

League of Women Voters of Fresno



Call

to the 75th Annual Meeting



Saturday, April 2, 2016

9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Complimentary Breakfast and Annual Meeting

League Office at Stone Soup * 1345 Bulldog Lane

Easy Parking, No Stairs

Because of the gala 75th anniversary celebration on April 18, we will not include our usual luncheon at the Annual Meeting.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

- 9:30 Registration and Breakfast
10:00 Business Meeting and
Election



and the Lipton Award goes to...

Dick Haas

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order (quorum equals 10% or 15)
2. Introductions
3. Rules of the Day
4. Appointment of Reading Committee
5. Recognition of Past Presidents and Directors
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Membership Report
8. Director's Reports
9. Adoption of 2016-2017 Budget (see page 8)
10. Review of 2016-2017 National & Local Priorities
11. Election of Officers and Directors (see page 9)
12. Instructions to the LWVF 2016-17 Board of Directors
13. Instructions to our delegates to LWVUS Convention
14. Announcements and Adjournment

RULES OF THE DAY



Parliamentarian: Alice Powell

Debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker.

No speaker shall speak twice until all who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so.

The speakers should address remarks to the Chair and should limit remarks to the question.

The Chair may delegate another member to answer.

Only members in good standing (dues paid to date) may vote.

Motions to consider non-recommended program items may be entertained only if they have fulfilled the bylaw requiring Board approval two months prior to the Annual Meeting.

The Lipton Award is in memory of Werner Lipton, a community and environmental activist and the husband of Joan Lipton. The winner must be a volunteer and not a member of our League.

Dick Haas grew up in a village of 15 –20 residents in the New York Catskills, where he explored woods and streams and learned to see and observe nature.

While attending UCLA he worked in a tropical fish store, as a veterinarian assistant, and a graduate research immunologist. After serving in the Korean War he became a high school science teacher.

Ultimately Dick taught biology and zoology at Fresno State and initiated a course on the Human Impact on Natural Ecosystems. He put together the first Earth Day celebration at Fresno State. His volunteerism in retirement has included teaching docents at the Fresno Zoo, classes for Elder Hostel and Osher, trips to the Amazon, Galapagos and other far-away places, lectures at various churches, and photo exhibitions. He designed and helped produce a large bronze sculpture for the entry way of the new Science Building at FSU and a life-sized mother and pup sea lion for Sea Lion Cover at the Zoo.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS!

NATURAL RESOURCES

by Mary Savala



*Eyes on our
environment*

We have continued to support the City of Fresno's Updated General Plan calling for containing growth within existing city boundaries.

We received a CalEndow Grant to advocate, in northern areas of Fresno City, support for additional and better maintained parks all over the city, and to support a City Parks Master Plan effort involving diverse citizen input. Some of that money has been spent for a movie ad at Edwards Theater advocating parks and a Master Parks Plan for Fresno.

League tabled at several venues to educate about more and better parks, particularly in the disadvantaged neighborhoods of south, west, and central Fresno.

Along with partners, we monitored and criticized the County's Friant Corridor Feasibility Study, and managed to successfully persuade the County Planning Commission not to recommend the study report to the Board of Supervisors. However, flaws in the study report have prompted the County to make corrections and send the report back to the PC.

We sponsored a field trip for members and guests highlighting existing and proposed residential development in the Friant/Millerton region.

Together with partners LWVF has also persuaded the County to prepare an environmental impact report on the proposed revision of the County's General Plan and continued to advocate for a back-

ground report on the status of Fresno County land use policies and goals as well as a complete update of the County General Plan

We continue monitoring LAFCo's second look at Fresno City's Southeast Growth Area for its implications on urban growth in the City of Fresno as well as Fresno County.

Program Planning

by Pat Campbell

Members voted on state and local priorities in April, 2015. Participation in the state league study on Higher Education was approved. Water, land use and transportation were chosen to be the focus at the local level.

August brought our annual ice cream social. This year it was held in the lovely back yard of Jacquie Canfield. The Bette Peterson Scholarship recipients were introduced and a silent auction was held. Kerri Donis, Fresno Fire Chief, received the Women's Equality Day award.

Mary Perich and Stephenie Frederick planned a Friant field trip for members with stops at the river bottom on Friant Road and the proposed site of the Pharmacy School to be built by Granville Construction. Lunch in Friant followed the tour.

Our Holiday Party was again held at the home of Howard and Christine Watkins. Toys were collected for Valley Children's Hospital.

