



The 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 Sheryag

At Large Diane Woody

VOTER Editor

Carol Cowin

Calendar

June 3: Statewide Primary

June 10: Southeast Growth Area Workshop 6-9 p.m.
Fresno Convention Center

June 12: Mayoral Forum at Saroyan Theatre, 5-8 p.m.

June 14-18 : LWVUS Convention in Portland, Oregon

June 18: LWVF Board Meets 5 p.m., League office

Leadership Council Builds "Bridge to the Future"

by Francine Farber and Murray Farber 226-5455

Francine and Murray Farber attended the biennial Leadership Council of LWVC held in Sacramento May 16-18. Francine attended as official delegate, and Murray attended as a member.

Mary Wilson, president of the LWVUS, was the featured speaker on Saturday evening. Mary is a resident of Albuquerque, NM, not Washington D.C., as one might expect. She is an attorney in an Albuquerque law firm and also owns a ranch outside the city. Mary spoke on the importance of the League's "Bridge to the Future". She combined the sophisticated thinking of her message with an appealing native Ohioan style of speaking. She suggested that as we begin to walk across this Bridge to the Future, we need to assess what we want to take with us and what we need to leave behind. **We should not forget the things we leave behind, but recognize that there are new things on the other side of the bridge that we need to tap into.**

Leadership and Technology

She suggested that two of these new things are leadership development and the new technological age. If we want to reach

out to younger recruits, we need to make use of YouTube, MySpace, and other new avenues of communication. She emphasized the grassroots nature of our organization and the need to tap into people at local levels.

Mary was also notable because she purchased one of our League's logo watches, just like 21 others at the Council, yielding more than \$400 for our treasury.

Also addressing the delegates and members was Janis Hirohama, president of the LWVC. She spoke about the importance of the budget process and a grant that LWVC has received from the Irvine Foundation to survey current and future expectations for the League.

PMP to Increase

Council attendees heard a budget presentation which revealed that the Per Member Payment (PMP) will increase by \$1, the first increase since 2004. The office bookkeeper position has been outsourced. It is likely that the sale of the building in which LWVC rents space will lead to moving to new space and a higher rental fee.

Another guest speaker was Peter Scheer, executive director of the California First Amendment Coalition. This non-profit organization advocates for freedom of information and accessible government.

See Leadership, page 4

VISIT OUR WEB SITE FOR CANDIDATE RESPONSES

LWVF is a partner with a number of other local organizations in sponsoring the Mayoral Forum on Poverty on June 12 at 5 p.m. at the Saroyan Theatre. Only the two run-off candidates will appear. All are invited and admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

Forum sponsors posed three questions to all eleven of the mayoral candidates. Five of the candidates have responded to the questions. In alphabetical order they are: Mike Dages, Jerry Duncan, Jeff Eben, Henry T. Perea, and Ashley Swearingen. LWVF webmaster Jacquie Canfield has posted these responses on our web site. To read the candidates' responses go to www.lwvfresno, then click on **Mayor June 2008 Questions**.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Leadership Council I attended in Sacramento recently focused on the theme "Our Bridge to the Future." Speaker Mary Wilson, president of the LWVUS, said she switched around two words and thought about it as "The Bridge to Our Future." which got me to thinking about the future of LWVF.

Right now our membership stands at just about 200, and I have been told that for some time it has ranged from about 180 to 200. That places us as the 19th largest of 67 leagues in California. Marysville-Yuba City is the smallest, with 33 members, while Los Angeles, with 461 members, is the largest (no surprise). Of course LA is much more than twice our size, so our comparatively large membership can be taken as a positive sign.

Another positive sign is that more than one-third of our members have joined in the past eight years. This is symptomatic of a thriving organization that is renewing itself continuously. At the other end, more than 10 per cent of our members are loyal long-timers in the League, having joined in the decades of the fifties, sixties, and seventies. Another group of members joined through the national organization.

So it is clear from an experience point of view that we have a healthy mix. And from a sheer numbers point of view we are doing nicely as well.

But how many times have I heard members express concern about our aging membership? We have been successful in recruiting some younger members recently; this is a reasonable goal for our organization, some of whose long-term members continue to ardently support the philosophy and goals of the League, but for reasons of personal and family needs are no longer able to be as involved in our activities as they used to be.

For this reason we have begun to talk about energizing students, both in high school and college, to think of the League as a place where they can learn about government, social policy and natural resources, while contributing their energy and enthusiasm to our group. We have a number of members who are affiliated with the various universities in Fresno County; we hope to tap into their contacts to encourage both faculty and students to attend a League workshop and learn about what they could bring to League, and what we can offer them. If you are interested in working on this recruitment project, or have any other ideas for broadening membership, I would love to hear from you.

Francine

VOTE

NO

ON PROP

98

**League of Women Voters of California
says NO on 98!**

**"We urge all voters to read the fine print
on Prop. 98..... The League of Women Voters
of California carefully examined
Prop.98 and was left with no choice but to
oppose this deceptive measure."**

Janis Hirohama, President

VOTE

YES

ON PROP 99

Yes on Prop. 99....Real and powerful eminent domain reform with no hidden agendas.

