

Minutes of 73rd Annual Meeting, April 26, 2014

BUSINESS MEETING President Nyla Zender called the meeting to order at 10:15A.M. She affirmed that a quorum had been achieved. She recognized past presidents and board members.

Terri Figgs explained the proposed budget. She answered questions about the Education Fund and the Reserve Fund. She stated fund-raising would be necessary to close the gaps between currently expected income and expenses. Those fund raising efforts are yet to be planned. There would be no further direct solicitation of members for the reserve fund.

Nyla Zender gave the membership report due to the absence of Dolores O'Neal. The Fresno League has 150 members at this time.

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

EDUCATION Kay Bertken reported that the League has continued to monitor the education priorities of past years, including expansion of preschool programs, development of career technical education initiatives, improvement of graduation rates and study of dropout rates and solutions. Next year we will be participating in a state study of higher education. Liz Shields has volunteered to serve on the state committee which is tasked with organizing the study.

VOTER SERVICE Over \$2000 was earned for the League by LWVF members assisting in three elections. At present the League is awaiting approval of a new three year contract with the Election Department. There will be a panel for candidates for the position of District Attorney on April 30th. Shields explained the propositions which will be on the June ballot.

NATURAL RESOURCES League participated in the national Agriculture Study. Two panels were held on topics related to agriculture. A showing of the film "King Korn" was held. LWVF continues to support efforts to update the Fresno County General Plan. We have concerns with changes in the General Plan policies for Agricultural Land Preservation and Urban Development. The Friant Ranch Appeal was heard on April 22nd. A response is expected in the near future.

WATER Diane Merrill reviewed the LWVC position on water. Water was selected as a priority at the annual program planning meeting. At present there are seven proposals for a Water Bond on the November ballot. The State League has endorsed none at this time. Water events will be held in the future. LWVF is appealing the April 10 Planning Commission's decision to approve a conditional use permit wastewater treatment plant near Lost Lake Park.

TRANSPORTATION Stephenie Frederick reported that League continues to have a representative on the Measure C board. After changes were made to the original proposal Bus Rapid Transit will be implemented. The Regional Transportation Plan is available for public scrutiny. League has proposed some changes which were presented to the COG. These proposals aim to make the RTP more useful to the policy board.

MENTAL HEALTH The topic of mental health was once again selected as a priority at the annual program planning meeting. During the past year a "Lunch & Learn" was held on the proposed Restoration Center. Francine Farber serves on the Mental Health Board. Dawan Utecht, director of the Department of Behavioral Health, spoke to the board about her aim to change how mental health services are provided, especially to those needing adolescent psychiatric services. More "Lunch & Learn" events on the topic of mental health will be scheduled in the upcoming months.

STUDENT UNIT Diane Blair noted that this is the sixth year since the establishment of the Student Unit. Students held a forum on the Affordable Health Care Act and a panel of local women political leaders talking about the challenges women face in the political realm.

PROGRAM PLANNING Patty Campbell reviewed the events in which the League has been involved over the past year. During the upcoming year there will be several "Lunch & Learns", the Ice Cream Social, a higher education study, and our election focus.

BY-LAW CHANGE Nyla Zender explained the reason for the change to the by-laws. The change of the quorum from a number (25) to a percent(10%) makes it easier to constitute a quorum. The motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously by those present.

BUDGET Terri Figgs and Mary Savala presented the proposed budget. They explained the need for the increase in dues. It has been twenty years since the last increase in dues. Membership dues will increase by \$10. The motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by those present. As cost cutting measures there will be 10 issues of the Voter mailed and 2 electronic issues of the Voter. The fund raising goal is \$6,031.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL PRIORITIES Pat Campbell explained the recommended local priorities: mental health, regional water education and advocacy, and continued monitoring of the Fresno General Plan and Land Use policies. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to adopt the priorities recommended. Campbell then explained National League Program. The recommended national priorities are: support of a study on the primary process in elections from Cleveland area leagues and support of LWVUS efforts regarding climate change. A motion was made and approved that our representatives at the national convention would support the study and support LWVUS climate change efforts

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS Sylvia Woodburne read the names and terms of those to be elected. A motion was made and approved. Sylvia Woodburne read the names of the nominating committee for 2015-2016. A motion was made and approved. Elected to new two-year terms are: Mary Savala, Mary Perich, Terri Figgs, Stephenie Frederick, and Kay Bertken. The nominating committee for 2015-2016 will be: Alice Powell, Sue Lind, and Sylvia Woodburne.

Nyla Zender requested that those present give written instructions to the board of directors and to the delegates who will be attending the LWVUS convention. Zender extended an invitation to all present to attend the board retreat on July 18th.

INFORMATION Radley Reep made handouts available summarizing the issues in the Friant Ranch Appeal and a letter sent to the Fresno County Grand Jury regarding the failure of the Board of Supervisors to submit annual reports on the implementation of the Fresno County General Plan.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:45A.M

WERNER LIPTON AWARD Bill Noblett, a public spirited citizen who has served at Stone Soup providing dental services , received the award.

SPEAKER The speaker at the Annual Meeting was Dr. Joseph Castro, President of Fresno State University. Dr. Castro spoke of his goal to make the university as strong as possible. He intends to help the university reach the next level of academic excellence. Two of his challenges are to increase the number of students who graduate from CSUF in a more timely manner and how to get the state to invest more in higher education. Dr. Castro stated that he encourages feedback from those interested in the university.

Submitted by
Mary Perich, secretary