See page 9 for the new national and local priorities for 2016-17

Education



by Kay Bertken

We continue to attend Fresno Unified School District meetings and inform our membership about the work of our local schools. Along with our continuing interests in preschool and career technical education programs, we are staying informed about the investigations into the District's building contracts and the progress of those inquiries. Our LWV Board determined not to get publically involved in those disputes, but to let them play out in court and in the Grand Jury while we have encouraged the District Board and administration to answer the public's questions and open its records.

In addition to our focus on Fresno Unified, we are active in two broader community networks working with Fresno County school districts to enhance the success of Fresno children: The Children's Network and the Civic Education Task Force. On the Children's Network we are working specifically with a work group focused on primary grade attendance. The Civic Education Taskforce is striving to bring citizenship education back as a focus of the school districts in the county and to introduce civic participation into school curricula.



***Join Us in Celebrating 75 Years
Advocating Good Government in Fresno***



Monday, April 18, 2016, 6 p.m.
Roger Rocka's Dinner Theatre
1226 North Wishon Avenue, Fresno

Color Guard courtesy Fresno High School
Entertainment courtesy Roosevelt School of the Arts

Special tribute to Rosellen Kershaw

Speaker: Karen Humphrey, First Female Mayor of Fresno, 1989-1993

\$45 per person; Tables of 10/\$400; Tables of 8/\$320

Please respond by April 1, 2016 using the card enclosed with your invitation

Your tickets will be waiting at the door.

More information? Call 226-5455

Reserve today: Seating at Roger Rocka is limited

Treasurer's Report

by Terri Figgs

The League successfully applied for grant funding to help with a Building Health Communities Initiative. Our activities included hiring a marketing firm to create a public information spot which aired in all Edwards Theaters for several months running, ending at the end of January.

Bette Petersen once again graciously donated \$10,000 to the

League to be awarded to deserving students at Fresno State and Fresno City College. Those awards were made in August at the Ice Cream Social, which also raised \$785 from the silent auction. And for 2016-2017 Bette has once again donated to the League to award scholarships to deserving students.

Membership dues amounted to a little over \$7,900; the majority of that gets paid out to the State and National Leagues as mandatory per member payments.

The League is about to celebrate its 75th Anniversary on April 18 and a committee of Board members has been hard at work on fundraising for that event. The gala will also honor Rosellen, our first fifty-year member and twice a president of the League.



Transportation

by Stephenie Frederick



LWVF continues to hold a position on the Citizen Oversight Committee of Measure C, Fresno County's transportation sales tax. This committee reviews budgets and expenditures, and monitors transit-oriented development, taxi scrip, and commuter van-pool and farm-labor vanpool programs.

An ad-hoc Fresno COG group was formed to consider how best to use the funds that have accumulated in the advanced-technology reserve of Measure C. The group will shortly release a request for proposals for avant-garde transportation projects that would benefit the residents of Fresno County. The LWVF helped to develop the proposal, and will participate in the scoring of proposals scheduled for May 2016.

LWVF continues to be represented on the Transportation Technical Committee (TTC), an advisory body of the Fresno County of Governments. Through the TTC, we follow the use of funds; track projects; receive updates on laws, policies, and programs; and recommend actions to the Fresno COG policy board.

A League representative has joined the Social Services Technical Advisory Council (SSTAC) of the Fresno COG. This body annually assesses the adequacy of public transportation throughout Fresno County and determines whether residents' transportation needs are being "reasonably met". The SSTAC solicits suggestions and requests from dozens of organizations located throughout the county, and holds three public meetings where residents may bring attention to transportation needs.

Independently, and through its association with the Community Equity Coalition (CEC), the League ad



Voter Services

by Marianne Kast



Over the past year, LWVF volunteers registered about 1200 Fresno County high school seniors to vote. We reached out to community partners at Stone Soup, Faith in Community, Mi Familia Vota, the Housing Authority, and others to offer assistance in educating and registering new voters.

We celebrated the passing of California's New Motor Voter Act and look forward to its full implementation in 2017.

In the coming weeks, we will sponsor a candidate's forum in Reedley for the 31st Assembly District special election, and will again provide election day assistance to the Fresno County Registrar of Voters' office in April, June, and November.

And, finally, we will supervise voting by the Associated Students at CSU Fresno this spring.

vocates for transit improvements, for use of flexible funding for transit instead of road repair, for infill development; and for containment of residential-retail sprawl on the periphery of the city.

Preparation of the 2018 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will commence before the end of the year. The League will soon join task forces dedicated to formulating the new plan, which is characterized as a guide for development in Fresno County over the next 25 years. We will concern ourselves particularly with the reduction of climate-warming emissions, and with the use of funds for road construction that furthers sprawl anywhere in the county. Transforming the RTP into a document useful to decision-makers will also be a priority.

