



# T Fresno VOTER

Phone: 559-226-VOTE

Web site:  
http://fresno.ca.lwvnet.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

President	Francine Farber
Vice Presidents:	
Administration	Kay Bertken
Program	Georgia Sisson
Voter Services	Liz Shields
Secretary	Dolores O'Neal
Treasurer	Jane Worsley

### DIRECTORS

Transportation	John Donaldson
Legislation	Terri Figgs
Natural Resources	Mary Savala
Membership	Sue Sheragy
At Large	Diane Woody

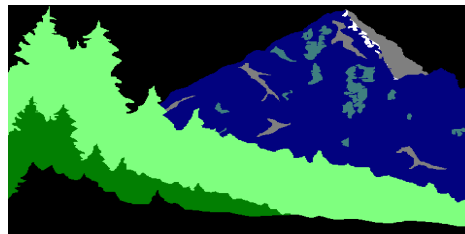
### VOTER Editor

Carol Cowin

## PORTLAND HOSTS LWVUS CONVENTION

By Mary Savala 434-1227

LWV members missed an opportunity to visit one of the nation's 'greenest' cities when our Fresno League was unable to field delegates for this year's National Convention in Portland, Oregon. We had budgeted ample resources to send at least two delegates, but weddings, graduations, and new grandchildren took priority over the trip to *The City of Roses*.



Delegates to the Nation Convention met from June 14-18. They passed a two-year budget of almost \$7 million and approved use of unrestricted reserves to cover a budget deficit of almost \$300,000. Delegates approved a per member payment (PMP) of \$28 for 2008-2009, rising to \$29.20 for 2009-2010.

The convention unanimously elected the nominating committee's slate of officers and directors, re-electing attorney Mary G. Wilson as president. A complete

list of officers, directors and the new nominating committee with their biographies can be found on pages 16 and 17 of the June 2008 issue of the National Voter.

Delegates voted to retain all current National League positions, approved the Immigration Study concurrence, and adopted both a Health Care Education program and an advocacy campaign to promote solutions to global climate Change. League principles were amended to read: "LWV believes that all Powers of US government should be See CONVENTION, page 3

### Calendar

August 13 Board Meeting  
League Office, 5 p.m.

August 18 Ice Cream Social  
7 p.m. Home of the Williamsons (see flyer) Please attend and bring a guest to hear Sheriff Margaret Mims.

September 11 Mavoral Forum  
5-8 p.m. Convention Center  
Henry T. Perea and Ashley Swearingen will debate and respond to audience questions

September 17 Board Meeting  
League Office, 5 p.m.

September 26  
Women Speak Out  
Big Red Church 9 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Free seminar, lunch, childcare

## MEXICAN AND ASIAN WOMEN LEADERS ATTEND LWV RETREAT

By Francine Farber 226-5455

The annual LWV Retreat provided a special opportunity for our Board to get together with leaders from other local women's groups. Francine Farber had met Lelia Chavez, Debbie Tom and Geri Vang at a meeting to plan the Elder Women's Speak-Out and subsequently invited them to attend our Retreat.

Lelia Chavez, executive director of the League of Mexican American Women, and Debbie Tom and Geri Yang from the Central California Asian Pacific Women's League enjoyed our

shared lunch and then spoke about their organizations' goals and activities on July 12 at the Farber home.

We learned that the LMAW was formed in 1973. At this time it has approximately 100 members. Its focus is to provide leadership training in education, health, politics and economic development for women in Fresno County. The LMAW last year gave out 19 \$1,000 scholarships to support young women planning to attend college. Lelia spoke about the need for voter registration and

See RETREAT, page 4

## *President's Message*

Two years ago a pair of doves built **its** nest on a high narrow ledge formed by roof beams over our patio. The nest was directly across from a picture window in our family room and less than six feet away, so we had total access to the daily fly-ins, fly-outs, births, feedings, and eventual departures.

Last year the doves (we were positive they were the same pair) returned but had a more difficult time getting the nest to stay on the ledge due to some windy days. My obliging husband nailed up a shoe-box that he had cut open on one side, which provided more depth for the nest. Sure enough, they took advantage of it and eventually built a nest and went through the usual process.

