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The *Fresno* **VOTER**



Tuesday, August 19
Regular Board Meeting
(one week early)
5 p.m., League Office

Tuesday, August 26
Ice Cream Social and Auction!
Scholarship Winners!
Home of the Williamsons
See flyer page 4

Wednesday, September 3
Lunch & Learn
Mental Health
See flyer page 5



Tuesday, September 23
Regular Board Meeting
5 p.m., League Office

Board Retreat focuses on increasing and diversifying membership

by Francine Farber

Enthusiastic members and Board members met at the League’s annual Retreat on July 18 to brainstorm ideas to increase and diversify membership.

Targets for these efforts were young people in their 20’s and 30’s, and the Generation X group largely in their 40’s to 60’s. Internships and mentorships were discussed. The League

is interested in broadening its communication on Facebook and other social media in order to reach the targeted groups. Although we have Facebook and Twitter sites, they are rarely updated. We hope to reach out through Fresno State to develop an intern relationship with a student who would develop a social media plan and then update the media sites frequently.

Another effort to reach out to students will be made by Mary Savala, who hopes to engage the FSU Engineering Department in a plan to develop an independent study program or an internship related to transportation issues. This would include bringing students into the real world of government meetings related to this topic.

Other ideas to reach out to the general population of potential members included having quarterly update meetings on League activities for our members and their guests; having “meet and greet” informal sessions at times other than our usual lunchtime sessions, such as Saturdays and evenings; and developing an information card to hand out to individuals and groups with a list of League achievements and areas in which we are currently active.

Members with ideas about increasing our membership are invited to submit them to fmfarber@hotmail.com.



President's Message



At the recent LWVUS convention in Dallas, Dierdre McNab, President of LWV Florida, who had been nominated to a director's position on the National Board, chose instead to challenge for the Presidency from the floor. Many delegates, including me, found her to be overly harsh, strident and negative and in the end she lost to Elisabeth MacNamara by a wide margin. I was even thinking that perhaps it was a good thing that she was not on the Board.

I am pleased to say that I saw a different side to Dierdre when she responded to the great win by the Florida League in a recent court ruling in their favor regarding a redistricting issue. Her statement read: "For the first time, a group of citizens has shown that with commitment and perseverance, they can take on the might and unlimited resources of the Florida Legislature and win by exposing what the judge calls 'the secret, organized campaign to subvert the supposedly open and transparent redistricting process'. Judge Lewis was careful to note that the legislature 'might have successfully concealed their scheme from the public had it not been for the plaintiffs determined efforts to uncover it in this case.'"

"With many other states grappling with the cancer of gerrymandering, this nationally precedent-setting decision sends a clear message that triumphs in the name of fair and transparent government are possible. This is a thrilling victory for the people of Florida and for the open, fair and accountable government that for decades the League has worked tirelessly to promote." Well said, Dierdre, and congratulations to the LWV Florida.

Redistricting is an integral part of the new study and review adopted at the LWVUS Convention, and I hope that as we all learn more about the process, the League can experience more such victories. Only then can we begin to see a more representative and balanced government.

Nyla

The VOTER is a monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Fresno

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Member News



to our generous donors

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We gratefully accept contributions for the Reserve Fund, memorial and celebratory gifts. Please remember LWV in your estate planning.

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Seneca Falls Anniversary

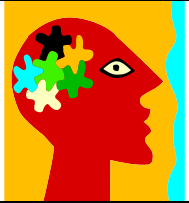
July marked the 166th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention, held in 1848 in New York. The 300-person gathering on women's rights is responsible for making the first formal demand for women's suffrage in American history.

Written primarily by suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Declaration of Sentiments argues that "all men *and* women" are created equal, making a powerful case for correcting the inconsistency between America's ideals and its oppressive treatment of women

One hundred sixty-six years after the Seneca Falls Convention, we continue to fight to ensure that each and every eligible voter is treated fairly at the ballot box and has an equal right and equal access to vote. The League has been instrumental in advocating for an urgently needed update to the Voting Rights Act in order to modernize and restore key voter protections.

