone else.

Especially at the level of city councils, school boards, and special districts, many candidates at forums are running for their first public office. For these people, a forum is stressful enough as a participant at our Greenfield city council forum reminded me.

Thanks to **Beverly Bean**, I didn't have to moderate the Greenfield forum and could listen to the proceedings (plus moderating would have required a coat-and-tie)! The forum was divided into two panels: candidates for mayor and candidates for city council.

The mayoral candidates had all served on the city council before and were more polished in their responses. All five of the city council candidates were running for the first time for public office. They each had an issue that motivated them to run. Their zeal clearly came through in their speech. It was wonderful to hear.

Does One Vote Count?

For a long time I never had a good response to the statement "*Why vote? What difference does one vote make?*" To list elections decided by a few votes or one vote didn't seem satisfying. Close elections aren't the only times one should vote.

Recently I heard another angle: think of an infantry

division with thousands of soldiers. Not one of them would think "*what difference does one less rifleman make out of 15,000?*" because everyone knows the answer, "*every soldier must be there to protect the next soldier.*"

It isn't a question of whether one vote has any effect: each citizen votes to safeguard and advance the welfare of the next person.

Do citizens and the community have the same relationship? Each citizen votes to safeguard and advance the welfare of the next person. It isn't a question of whether one vote has any effect. It is the demonstration of our responsibility to each other.

The 2020 Census "Citizenship Question"

We received information in October (below) that members of the national League visited **Representative Jimmy Panetta** to lobby to keep the "*citizenship question*" off of the **2020 Federal Census**. The 2020 census will ask every American household to record which members of their family are US citizens.

Critics of this move are concerned that the question will scare millions of immigrants away from filling out their mandatory surveys, and throw off the count of who's present in America. This data is used to determine congressional apportionment for the next decade, allocate federal funding for infrastructure, and is the basis for huge amounts of US research.

Apparently, Rep. Panetta agrees with the League's point of view that a citizenship question would contribute to an undercount.

Dennis Mar, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Helen Hutchison**

Subject: Fwd: Lobby Corps visit on citizenship question

I'm forwarding a message to let you know that your local member of Congress' received a visit

from the LWV Lobby Corps. There's nothing you need to do — just be aware that this occurred.

Helen Hutchinson, President
League of Women Voters of the United States,
hhutchison@lwvc.org

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elaine A. Apter**, LWVUS
Subject: Lobby Corps visit on citizenship question
Date: October 8, 2018

I am writing to report on my visits to the following California US House members concerning the **removal of the citizenship question** on the 2020 census.

Lucille Royal-Allard, Judy Chu, Tony Cardenas, Mark Takano, Jimmy Panetta.

They all stated that they were very concerned and working hard on the issue. Their main focus seems to be at the constituency level was a media campaign and working with local groups.

If there is anything the local Leagues can do to help in this effort, I am sure it would be appreciated.

Elaine A. Apter, Volunteer Member
LWVUS Lobby Corps, apterea@me.com


Memories of Joy B. Osborne
3 November 1928 - 29 September 2018

Our long-time League member **Joy Osborne**, passed away in September. Joy was dedicated to the League and had strong opinions about what it should be doing.



Joy earned a BA in Chemistry from **Wellesley College** in 1949, a Master's Degree from **UC Berkeley**, and became a researcher at the **California Academy of Sciences**.

After her career she actively retired in Monterey as a volunteer, member and supporter of environmental, conservation, aesthetic, civic, spiritual, political, non-partisan, music, dance, and drama groups, clubs and organizations.

Following are a few League memories of Joy:

"I met Joy Osborne through her environmental work before I joined the League, sometime in the 1980s. When I attended my first League lunch, it was held at the First Presbyterian Church on El Dorado. The casseroles, salads and desserts were provided by members and those who did not bring a dish paid \$5! Joy was the only person I knew and she was very warm and welcoming and we usually sat together. Over the years I always enjoyed her strong

opinions and unique point of view. She will be missed."

Beverly Bean

"Joy came to my attention when she donated \$1,000 to LWV Education Fund in 2004 when I was Treasurer. Thereafter, each encounter brought me joy and energy. I could almost dance with her."

Sylvia Shih

"Joy was always ready to pitch in to help and always ready to provide me with her point of view. I will miss her. There was a monthly meeting when the League was still meeting at the Elks Lodge. The program looked at the League in different eras. I think Joy was selected to represent the present day woman. She came dressed in her workout clothes as if coming from the gym (which she could have). I think the last time I saw her was last spring. She stayed after the meeting to clear tables. She was grouching that her condition limited her to clean up as her only contribution to the League. But I saw it as a strong statement about stretching yourself to your limit, whatever it is."