This year we were thrilled to see the doves return. We don't know if they are the original pair or the offspring, but they were having a terrible time of nest-building. Ignoring the shoebox and bringing their twigs and grass up to the bare ledge, they experienced repeated failure. This didn't seem to bother them. During the day they would build the nest and, sure enough, at night it would fall down. We began seeing clumps of straw and grass on the ground and in the bushes below where the nest had been. After a week or so of these failures, they tried another equally narrow ledge at the other end of the patio beam. This was even more hazardous and produced numerous fallen clumps frequently during the daytime.

Finally we hung two plastic flower pots from the beams, filling them with dirt and grass. The large one hangs from the farthest spot they selected this year, while the small one hangs near the original spot across from the picture window. It took about a week, but **guess** which one they nested in? Right, the small one. Daily for weeks the mother sat in the pot, her body virtually covering the surface of the container. Occasionally the male flew in and roosted on the edge.

Three days ago we saw slight movements at the edge of the pot. With steady observation we caught sight of two babies being fed by the mother. She now sits on the edge of the pot so as not to squash her progeny.

Persistence in the face of adversity, dedication to task and following one's instincts are the lessons to be learned from the faithfulness of our doves. I hope to follow their example.

*Francine*



## **New Name and New Date**

Last month we told you of a first-time-ever happening for Fresno. Now we need to correct both the name and the date for that event. *Elder Women's Speak-Out* is now :

### **WOMEN SPEAK OUT: CHANGING HOW CALIFORNIANS AGE**

The new date is:

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2008**

All the other details remain the same:

**9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**First Congregational Church  
(Big Red Church)**

**2131 North Van Ness Boulevard  
Fresno**

The discussion will center on the issues elder women face and the assets they have to offer their communities. The goal is to lay a groundwork for a statewide policy advocacy movement ensuring that all women have access to the resources they need.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

By Sue **Sheragy** 243-9305

Welcome new member:

Trin **Gibney**

4685 E. Yale

Fresno, CA 93703

251-3571

## **LWVC HAS MOVED!**

New Contact Information:

1107 9th Street, Suite 300

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: 916-442-7215

Fax: 916-442-7362

Toll Free: 1-888-870-VOTE

## **VOTER SERVICES** By Liz Shields 298-5183

Our grateful thanks to the many League members and friends who helped us with the primary elections and the student election at Fresno State this year—three down and one to go! Starting in August we will be gearing up for the general election on November 4th. We will be organizing candidate forums, distributing Easy Voter Guides, presenting information on the ballot's propositions, and helping the Elections Department with absentee ballot processing and answering the phones on Election Day. Give me a call at **298-5183** if you would like to be involved in one or more of these activities.

## Convention, from page 1

**exercised within a constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government, legislative, executive, and judicial”.**

Delegates directed LWWUS to redesign fund-raising requests so that they cannot be misconstrued as membership recruitment. LWWUS legislative priorities were set for Campaign Finance, Civic Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Advocacy, Ethics and Lobby Reform, Health Care Reform, Redistricting Reform, and Tax Policy.

Delegates were reminded that the challenges to LWWUS’s work were resources, competition for fund raising and visibility, multi-issues vs. priorities, and communication with and between members at all levels of LWW.

In further news, the convention heard that 23 percent of LWWUS revenues come from PMP, 28 percent from education grants, and 40 percent from direct marketing (remainder comes

from reserves). Ninety percent of bequests to LWWUS go to endowment, 5 percent of bequests are used for League program and 5

*Legislative priorities were set for*

*Campaign Finance,*

*Civic Liberties,*

*DC Voting Rights,*

*Election Advocacy,*

*Ethics and Lobby Reform,*

*Redistricting Reform,*

*and Tax Policy.*

percent for training volunteers. Endowments are up, LWWUS has 25 staff members, and there are 12 new Leagues throughout the United States.

Awards were given to LWW San Francisco for best web site; member recruitment

to LWW Escondito, California and LWW Montgomery County, Maryland. Action Awards for Citizen Engagement went to a County LWW in Tennessee for “Kids City”, a hands-on How to Build a City project; for Voter Education to a Florida County League for an absentee ballot campaign which increased voter participation 300 percent over 2004; for Strengthening Democratic Process to LWW Florida for continuing work to stop election administration laws imposing stringent regulation and fees on third party registration groups; and for Diversity to LWW Minnesota for the program “Transforming Minnesota Through Cross-Cultural Dialogs” which brought a more diverse membership to Minnesota Leagues and increased their capacity to work with a wider constituency.