Natural Resources

By Mary Savala 434-1227

Dairies

Advocates for stronger protections against ground water and air pollution have not yet been able to persuade a majority of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to amend the weak regulating ordinance passed last October. In the meantime, the County has been challenged on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the ordinance and that issue has not yet been settled or come to a hearing before a judge.

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air and a private citizen, both represented by Attorney Patience Milrod, have questioned the Air District's Revised Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Bar 20 Dairy near Kerman. The MND includes some analysis of the proposed anaerobic digester and methane pipeline but does not make those mitigations a condition of permitting. The Air District is acting as the lead agency for the EIR in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act which calls for the lead agency to be the agency with the greatest responsibility for supervising or approving the project as whole (ie. location, water, transportation, air, etc) which was the whole point of the County of Fresno enacting a regulatory measure last fall. The Air District itself had written to the County of Fresno in December, 2005, that single-purpose agencies like the District are ill-equipped to evaluate the full spectrum of land use issues

associated with allowing large commercial dairies to be constructed on land originally used for non-livestock agricultural purposes.

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)

CAFOs (hog, dairy, poultry) supply 50% of our meat, dairy, and egg production in the United States, but comprise only 5% of the number of producers. CAFOs are characterized by large numbers of animals crowded into a confined space concentrating a very large amount of manure in a small area with attendant problems for soil, water, and air pollution and the heavy use of antibiotics in livestock to prevent disease.

The Union of Concerned Scientists has published a report under its Sustainable Foods education program which documents the problem, identifies public policies that support CAFOs at the expense of small producers, and attempts to quantify the cost of pollution and disease problems to the taxpayer. The report ends with recommendations to correct what the Union of Concerned Scientists sees as flawed public policies. Its good reading for those who have concerns about CAFOs contributions to air and water pollution in Fresno County. Go to www.ucsusa.org and click on Sustainable Foods to read the report in its entirety.

Membership, Sue Sheragy , 435-1807

Thank you to all who have paid their dues. We will have our records updated as soon as possible. Check your address label to see if your payment is due in April or October. We are also updating the roster. If you have any changes, please email me at Sue.Sheragy@att.net . Please make the following changes in your current roster:

Add: email for **Carol Brylka: cbrylka@aol.com**

Add: new members: **Pat Campbell : 9303 N. Maple #102, Fresno CA 93720, 433-9761, soupsbooks5@comcast.net**

Jul Lowery: 41810 John Muir Dr., Coarsegold CA 93614, 476-0010, Juliannlowery@nctv.com

Tina Leimer: 41810 John Muir Dr., Coarsegold CA 93614, 278-8582, Cleimer@nctv.com

Reinstate: Eve Sproule

We are sorry to hear of the loss of **Marquerite Chittick**, who had joined our league just a year ago. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Peter suggested that the secrecy of contract negotiations with government bodies, which is legal, is detrimental to the public and called for a change in laws to permit final negotiation status to be open to the public before being approved by public bodies.

Council participants also heard from Jean Ross, executive director of the California Budget Project, who gave an insider's view of the May revise of the Schwarzenegger budget. Trudy Schafer, senior director for program at LWVC., spoke about the status of the redistricting initiative. A random sample of petition signatures is being checked for authenticity. We will know if this initiative will be on the November ballot by June 26.

Health Care

The Council featured a number of workshop sessions led by League members. **The Farbers attended workshops on Communications, Education, Mock Elections, The Use of Easy Voter and SmartVoter.org, and Health Care Now.** The Education workshop provided a toolkit filled with an enormous number of reference materials on education in California, to assist in developing public workshops on a variety of education subjects. HealthCare Now revealed that SB 840, a bill to provide single payer insurance for all, has been passed by the Senate and an Assembly committee, but now will get further Assembly review. An astounding fact was that the cost of every car produced by General Motors includes \$1500 for health care, while Toyota incorporates \$97 per car for health care. It is expected that the SB 840 will



not pass in the current session, but its proponents have vowed to get one million people to support it on a grassroots level and ultimately see it become law.

Mock Elections

Panelists from various chapters strongly supported mock elections as a way to engage young people, even at the kindergarten level, in learning about government. Working in cooperation with the Secretary of State and with the National Student-Parent Mock Elections, the program has led to registering high school seniors as voters and has resulted in students taking material home to educate parents. At some schools students have conducted debates, built their own voting booths, designed banners and chosen the offices for which they held their mock elections.

Communications

The Communications program **stressed the importance of promoting messages intended to achieve the specific goals of 3 Ms: Members, Money and Media.** At four break-out sessions, League members received advice on basic ways to reach out to the media including information on how to write a press release. A session devoted to blogs drew a particularly heavy turnout, with chapters reporting vast differences in working with new technology. **At one chapter that seemed especially successful, a volunteer devotes at least a half hour every other day to maintaining a website and responding to blogs.** In its blog policy, San Francisco LWV stressed that it reserves the right to remove vulgar or harassing comments but accepts statements that do not reflect the opinions of the LWV.