WATER

by Diane Merrill



Water was named an issue of local priority during the 2015 program planning meeting. In April 2015 the Fresno LWVF sent a letter to LWVC highlighting local drought impacts and water issues including groundwater overdraft, well failures, deteriorating water quality, land subsidence, and impacts on disadvantaged communities. As a result, Diane Merrill serves as our representative on the LWVC's Water Committee and PhD geologist Bob Merrill provides technical support.

Fresno County contains three critically overdrafted groundwater basins underlying most areas of the county. LWVF advocates for regulations, programs, and infrastructure to address local groundwater overdraft in a comprehensive and cost efficient manner. This includes local implementation of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Diane and Bob attend meetings of the Fresno County

SGMA Working Group, comprised of water and land use agencies from throughout the County and chaired by Supervisors Mendez and Pacheco.

LWVF encourages water agencies in Fresno County to develop groundwater storage and recharge projects that will be competitive for 2014 Proposition 1 water bond funds.

We are communicating with the Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability on social justice issues relating to water in disadvantaged communities.

LWVF is providing input to LWVC on legislation of regional interest relating to water quality including tightening regulations for oil and gas production.

LWVF is also following two electrical transmission projects: a transmission line between Coalinga and southern Madera County, and initial planning for a new substation to serve growth areas in Friant, northeast Fresno, and Clovis. Final decisions on both projects rest with the California Public Utilities Commission.



Student Unit by Lisa Bryant

The Fresno State Student Unit of the League had an exciting year with lots of changes. Dr. Lisa Bryant, in her second year at Fresno State, took over as the Faculty Advisor. The entire slate of last year's officers graduated, leaving several open seats. Alexandra Gallo, a recipient of the Bette Peterson scholarship, took over as President and Andrew Dadasovich filled the role of Vice President.

The Student Unit kicked off the new school year by taking part in Welcome Back Days to recruit new members and register students to vote. They tabled and registered voters for National Voter Registration Day in September and with the Maddy Institute in November.

The Student Unit worked with administration at Fresno State to join a collaborative effort of over 60 college campuses across the U.S. called the National Study of Voting, Learning, and Engagement

to track student voter registration and exchange strategic tips to get college students

registered and out to vote.

In December, students collected toys and books to donate to Valley Children's Hospital.

This spring, the group has been working with the Fresno LWV to organize a series of town hall meetings about higher education in California. The Student Unit has recruited several new members and has two voter registration events organized for Spring 2016.

Behavioral Health

by Francine Farber



Clearly the primary concern this year was the transformation of the Mental Health Board and the Alcohol and Drug Board into the Behavioral Health Board. Members had to reapply and there was some fall-off but also some capable new members signed on. The transformation was marked by various delays including development of new by-laws, approval by the Board of Supervisors, and other procedural matters. The new Board is now fully functional with some open positions still remaining

.Just a year ago the new Central Star Psychiatric Health Facility opened on the grounds of a facility on the Kings Canyon Campus. It serves youth ages 12-17 who are experiencing an acute psychiatric crisis. Sixteen beds are available and counseling, psychiatry, medication support, nursing and rehabilitation services are offered. It accepts Fresno County clients

with Medi-Cal or who are otherwise impoverished. The provider is a collaborator with the County Department of Behavioral Health.

The new BHB with public input recently focused on four goals for the year which they will communicate to the Board of Supervisors. The goals are

- 1. Make additions to our field crisis response services to provide 24/7 service (at least on call) throughout the county.**
- 2. Increase Peer Support Specialist pay \$2.00 per hour, all classifications, each step.**
- 3. Move forward with a permanent supportive housing project in 2016.**
- 4. Establish a residential co-occurring program in 2016. Co-occurring refers to dual diagnoses of mental health and substance abuse disorders.**

My three-year term on both boards has ended. The Voter column on Behavioral Health will be carried on by Carolyn Evans, a committed and capable long-time member of both the old and new boards.

Many thanks to
Dr. Richard Bertken
for his informative
monthly columns
on the
Affordable Care Act.