*Note: Reports of the Convention were taken from the online site for LWWUS. More detail can be found at [president@lists.lww.org](mailto:president@lists.lww.org).*

## Natural Resources

By Mary Savala 431-1227

**Measure C Citizens Oversight Committee** met July 10 after several meeting postponements due to lack of agenda material. Barely a quorum of members attended. The discussion at the meeting centered around refinement of the city and county Measure C budget reports as this first round of reporting was initiated. The committee continued to make suggestions to improve reporting forms for accuracy of information for the committee and ease of reporting for the agencies. All budget reports for the first year of funding were accepted. Expenditure reports will be complete and available by October 15, and the committee will review and comment in an annual report tentatively scheduled for January, 2009.

The consultant for the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) study presented the results of the study, and the committee had a long discussion over a recommendation for a fee schedule for development fees on new residential, commercial, and industrial development in Fresno County. The arguments centered around the exact meaning of Measure C language about RTMF and the amount of the fees. The committee

finally agreed to recommend a fee schedule which would exempt new educational and government facilities from fees, discount fees for affordable housing and commercial/retail pass-by impacts (traffic stopping at a retail establishment on a trip to a longer destination) and require fees for impacts on state facilities only.

The committee also accepted the resignation of the member representative for the Valley Taxpayers Coalition, Jeffrey M. Reid.

**True wealth is about more than money. It's about achieving life.®**



**TOTAL MERRILL®**

Let us help you achieve what matters most to you.

**Amy Nuttall-Zwaan**

Financial Advisor

(559) 436-3338

5260 N. Palm Avenue

Suite 100

Fresno, CA 93704



**Merrill Lynch**

© 2008 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated. Member SIPC.

# MENTAL HEALTH

By Jul Lowery 476-0010

In the wake of County budget reductions, the Department of Behavioral Health is preparing for reductions primarily in the area of adult mental health. The 2008-2009 budget allocates \$6.3 million less than the current funding for these services. This translates into the loss of two case management teams in the metropolitan Fresno area and elimination of some outreach services. Funding for rural clinics is tenuous, with \$250,000 allocated to keep them operating in the near term. Another program with an unclear future is medication costs for the indigent. The \$75,000 authorized for this program will keep it operating for an estimated one and a half months. Long term funding for this program, which impacts about 2040 people, is not yet decided. The new budget does not call for any cuts in current staffing for children and family services, but this is somewhat misleading since there are already eight vacancies that cannot be filled due to hiring freezes. For new consumers, the wait for medication appointments will rise from 6 to 8 weeks.

To put these figures into human terms, the loss of case management teams will mean longer wait times for appointments

for new and ongoing consumers. Case loads will increase.

Those who depend on maintenance medications will, at the very least, suffer the uncertainty of not knowing whether the medications they depend on for their stability will be available. For people suffering from chronic mental

*The 2008-2009 County budget allocates \$6.3 million less than the current funding for these services.*

.....

*One of the unintended consequences is ....an increase in emergency room, hospital and jail episodes, more costly, both in financial and human terms than consistently available outpatient services....*

illness, going off medications can mean relapses which compromise their ability to manage their day-to-day lives. Consequences can include a decline in the individual's ability to take care of basic health and medical needs, to keep housing and to control self harmful behaviors. Family and other interpersonal relationships suffer.

What does it mean to experience

now being built up again with a number of younger recruits and has about 85 members. It, too, focuses on scholarships and is having a luncheon on July 26 to celebrate its awardees. Giang Nguyen, Director of the Fresno County Behavioral Health Department, will be their speaker. She was one of their scholarship recipients in 1983.

*We spoke with both organizations about how we might work together. Clearly voter registration and voter*

longer periods between appointments? For people with mental illness, meeting with case managers is vital to maintaining recovery, coping with crises and taking steps toward developing or keeping an independent lifestyle. Since mental illness affects every area of life, being unable to meet with clinicians who can help the consumer monitor how he or she is doing, teach living skills and intervene in a crisis can result in a spiraling loss of hard won gains.

Loss of outreach services and the potential loss of rural services would require consumers to commute, possibly long distances, to clinics. For some consumers, particularly those who are not doing well, such commutes can be an insurmountable obstacle. Long waits before seeing a prescriber mean that serious symptoms and problems remain untreated. One of the unintended consequences of these gaps in services for people with chronic illnesses is inevitably an increase in emergency room, hospital and jail episodes, more costly, both in financial and human terms than consistently available outpatient services would be.