Mental Health

by Francine Farber



- ◆ Four district managers have been hired for the Department of Behavioral Health. They are assigned to Adult Services, Contract Services, Managed Care, and Technology and Quality Management.
- ◆ Although funding for triage personnel was originally deleted from the DBH budget, the Governor's May revise includes \$899,900 for 8 personnel who will concentrate on connecting rural communities with law enforcement to facilitate client services.
- ◆ Planning for the children's psychiatric hospital is moving along, with the contract for services going to the Board of Supervisors in September and a hoped-for opening in early 2015.
- ◆ Corizon Health, an outside contractor, has taken over the provision of jail psychiatric services. Some transitional issues have arisen, especially availability of medication for physical and mental disorders, which are being addressed.
- ◆ The Support and Overnight Stay program (SOS) was discussed and outcomes reviewed. The program is aimed at clients with apparently serious mental health disorders who come through emergency rooms but don't need hospitalization. At this time SOS responds to the hospital in less than 30 minutes and picks up the client from the ER in less than 13 minutes. Clients are admitted between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. for one overnight stay. Upon being discharged an attempt is made to link them with appropriate services. A budget expansion is being requested to allow 24 hour access to the program, and extend stays over a weekend.
- ◆ Children's Crisis Assessment, Intervention and Resolution services were discussed. This program accepts all children, even those whose families have private insurance. The department has a budget of over two million dollars with 20 fulltime staff. Last year 83% of the referred children, some as young as three years of age, did not require psychiatric hospitalization. But 14% of those under 12 did require hospitalization (11 children) while 199 children over the age of 12 required psychiatric hospitalization. These hospitalizations took place out of county.

Several legal issues are active

Friant Ranch L.P. and Fresno County filed a Request for Review (5th District Appellate Court Decision) on July 7th with the California Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will decide whether they will even hear the Request and, if so, will then review the decision. League and its partners in the law suit are now put in the position of having to answer the arguments the Defendants and Respondents are raising with the Supreme Court.

There will be additional costs to make this response to the appellants. **-Mary Savala**

The League of Women Voters of Fresno filed a petition for a writ of mandate in superior court on June 23 challenging Fresno County's approval of a permit for the construction and operation of a wastewater treatment plant to serve Friant Ranch. This week, the Sierra Club received approval from the National Sierra Club to join the suit.

The reasons for the suit include (1) failing to conduct a subsequent environmental review, (2) failing to consider significant new information and (3) mistakenly filing a notice of exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Legal costs will remain minimal until such time as it is necessary to draft the opening brief. There is opportunity for a settlement conference.

The League has elected to prepare the administrative record. The administrative record will consist of the transcripts of two hearings and a small set of documents. The record will be about 500 pages in length, which is 2% the size of the administrative record prepared for the Friant Ranch project.

- Radley Reep



We're not old fashioned; we just like ice cream !!!

Join us at the **Ice Cream Social**

Tuesday, August 26, 7 p.m.



Ice Cream

Peterson Scholarship Winners

Ice Cream

Silent Auction (call Patty at 472-3018 to contribute an item)

Ice Cream

***Women's Equality Day Award to Lynne Ashbeck,**

Clovis Mayor*



2655 West Celeste, Fresno

Home of Jennifer and Hugh Williamson

West on Shaw

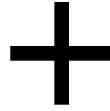
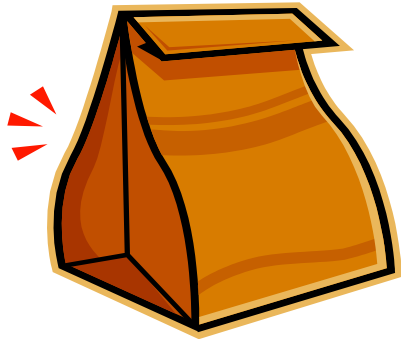
Right on Van Ness

Left on Bullard

Third left on North Briarwood

Second left on West Celeste

Did we mention Ice Cream?



LUNCH

&

LEARN

At the **MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP**

featuring

Dawan Utecht

Director, FC Department of Behavioral Health

Irene Takahashi

Division Manager, Children's System of Care

- ◆ **Wednesday, September 3 * 11:30 a.m.—1 p.m.**
- ◆ **Blue Sky Wellness Center Meeting Room**
- ◆ **1617 East Saginaw Avenue, Fresno**
- ◆ **From Shaw, south on Blackstone, right on Saginaw**

- ◆ **Free and open to the public**
- ◆ **Bring your lunch**
- ◆ **Snacks and beverage will be served**

Need more info? Call 226-5455



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JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

Men and Women of Voting Age Making Democracy Work

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

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.

What do you get when you join the League? All for one fee, you become a member of the Fresno, California and national Leagues and receive their newsletters. You may participate in League studies of issues; receive leadership training; hone your public speaking skills; become knowledgeable about local and state issues; learn more about government, natural resources and social policies as your time and interests dictate. You will also meet some interesting and friendly women and men who represent diverse backgrounds but find common ground in keeping abreast of current issues.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$70 ~ Family - \$100 (2 members, same address) ~ Student - \$30

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.

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