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
President’s Message
November 2019

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!
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)
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. PWM X energy need is vastly less than the desal energy need.
- Energy supply for desalination is from PGE. PWM X supply is from recovered methane gas from the local landfill.
- Desalination will discharge brine to the Marine Sanctuary. PWM X will divert existing discharge for reclamation, and reduce total discharge into the Sanctuary.
- Coastal dune disturbances are significant with desalination in contrast to PWM X which has none.
- Recent demand numbers and analysis make it clear the desalination is over-sized at 6,252 afy. PWM 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 PWM 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.

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.

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.”

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.

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.

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!” 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.”

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.

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 the meantime, Sylvia, an American citizen for many years, plans to continue working hard to ensure than 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

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- 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

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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 Guideance 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"

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

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**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!)

- **Webmaster**
  - Bob Evans

- **Directors At-Large**
  - Sue Erickson
  - Sharon Miller

- **Financial Review Committee**
  - Dennis Mar
  - George Riley

- **Off-Board**

- **Facebook Master**
  - Arlene Guest

- **LWVC Management Training Advisor**
  - (vacant)

- **National Women's History Alliance Liaison**
  - Howard Fosler

- **Nominating Committee**
  - Philomene Smith, Chair
  - 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**

November 2019

League of Women Voters of Monterey County  LWVMryCo@gmail.com  page 7
LWVMC Calendar

NOVEMBER 2019

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

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

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

JANUARY 2020

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

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, 9 January, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, contact: George Riley

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