**information are of mutual interest. We hope to make Pros and Cons presentations on the November ballot propositions and to fulfill requests to present general information about the importance of voter registration and voting.**

The LWVF has joined both groups as an organizational member, and we intend to exchange newsletters and perhaps write articles for each others' publications.

---

## Retreat, from page 1

voter information in the Latina community. General membership meetings are held on the second Saturday each month. As fundraisers they hold a scholarship banquet in May, a golf tournament in September, and a fashion show on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Debbie and Geri spoke about the goals of the CCAPW. It was formed about 20 years ago and eventually went through considerable down-sizing. It is

# EDUCATION

By Kay Bertken 226-2720

## FUSD Suspension Policy

An article on the front page of the June 30 Fresno Bee entitled "Teachers Question Suspension Policy" cited FTA concerns over the decline in student home suspensions in the district. An increase in violence against staff was attributed to the reduction in numbers of

students sent home and instead assigned to on-campus suspension programs. The number of suspended students has declined from 16,820 last year to 7,567 through April of this year. Even this year's lower number of suspensions represents

FUSD SUSPENSIONS July 2007 through April 2008		
	Suspensions	Expulsions
Elementary schools	2966	136
Middle schools	2392	251
High schools	1916	209

Source: Fresno Unified School District

29,041 lost days of instruction. Nearly forty percent of FUSD's suspensions are of elementary school-aged children.

The article contrasted the decline in FUSD suspensions and expulsions with other districts in the area. Madera Unified

also has a decreasing rate of suspensions; however, the rate is increasing in the Clovis, Central and Visalia school districts. Statewide numbers show a ten percent increase. The Bee article suggested that FUSD's reductions were financially motivated.

The article did not mention that several years ago a citizens committee recommended that the district reduce its extraordinarily high suspension and expulsion rates. Not only were these rates costing millions of dollars in lost attendance

revenue, they also represented an enormous loss in educational opportunity.

While the FTA should be concerned about the safety of teachers and staff, there was no evidence in the Bee's coverage that violence on campuses was related to the students in on-campus suspensions

programs. Two issues are of general community and school district concern here: campus safety and the still too-high rate of student suspensions. The School Board has heard major presentations on both issues within the last few months and is making some progress in initiating new programs, keeping data and tracking progress.

## HOUSING

By Mary Savala 431-1227

The Fresno Housing Alliance (FHA) is forwarding minutes for a summary report on housing for our Board. The Alliance meets on the first Thursday of the month, and is chaired by Tony Miranda, director of Habitat for Housing. The discussion at the meeting on July 3 centered around announcements of the public meetings of the Fresno Housing Authority; a presentation at the Fresno City Council July 15 on foreclosures, a meeting at North American Title on July 17 on affordable housing lending, a meeting of housing advocates with City and County Housing and Health Dept. officials on lead-based paint housing hazards and three training sessions by the Healthy Homes Committee of FHA planned for August 15, 16 and 18 for community members on housing hazards.

The City of Fresno has deleted the staff member to the City's Safe Housing Team from the new budget, and FHA will send a letter of protest to the Housing Department and the Council as well as promoting a public letter writing campaign in protest.

The 10 x 10 Housing Committee has not met officially for several months because of no quorum. FHA has emphasized its commitment to the 10 x 10 goals and will be communicating with the Mayor and Council urging that the 10 x 10 Committee be reformed and address its responsibilities.

## Foster Children

The Stuart Foundation has given a grant to the Fresno County Children and Family Services Department to hire more staff to work with area schools on behalf of the county's foster children. This follows a recent report on the condition of foster children in California, which focused attention on efforts to address the needs of this very vulnerable group. **The number of children in foster care nationally can exceed 700,000 in the course of a year. This number represents a twofold increase in the last twenty years. Ten percent of these children live in California; a third of those are under five.** The California report noted that foster care children are more likely to be in special education, to repeat grades and to drop out of school.

A major effort in Fresno County is underway to enroll



foster children in preschool programs. More than 100 children aged 3.9 to five are being identified this summer and referred to area programs. Typically these children have not been in preschool programs locally or across the state.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support in "Making Democracy Work."