THANKS
FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR
TO OUR DEDICATED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND OUR MANY
MEMBER VOLUNTEERS



Nyla Zender
President

		2015 - 2016 Budget	2015 -16 Actuals	Proposed 2016-2017
In- com e				
	FUNDS FORWARD	5,000.00		33,700.00
	4010 MEMBERSHIPS	8,800.00	7,915.00	8,800.00
	4020 · DONATIONS	2,675.00	11,292.05	1,500.00
	4030 · GRANTS	10,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
	4040 · ANNUAL MTG INCOME	700.00	450.00	0.00
	4050 FUNDRAISING	5,198.00	-	0.00
	4051 75th SPONSORSHIPS		8,780.00	1,575.00
	4060 · SILENT AUCTION	700.00	785.00	700.00
	4070 · UNDERWRITING	1,600.00	800.00	1,600.00
	4080 · VOTER SERVICES	100.00	200.00	9,100.00
	4100 OTHER INCOME	0.00	45.00	200.00
Total In- com		34,773.00	42,267.05	57,175.00
Ex- pens e				
	5010 · PMP/CA	3,000.00	3,246.11	4,224.00
	5020 · PMP/US	4,000.00	6,144.75	3,246.00
	5030 · DUES/OTHER ORGS	250.00	500.00	250.00
	5110 · PROGRAM PRIORITIES	14,450.00		12,000.00
	5120 · VOTER SERVICES/SMART VOTER	300.00	300.00	500.00
	5130 SCHOLARSHIPS		11,000.00	10,000.00
	5210 · ANNUAL MTG EXPENSE	700.00	1,371.99	10,000.00
	5220 · BOARD/MEMBER EDUCATION	700.00	300.00	1,275.00
	5230 · NATIONAL/STATE CONVENTION	1,500.00	2,501.69	3,500.00
	5320 · EQUIPMENT PURCHASE/RENTAL	100.00	166.93	100.00
	5330 · BANK/FILING FEES	60.00	18.78	70.00
	5340 · LIABILITY INSURANCE	453.00	450.00	450.00
	5350 · MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES	500.00	299.00	500.00
	5360 · OFFICE SUPPLIES	300.00	591.93	500.00
	5370 · POSTAGE	600.00	545.47	600.00
	5380 · PRINTING	2,500.00	2,372.42	2,700.00
	5390 · RENT	4,300.00	3,850.00	4,550.00
	5410 · STUDENT UNIT	100.00		100.00
	5420 · TELEPHONE	700.00	345.27	450.00
	5430 · WEBSITE LEW	160.00	160.00	160.00
	5520 · LOBBYING	100.00		1,000.00
	5540 · Professional Services	0.00	7,650.00	0.00
Total Ex- pens e		34,773.00	41,814.34	56,175.00
Net In- com		0.00	452.71	1,000.00



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by the Nominating Committee for 2015-16

Jennifer Williamson, Chair; Joan Lipton, Patience Milrod

OFFICERS

DIRECTORS

President, Nyla Zender *

Program Planning, Patty Campbell *

Vice President, Voter Services, Marianne Kast **

Membership, Dolores O'Neal *

Vice President, Natural Resources, Mary Savala **

Student Unit, Lisa Bryant *

Secretary, Sue Goldman **

Energy, Diane Merrill *

Treasurer, Terri Figgs **

Transportation, Stephenie Frederick **

Education, Kay Bertken, **

Voter Editor/Past President, Francine Farber *

Nominating Committee for 2016-17: Liz Shields, Chair; Terry Johnson, Joan Lipton,

**** = new two-year term**

*** = one year left on current term**

RECOMMENDED 2016 LOCAL AND NATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Program Planning Meeting was held on February 27 with 23 members in attendance.

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Since this election year will be very busy for Voter Services, we decided to maintain our priorities from last year. They are:

1. water
2. land use planning
3. transportation with an overall concern for our planet.
4. We would also like to plan outreach programs through a speaker's bureau.



NATIONAL PRIORITIES

We support the proposed program focus, Making Democracy Work, for 2016-2018, including Voting Rights, Voter Protection and Service, Election Reform, and Defending the Environment.

We sent a statement saying that climate change should be raised to a higher priority.

On the Behavioral Health concurrence request from another league, we supported the concept and believe the position should be updated to put behavioral health on the same level as mental and physical health, but we did not come to any agreement on whether it should be adopted by concurrence.



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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Nyla Zender
Secretary	Mary Perich
Treasurer	Terri Figs
VP Administration	Vacancy
Director, Program Planning	Pat Campbell
VP Voter Services	Marianne Kast
VP Natural Resources	Mary Savala
Director, Energy	Diane Merrill
Director, Transportation	Stephenie Frederick
Director, Education	Kay Bertken
Director, Student Unit	Lisa Bryant
Director, Membership	Dolores O'Neal
Past President/Voter Editor	Francine Farber
Webmaster: Jacquie Canfield	

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.

Name: _____ Ph. _____ E-mail _____

Address: _____