<p>True wealth is about more than money. It's about achieving life.®</p>	<p>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</p>
	 <p>Merrill Lynch © 2008 Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated. Member SIPC.</p>
<p>TOTAL MERRILL®</p>	

<p><u>Stone Soup Needs Your Help</u></p>
<p>Stone Soup needs volunteers to help entering kindergarten children from newly-arrived Hmong families get ready to succeed in school. The readiness program will run from June 9 through the 27, Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Schedules are flexible and you can work in any part or in the entire program.</p>
<p>Call Esther at 224-7613 to volunteer or for more information. Orientation is being held on Thursday, June 4 from 9 to 10 a.m.</p>

League of Women Voters Fresno
MINUTES OF THE 67TH ANNUAL MEETING
April 26, 2008

Dolores O'Neal, Secretary

Members Present: Patsy Anderson, Carol Bequette, Keith Berghold, Kay Bertken, Carol Cowin, Sue Cramer, John Donaldson, Francine Farber, Murray Farber, Alberta Ferrer, Terri Figgs, Rosemary Hillman, Margaret Johnson, Elanore Kurtz, Joan Lipton, Bette Noblett, Dolores O'Neal, Charlotte Pavelko, Mary Perich, Alice Powell, Frank Powell, Janet Ryan, Sue Sheragy, Georgia Sisson, Bernice Stone, Shirley Valett, Mickey Witherow, Sylvia Woodburne, Diane Woody and Jane Worsley.

Visitors Present: Dr. David Snyder, Susan Snyder, Bill McEwen.

At 10:05 a.m., **President Francine Farber** called the meeting to order. She welcomed all present and referred attendees to the meeting agenda in the Call.

Introductions were made.

The rules of the day were read by **Alice Powell, Parliamentarian.**

Francine reported that the **minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting were recorded by Carol Penn**, who volunteered in the absence of the Secretary. The minutes were approved. President Farber explained a change in procedure for reporting and approving the minutes of future Annual Meetings: The minutes will be taken, typed and sent to two readers who will note any corrections or additions. Once the necessary changes are made, the readers will approve the minutes, rather than waiting until the next annual meeting.

Bernice Stone and Diane Woody constitute the Reading Committee.

Jane Worsley presented the Treasurer's Report and the Budget Report was approved by consensus. LWV Fresno is in solid financial condition. The education fund includes a \$10,000 donation, to be distributed through a grant process, to middle and high school teachers for special U.S. Constitution projects.

Farber reported that a bouquet of 18 long stemmed red roses was a gift from the widow of Dr. Lee Snyder in appreciation of League's recognition of him.

Past presidents were recognized.

Sue Sheragy reported membership is currently at 200.

Francine Farber introduced the Directors, who presented summaries of their annual reports. The full reports appear in the Call.

The 2008-2009 Budget was presented by Jane Worsley and approved by the members. (M/Noblett, S/ Bertken.)

Georgia Sisson presented the 2008-2009 Local Program Report. On the local, state and national levels, it was recommended to begin no new studies and to retain current positions. Issues for emphasis at the local level are as follows: housing, mental health, land use planning, transportation and education. State positions on which we are working locally are health care (access to health and mental health care) and government (redistricting reform). National issues recommended for emphasis include representative government, social policy and natural resources. The 2008-2009 program was adopted.

Francine Farber informed those present that **Patsy Anderson was relinquishing her responsibility of editing the Voter and will leave the Board. Patsy was recognized for her many years of active service to League including publishing the Voter. Carol Cowin** will take over the Voter. **Diane Woody was nominated and elected Member at Large to the Board of Directors.** Other Board members will serve the second year of their terms.

Rosemary Hillman invited members to the New Member Brunch on May 3 at Stone Soup. The brunch will be implemented as a regular LWVF activity.

Jane Worsley encouraged members to attend the National Convention in Portland, Oregon in June.

The third Annual Werner Lipton Award was presented posthumously to Lee Snyder, M.D. and accepted by Dr. Snyder's son, Dr. David Snyder and his wife, Susan. Dr. Lee Snyder was selected because of his many years of tireless commitment to improving the air quality in the San Joaquin Valley.

The meeting was concluded at noon, followed by luncheon speaker, Fresno Bee columnist **Bill McEwen**, who spoke on the topic "Engaging Voters and Increasing Voter Turnout." In addition, City of Fresno Assistant Planning Director **Keith Berghold** shared information on *The Regional Blueprint and the Southeast Growth Area Specific Plan*. **Georgiana M. Vivian** of VRPA made a presentation on high-speed rail.


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**,

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
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

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.

Fresno • Selma • Merced
www.eyevisioncare.com

1 800 DR VISION
559.486.2000

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



Lee Horwitz
President

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



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:	
Leadership Council, Calendar	1
President's Message	2
Natural Resources, Membership	3
Housing, LWVUS News Release	4
Annual Meeting Minutes	6
Our Sponsors	7

Mailing Address Line 1
 Mailing Address Line 2
 Mailing Address Line 3
 Mailing Address Line 4

Democracy is not a spectator sport

Address: _____
 Name: _____
 E-mail _____
 Ph. _____

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 Sheryg, 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