League members who wish to be sponsors or to secure **sponsorships for us**, may contact Francine Farber at 226-5455

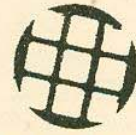
PATIENCE  
MILROD

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

844  
North Van Ness  
Fresno, California  
93728  
559/ 442-3111  
pm097@csufresno.edu



Congratulations  
League of Women Voters  
for  
another successful year  
of service  
to our community



HEBERGER  
& MERRITT INC

Certified Public Accountants

John W. Heberger, CPA, CVA

Gayle T. Merritt, CPA



PRINT  
SHACK

Bruce Tamiyasu  
Owner

(559) 221-0768

379 E. Shaw at Fresno • Fresno, CA 93710

FAX (559) 221-0760 • [printshack@gmail.com](mailto:printshack@gmail.com)  
Free Pick Up & Delivery

Joe Figgs



J Figgs Real Estate Brokerage

1576 W. Minarets  
Fresno, CA 93711

Phone 559-431-7274

Cell 559-779-3952

Fax 559-432-6608

Email: [jfiggs@comcast.net](mailto:jfiggs@comcast.net)

Between Barstow & Bullard

5680 N. Fresno St., Ste. 110  
Fresno, CA 93710-8331

*Frederick J. Kruger, D.P.M.*  
Diplomate, American Board of Podiatric Surgery  
Diseases, Injuries and Surgery of the Foot

(559) 447-9040  
FAX (559) 447-9042

By Appointment



Lee Horwitz  
President

Home: (559) 439-5802

160 E. Bullard  
Fresno, CA 93710  
(559) 448-1000  
Fax (559) 448-1010

4495 W. Shaw  
Fresno, CA 93722  
(559) 276-4222  
Fax (559) 276-6519

1848 Clovis Ave.  
Clovis, CA 93612  
(559) 323-1940  
Fax (559) 298-9934

50 years | one million eyes

EYE-Q  
Latest technology. Caring doctors.

1 (800) DR-VISION or (559) 486-2000

[www.eyevisioncare.com](http://www.eyevisioncare.com) | Fresno | Selma

4495 W. Shaw  
Fresno, CA 93722  
(559) 276-6536  
Fax (559) 276-6519



Lee Horwitz  
President  
[chiamleb18@aol.com](mailto:chiamleb18@aol.com)

3845 N. Blackstone • Fresno, CA 93726  
(559) 226-3939 • Fax (559) 230-1201

1848 Clovis Ave.  
Clovis, CA 93612  
(559) 324-1922  
Fax (559) 298-9934

*You're Invited  
to the  
Annual  
Ice Cream Social*



**GUEST SPEAKER  
SHERIFF MARGARET MIMS**

**IT WILL BE A CRIME IF YOU DON'T COME!!**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 7 P.M.**

In the lovely gardens of Jennifer and Hugh Williamson  
2655 West Celeste Avenue, Fresno



League of Women Voters  
Fresno

Questions?

Call Georgia, 439-5410



League of Women Voters Fresno, Inc.  
 1345 Bulldog Lane, Suite 4  
 Fresno, CA 93710

Non-Profit Organization  
 US Postage Paid  
 Fresno 93706

Permit # 896

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

National Convention..... Page 1  
 LWVF Retreat..... Page 1  
 President's Message..... Page 2  
 Natural Resources..... Page 3  
 Mental Health..... Page 4  
 Education..... Page 5  
 Housing..... Page 5  
 Sponsors of *The Voter* Page 6  
 Ice Cream Social Invitation..... Page 7

***Democracy is not a spectator sport***

Address:

Name:

Ph.

E-mail

Please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters, Fresno, with registration form (below), to: LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Suite 4, Fresno, CA 93710.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$60 ~ Family - \$90 (2 members, same address) ~ Student - \$30

**JOIN US!** Members receive newsletters from national, state and local Leagues, may access local, state and national League websites and list-serves, and may participate in League studies of issues.

**TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS:** For more information, please leave your name and phone number on the League message phone, 226-8683, or contact our Membership Chair, Sue Shery, at 243-9305. Prospective members receive one issue of *The Fresno Voter* free.

**DIVERSITY POLICY:** There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVF on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic level.

**NONPARTISANSHIP:** The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

**MISSION:** The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens and influences public policy through voter education and advocacy on issues.

**JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!  
 Men and Women of Voting Age Making Democracy Work**