Wednesday, March 8, 2017
What's Up at FORA (Fort Ord Reuse Authority)?

Gail Morton, Marina City Councilwoman and LWVMC member, will update us on the latest developments at FORA: What has it accomplished since it was formed? What remains to be done? Will it “sunset” in 2020 as planned or does it need to be extended?

The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (fora.org) established in 1999, is responsible for the planning and oversight of the Monterey Bay area’s economic recovery from the closure and reuse of the former Fort Ord military base. FORA implements this by: overseeing replacement land use; assuring compliance with adopted measures; removing physical barriers to reuse; financing and constructing major components of the required infrastructure and base-wide demands; and protecting identified environmental reserves.

Gail Morton is an attorney in private practice in Monterey (gmorton@montereyfamilylaw.com). She was a leader in the 2011 Whispering Oaks Referendum Petition. Gail was first elected to Marina City Council in November 2012, subsequently served as one of Marina’s two Directors on the FORA Board, and was appointed to its Post Reassessment Committee and Finance Committee, which she chaired in 2016. In 2016 Gail was also appointed to the FORA Transition Task Force Committee which was responsible for making a recommendation as to whether FORA should continue beyond June 2020.

In this important regional forum Gail is a strong advocate for transparency and informed leadership, responsible fiscal policies, true enforcement of the Reuse Plan through FORA’s consistency determinations, the Regional Urban Design Guidelines, removal of blight, and the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway (FORTAG).

LWVMMC March 8, 2017 General Meeting
12 noon Lunch / 12:30 to 1:30 Presentation
(Lunch $17 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by Café Athena)

Reservations are a must for lunch!
Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, March 4.
(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)
Pay at the door for lunch: meeting/presentation is FREE.
Reminder: 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
Letters to LWVUS President
At our February Board meeting, we accepted requests from two members and sent the following letters to Chris Carson, LWVUS President:

“The League of Women Voters of Monterey County urges LWVUS to focus on reapportionment as part of Making Democracy Work. The League’s position on apportionment should be used to encourage State leagues to work towards districts that reflect population and are not gerrymandered in favor of one party or another. This is a timely request since the 2020 census will be undertaken in the next few years, and leagues need to be prepared to recommend reapportionment approaches that assure a legitimate process, e.g., citizen commissions similar to the one required in California.”

“The League of Women Voters of Monterey County urges the LWVUS to support the March for Science in Washington DC on April 22 [Earth Day]. The League’s positions on environmental protection and action on climate change require that we support sound science in furthering our positions. We also request LWVUS to urge state and local leagues to join Marches for Science in their states and local communities.” (https://www.marchforscience.com/).

Women’s March
LWVUS was a sponsor of the Women’s March in January, and many local league members either went to Washington DC to join the national march or attended marches in our local communities. Hopefully, there will be similar sponsorship in April.

June Convention Issues for Emphasis
The Board also approved sending the following recommendations to LWV of California to be considered at Convention:
(1) action supporting a single-payer plan for California if the Affordable Care Act is repealed, and
(2) action supporting State efforts to address the affordable housing crisis in California.

Want to Be a Convention Delegate?
Judi Lehman and Bev Kreps will represent us, but if you’re also interested in attending too, let me know. The League pays for convention expenses. For more information visit https://lwvc.org/events/lwvc-convention.

Janet Brennan, JanetB@MontereyBay.com

LWV California Convention 2017 ★ June 2-4 ★ Sacramento

Guest Speakers

Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State
Increasing voter registration, participation, rights

Professor Lisa García Bedolla, UC Berkeley
How marginalization/inequality affect political/educational opportunities for ethnoracial groups

Darrell Steinberg, Mayor of Sacramento
Leveraging mental health funds for permanent supportive housing for the homeless

Jill Darling, USC Center for Economic & Social Research Survey Director, Understanding America Study; Research Health Scientist, Veterans Health Administration; Health Services Research & Development Center for Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy

Celinda Lake, Lake Research Partners
Leading political strategist, tactician, advisor to national committees, incumbents, and challengers

Chris Hoene, CA Budget & Policy Center
Policy in public finance, economic development, housing, poverty reduction, infrastructure, and governance
Judi Lehman is a longtime member of LWVMC, but Vice President is the first board position she’s held. “I’ve been really active in the League for only a couple of years, since I retired,” she explains. “Before that, I always had election conflicts.” Judi has held elected office with both the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District. In addition, she has served on the City of Monterey’s Historic Preservation Commission, and the late Monterey County Supervisor Sam Karas once appointed her to the County’s Historic Resources Review Board.

A native of Wisconsin, Judi says she’s “glad I got my education and grew up in the Midwest. I learned a good work ethic there.” Her college training was in interior design and, after graduation, she moved to the Cupertino-Palo Alto area, living there for 12 years and working as an interior designer. In 1986, she moved to the Monterey Peninsula after marrying a military man who was headed to classes at the Naval Postgraduate School. They’ve since divorced, but Judi has lived in this area ever since.