Dennis Mar

For more tributes visit www.legacy.com/obituaries/montereyherald.

The League studied the reuse of Fort Ord in 1992 and updated its position in 2018 to address whether or not the Fort Ord



and costs onto the individual jurisdictions. This leaves local jurisdictions with a bill of at least \$49 million to address blight removal when

FORA Reuse Authority (FORA) should sunset in 2020. FORA's performance during its 24 year history was assessed based on six governance criteria. The League also studied ways to transfer FORA's responsibilities to other agencies after it sunsets.

FORA sunsets with no funding mechanism currently in place. FORA failed to update the Base Reuse Plan (BRP) in over 20 years and to prepare annual reports on BRP implementation and mitigation measures identified in the environmental impact report as required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

While FORA was never intended to be a permanent agency and sunseting of FORA is required by legislation, some in the community have advocated that it should continue until development by Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan (BRP) is completed or for up to 10 years.

FORA failed to make valid findings of consistency of general plans and projects with the BRP on numerous projects. FORA failed to address seawater intrusion as required by BRP policies. After the transition, seawater intrusion will be addressed through Groundwater Sustainability Planning.

The LWVMC believes that FORA should sunset at the statutory date in 2020 based on an evaluation of its past performance and the availability of alternatives to undertake FORA responsibilities.



FORA failed to prepare a Transition Plan in a timely manner and is actively pursuing a further extension. FORA transferred the responsibility for addressing

Governance criteria used to evaluate FORA's past performance as well as agencies that could assume FORA's responsibilities were: Accountability, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Transparency, Regionalism, and Feasibility. The League's background information and findings are available upon request. A summary of findings are:

affordable housing needs to the cities and County where it will be addressed after the transition.

Accountability

FORA adopted a funding structure that will not fully fund transportation obligations, habitat conservation obligations and water augmentation.

The FORA Board is not directly elected. Changing the membership of the Board is difficult since members are appointed and not directly elected. Some Board members are not directly affected by decisions they make as FORA Board members. Many successor agencies are directly elected and more accountable to their constituencies.

Successor agencies exist for all general government functions and have the authority and capability to accept those functions. Incomplete BRP policies will continue to be the responsibility of successor agencies. FORA funding associated with those functions should transfer with those functions.

Effectiveness

Jurisdictions have the ability to enact new funding mechanisms, e.g., Mello-Roos, impact fees, etc.

FORA failed to effectively address blight in a timely manner and passed the responsibility

Efficiency

FORA has a large staff with total salaries and benefits which will exceed \$2.9 million in fiscal year 2018-2019. FORA's operating budget exceeds \$5 million annually.

Sunsetting FORA would save \$5 million annually which could be used by successor agencies to fund local projects and staff support. A trust fund has been established to address pension obligation after FORA sunsets.

Transparency

FORA places public comments at end of meetings – usually late on a Friday afternoon. Many key recommendations are made in committee with limited Board engagement. In 2010 FORA attorney illegally changed wording in Chapter 8 of the Master Resolution, giving the Board discretion to violate the terms of the BRP. The changes were later withdrawn.

FORA failed to fully account for the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) grant funding for munitions cleanup.

Regionalism

While FORA's institutional structure was established to ensure that regional impacts of FORA development were addressed, FORA

has failed to meet its regional obligations. For example, FORA recently approved the Eastside Parkway that fails to meet regional needs, and FORA has not paid its full share of regional impact fees.


Feasibility

Continuation is not feasible under existing law which requires that FORA sunset in 2020. Extension would require new state legislation. FORA staff has indicated that buildout of all BRP projects will occur by 2029. This is infeasible based on the housing market demand and historical construction.

Janet Brennan, brennan_janet@comcast.net

**28 LEAGUE MEMBERS
ARE MISSING!**

We are STILL trying to contact 28 members who have not renewed their membership. Oh dear, what more can we do? We sent reminders in August and followed up with phone calls. If you are one of our missing persons, hurry back: don't miss out on LWVMC's timely, thoughtful information to make informed decisions!*



Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net
*(PS: and your friends miss you)



LWV CALIFORNIA UPDATE



The 2017-18 California legislative session is a wrap! Because you took action, we're celebrating some big wins!

Clean energy got a big boost with the passage of SB 100! California will continue to lead the country in climate change action -- and 100% of your electricity will be from zero carbon sources by 2045.

The flood of dark money coming into campaigns will be subject to greater transparency with the passage of the Disclose Act, AB 249. And by defeating AB 84 we prevented even more money from compromising our elections.