“I started working in event planning here and eventually got a job at Asilomar, where I did the weddings,” she says. “It was a really lovely place for them.”

Judi owned a house on Del Monte Beach in Monterey until two years ago, when she retired, sold the house and moved to the Hacienda Carmel retirement community. Her mother, who moved to Monterey to live with Judi 18 years ago, when Judi was divorced, now lives in a Seaside nursing home. “My mom will be 97 this year,” Judi says. When the two lived together, “we traveled a lot, did European river cruises and cruises out of California to Alaska and the Mexican Riviera.”

Travel is a passion Judi has been able to indulge even more since her retirement from Asilomar. “I spent four months in Paris—from October, 2015 to January, 2016—something I’d promised myself after working myself to the bone. I rented an apartment, had a couple of friends visit for a bit, but was mostly alone.” She particularly enjoyed seeing the city’s historic sites—“I visited the historic society of Paris and then managed to find the sites all around Paris,” she says. She took some trips outside of the city as well. “I enjoyed a train trip to Switzerland to see the Matterhorn, toured Normandy and saw Mont Saint-Michel and the prehistoric cave paintings in south central France.”

On Election Day, 2016, Judi began a five-week trip to the Philippines and Cambodia with her brother. “He’s married to a woman from the Philippines and she showed us all around there. I went to see where MacArthur landed. I really like history.” Judi’s brother lives in the Philippines half of each year and in Juneau, Alaska, for the remainder.

When asked what she sees in the League’s future, Judi expressed concern about the deep divisions in our country. “I think we have to be really supportive of trying to keep our country pulled together, working toward common goals as a nation,” she said.

“I think the League will be a support mechanism for that, helpful for people who want to be informed and educated about government. We in the League have to educate ourselves that things are changing. We have to stay engaged and involved.”

As our Vice President, Judi Lehman is in an excellent position to help LWVMC do just that.

Nancy Baker Jacobs
Nancy@NancyBakerJacobs.com
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.

Funding of Elections
What measures would you support to ensure adequate and stable funding of election administration in California?
Consolidating elections with fewer special and off-year, updating electronic voting, and looking into unfunded mandates.

Public Higher Education
How can California enroll more UC and CSU students, including those with greater needs? Is more state funding needed? Where does this rank in your priorities?
I support continuing successes in funding at higher levels than prisons, and focusing on underserved communities with Pell grants and other aid. There aren’t enough slots for California students, public education isn’t covered in Prop 98, and Prop 13 adds to K-12 budget problems.

Water Resources
What proposals would you support to ensure enough adequate quality water is available for municipal, industrial and ag uses, and the environment, what with over-stretched resources and climate conditions?
Most CA surface water is caught in over-allocated water rights. Water use is 20% residential and 80% industrial/agriculture. We need to move water better to produce energy savings. Environmental Safety, Water, Parks, and Wildlife committees are important to water management. I support stormwater as a supply, aquifer recharge, long-term storage, recovering dam capacities, holding water from snow packs, improved battery systems for water/solar, and using cap and trade money.

Local League Issues
I recommend changing the fixed tax structure to cover funding for affordable housing. Following Prop 13 homeowners pay the bulk of the share of property taxes while commercial properties can change hands many times without tax increases.

Legislative Interview
LWV San Jose/Santa Clara

Assemblyman
Mark Stone

March 2017
What other major issues do you think the Legislature must address in 2017? What are your priorities?
The legislature should prioritize health care, immigration, environmental protection, transportation infrastructure, and water. Personal priorities are reforming child welfare, juvenile justice, prisons, and adapting for coastal and climate change.

For the complete interview go to http://www.lwvsjsc.org/stone.html

League Statement on Claims of Voter Fraud

League of Women Voters President Chris Carson issued the following statement in response to the unsubstantiated claim from the White House that millions of illegal votes were cast in the past election:

“President Trump is calling for a major investigation into voter fraud—in an election that he won! We know that widespread voter fraud is a myth perpetuated to push election laws that restrict voting. We cannot allow false claims to drive policies that will limit participation in our election process. There is no need for an investigation into a non-existent problem. The issue has been studied and put to rest.”

Sarah Courtney,
Senior Director Communications LWVUS, scourtney@lwv.org

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LWVMC 2017 Calendar

MARCH

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 8 March, 12 noon
"Update on FORA" Guest Speaker: Gail Morton
JanetB@montereybay.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 9 March, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 13 March, 5:00 pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
JanetB@montereybay.com

Special Events Impact Committee Meeting
Thursday, 16 March, 12:15pm
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
ckeoyang@msn.com

APRIL

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 10 April, 5:00 pm
JanetB@montereybay.com

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 12 April, 12 noon
Topic and Speaker to be Announced

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 13 April, 12 noon
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

MAY

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 8 May, 5:00 pm
JanetB@montereybay.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 11 May, 12 noon
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVMC 90th Annual Meeting
Saturday, 13 May, 10am to 12 noon
Speaker: LWVCA President Helen Hutchison