We gained greater police accountability with the passage of SB 1421, which expands access to personnel and video records related to officer-involved killings.

To learn more about legislative work to reform elections and more go to LWVC.org. The new two-year legislative session starts in January, and I hope we can count on you to continue taking action on the League's email alerts.

Together, we can see even more progress next year.

Helen Hutchison, President, LWVC
hhutchison@lwvc.org

★★ **THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS** ★★

LOCAL STUDY

The **FORA Extension Study Committee** worked from April 2018 to October (seven months) to prepare study material and the consensus questions. All of this culminated in the October consensus meeting thanks to committee members: **Janet Brennan, Beverly Bean, Kay Cline, Diane Cotton, Jim Emery, George Riley, and Bill Weigle**. The committee received valuable input from **Alan Haffa, Jane Haines and Gail Morton**.

Many Hands Make Light Work



Thank You For Being So Kind

CANDIDATE FORUMS

Thanks to all who worked at the various candidate forums providing voters with direct access to their future public officials.

Seaside City Council
Howard Fosler, Alice Ann Glenn, Tamara Harris, Judi Lehman,

Anton Prange, Sylvia Shih, Robin Tokmakian, and Jeanne Turner

Pacific Grove City Council

Beverly Bean, Regina Doyle, Cynthia Hall, Tamara Harris, Sharon Miller, John Pearse, Philomene Smith, and Jeanne Turner

Greenfield City Council

Beverly Bean, Tamara Harris, Judi Lehman, Dennis Mar with wonderful assistance from **Ann Rathbun**

PROS & CONS PRESENTATIONS

Thanks to the team who helped run informative events at **Aromas Grange, Junior League of Monterey County, and LWVMC Lunch & Learn: MaryEllen Dick, Dennis Mar, and Marilyn Maxner.**

"EASY VOTER GUIDE" DISTRIBUTION

Last but not least, we appreciate the work of those who helped provide local communities with non-partisan information on voting and ballot issues: **Anne Bell, Beth Benoit, Jean Donnelly, Alice Ann Glenn, Beverly Kreps, Judi Lehman, and Jean Stallings.**

Dennis Mar, DennisRMar3@yahoo.com



LWV CA POSITIONS ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018 BALLOT MEASURES

- PROP 1 Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond YES**
- PROP 2 Homeless Housing Bond YES**
- PROP 3 Water Bonds NO**
- PROP 4 Children's Hospital Bond NO**
- PROP 5 Property Tax Changes NO**
- PROP 6 GasTax Repeal NO**
- PROP 7 Daylight Savings Time Change NO STAND**
- PROP 8 Dialysis Regulation NO STAND**
- PROP 9 Three States Initiative Removed from Ballot**
- PROP 10 Rent Control (Costa Hawkins) Repeal YES**
- PROP 11 Ambulance Employee Labor Changes NO STAND**
- PROP 12 Farm Animal Confinement Standards NO STAND**

For the full text of these LWVC ballot measure recommendations, go to: <https://lwvc.org/vote/elections/ballot-recommendations>



NEW On the LWVC Ballot Recommendations page, check out the **great short videos** on the 11 ballot measures to help people vote with confidence.

★ LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: BETTY MATTERSON ★

Betty Matterson, who is currently **Chair of LWVMC's Nominating Committee**, has been a member of this chapter for nearly four decades. She served on the Board for several years and, during that time, chaired the **Housing Committee**. She recalls being part of a housing study and has been an active League member, often working at the polls and helping with candidates' forums.



Although she was born in northern California, Betty has lived on the Monterey Peninsula since 1959. *"My first husband, David Sawyer, and I moved here for his job as school psychologist for the Monterey Unified School District,"* she says. They had two sons and for a time Betty was a stay-at-home mom. *"My husband had the summers off, so we did lots of camping, backpacking, belonged to the Sierra Club. For five summers, we led 10 families on wilderness trips for the Sierra Club."*

Betty had a **BA from San Jose State University** and, after a divorce, earned a teaching credential at the **Monterey Institute of International Studies**. *"My timing wasn't good,"* she explains. *"This was about 40 years ago, during a period when the schools were cutting back, so I started out as a substitute wherever I could get a job."* She taught summer school in Carmel and then worked for the **Monterey School District**. Eventually, she left education and became a real estate broker, a job she held for 28 years until retiring about 13 years ago.

In 1976, Betty married **Duane Matterson**, an elementary school teacher in Monterey. *"I acquired four step-children,"* she says, *"three sons and a daughter, although they were mostly grown by then."* When Duane retired, they spent many years traveling the world, one of Betty's fondest

memories. *"We loved Japan,"* she recalls. *"We had some family there and we stayed for about five weeks. And there's no place like Europe, especially England, where we speak the same language. I can't think of any place I wouldn't go back to, given the opportunity."* Duane died in April of 2016, just before his 97th birthday and Betty says, *"I still miss him every day."*

The League is just one of many organizations Betty has served during her life here. *"I volunteer for Friends of the Pacific Grove Library,"* she reports, *"on the authors' committee."* She was also active for many years with the Gentrain Society at MPC. *"I was chair of the committee for the annual Shakespeare trip to Ashland, Oregon."*



Betty serves as treasurer of the local **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**. *"That group has existed nationally for about a hundred years,"* she says. *"The local chapter started during the Vietnam War and I joined then."*

This last year has been a rough one for Betty. She took a bad fall that resulted in a concussion. *"I learned a lot about how a concussion is not to be fooled around with,"* she says. *"It's a serious brain injury, as we see with football players."* As a result, much of Betty's time has been taken up by physical therapy and what she calls *"trying to keep my body going."*

When asked about what she wants to see in our League chapter's future, Betty puts on her Nominating Committee hat and answers, *"Some fresh blood on the Board. We need new people to step up."*

Nancy Baker Jacobs
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We Thank All Who Renewed in Response to Our Recent Appeals



Unfortunately, we're still trying to find 28 lapsed Members. Keep this fine **newsletter** coming into your mailbox, help us sustain our **educational activities**, and strengthen our goals to **promote democracy!**

Call, e-mail or use the form on the right to renew!

LWVMC Membership Scholarships Available

If the price of dues are holding you back from renewing or joining, contact me or any Board Member. We may be able to discretely cover some or all of the fees.

Welcome New Members

Say "hello" to these newcomers, and don't forget to add them to your Handbook:

Joanne Sarrica & J. Elizabeth Husby

74 Hacienda Carmel,
Carmel, CA 93923, (831) 625-7574

🌸 Thank You to Our Generous Donor 🌸

Along with her membership renewal, **Linda Gin** donated **\$35** to the LWVMC general fund.

Lisa Hoivik, LHoivik@comcast.net

TWO GUYS WALK INTO A CANDIDATES' FORUM ...

The **Gonzales Teachers' Association** asked our League of Women Voters to conduct a Candidates' Forum for the **Gonzales School District Board**, an unmissable opportunity.

Howard Fosler (question sorter) and **Dennis Mar** (moderator) motored over to **La Gloria Elementary School**, Gonzales. The Teachers' Association had everything arranged. Amusingly, when Howard and Dennis walked into the room, local volunteer Sherry blurted out, "*I'm surprised [at myself] that I'm surprised--I was expecting two women!*"



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

(programs subject to change)
November "How Will Changes in Tax Law Impact Us?"

2019

January "Education"

February "Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater"

March "Impact of Transportation on Climate Change"

April "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 especially as November elections are upon us. 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

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(vacant and searching for a replacement)

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(vacant and urgently searching for a replacement)

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LWVMC The VOTER

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Send articles & updates to:
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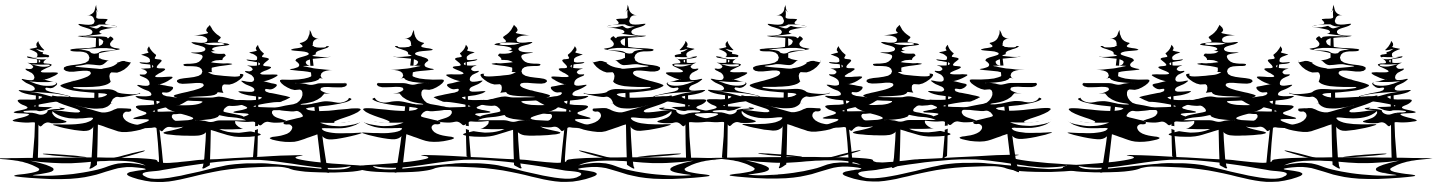
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LWVMC Calendar



NOVEMBER 2018

JANUARY 2019

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 12 November, 1:30 pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

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

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 14 November, 12 noon
"Proposed Changes to Proposition 13"
Professor **Jeffrey Froshman**, CSUMB
Unitarian Universalist Church
490 Aguajito Rd., Carmel Hwy 1
bkreps1017@gmail.com

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

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 15 November, 12 noon
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

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

DECEMBER 2018

Do Something NEW in the
NEW YEAR with the League

WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK
No Lunch & Learn, Voter, Board or
Committee Meetings

Attend a Board Meeting! Bring a friend to a
Lunch & Learn Program! Join a Committee!
Nominate yourself for a Board Position!