



The Fresno VOTER

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Francine Farber

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Jackie Canfield

Calendar

CHANGE OF DATE

Saturday, June 12 (not June 5)
Brunch for
New and Prospective Members
10-11:30 a.m., League Office

June 11-15
LWVUS National Convention
Atlanta

Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2010
League Office

Saturday, July 24
Board Annual Retreat
9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Home of Francine Farber
707 West Fairmont Ave., Fresno

August 26 or 27
(date to be determined)
Ice Cream Social

Leadership Council speaker tells of Latin American gains for women by Francine Farber

The biennial Leadership Council of the LWVC was held in Sacramento May 14-16 with Georgia Sisson attending as a delegate from our local league and Francine Farber attending as a member of the Nominating Committee.

The necessary procedures included a daily count of attendees, who numbered about 100 and represented a 22% increase over the previous Council two years ago. The undeniable highlight was the banquet speaker Saturday night, who was Zaida Arguedas. She has served as the Deputy Executive Director of the LWVUS and Director of its Global Democracy Programs for the past 10 years.

Arguedas is Costa Rican Native



PRESIDENT LAURA CHINCHILLA OF COSTA RICA

Ms. Arguedas is a native of Costa Rica and graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Alabama with a BA in international relations and later received a master's degree in public policy and Latin American studies from the University of Kansas. She linked the 90th anniversary of the LWVUS with the history of female political leaders in Latin American countries.

Tells of First Female President

As we sat down to dinner we saw a large screen with a constantly running loop of still photographs of female Latin American leaders during the past 90 years. It was only in 1949 that Costa Rican women were officially given the right to vote and this was not fully implemented until 1954. A few months ago, Ms. Arguedas, who holds dual citizenship, traveled from League headquarters in Washington D.C. to her native country so that she could vote for Laura Chinchilla. On May 8 of this year, Sra. Chinchilla was inaugurated as Costa Rica's first female president.

(continued on page 4)

President's Message



I was asked to be on the Nominating Committee for the State League at the Leadership Council on May 14-16. I was a replacement for a member of the committee who had been elevated to the State Board due to a resignation on that body, so I came on after some of the preliminary work had been accomplished.

The other two members, plus two state Board members, quickly caught me up to speed with e-mails flying back and forth furiously. Feeling a little guilty about not having participated in the preliminaries, I volunteered to design a flyer which was then inserted into all the packets at Council.

The work of the Committee was very different from what I anticipated. It was certainly a lot more than I anticipated! From late Friday night through early Sunday morning I participated in nine interviews of current state Board members and staff. We had a set list of questions which we asked, and followed up with questions for the individuals as necessary.

This process gave me an opportunity to meet many of the 13 Board members. With the two or three that I already knew and my previous contacts with office staff, I came away feeling much more a part of the State League and certainly gained valuable insights into the trials and tribulations of the Board and staff. I was fortunate enough to interview President Janis Hirohama and Executive Director Jill Newcom. Needless to say, all of them are highly devoted to their responsibilities and spend an enormous amount of time on their volunteer work, in the case of the Board, or employment, in the case of the staff.

During all of the interviews we asked Board and staff about which people they thought warranted and would accept another term, and whether there were any people they had run across in the local leagues who should be approached with the idea of nominating them. Several names surfaced a number of times, which was comforting, but we are also depending on local league members to nominate themselves or others. Please read the Nominating Form inserted in this issue and give thought to whether you know anyone who would make a good State Board member. The Board meets every other month and transportation and other specified Board expenses are reimbursed.

Francine

New Members

Jeffrey and Marianne Kast
741 West Sierra Madre
Fresno, CA 93705-1614
222-6218
mk105@csufresno.edu

Ofra Pleban
3262 West Alluvial
Fresno, CA 93711
448-8941

Ofra.pleban@gmail.com

I was born in Israel and served two years in the army there. I have a BA in Social Work from Hebrew University and also studied fine art. I worked as a graphic designer and then went back to school and earned a law degree. I currently work at Central California Legal Services where I assist low income residents, especially regarding predatory lending and foreclosure issues.

Judith Reposo
1106 East Buckingham Lane
Fresno, CA 93704
227-7970
jmreposito@earthlink.net

BRUNCH FOR NEW & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Saturday, June 12
10 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
(previous date of June 5 is changed)



League Office at Stone Soup
1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno
RSVP

League answering machine 226-8683
or fmfarber@hotmail.com

Be Sure to Vote in the State-wide Primary on June 8

Education

By Kay Bertlen



Three Fresno Unified Schools have been identified among the 187 listed as California's Persistently Underperforming Schools: Webster Elementary, Carver Academy (a 5-8 Middle School) and Yosemite Middle School (7-8). The State's release of this list was required by legislation passed this winter as part of California's application for Federal Race to the Top funds. The fate of these schools will be determined from a list of four options provided by the State and reflecting the direction of current federal education reform interests. The options are termed 1) the Turnaround Model, 2) the Restart Model, 3) School Closure and 4) the Transformation Model. At its May 12 meeting, the FUSD School Board delayed its determination among these choices until its May 26 meeting. This is new and uncomfortable territory for California school districts.

Four Options Explained

The Restart option involves closing the school and reopening it as a Charter School. The School Closure option is just that: close the school and transfer the students elsewhere. The Turnaround and Restart are the two options available for a district that would like to maintain its traditional control of the schools. Both require the replacement of the school principal and major reforms.

The Turnaround requires screening of the current school staff and rehiring no more than 50% of them. It requires designating a new school model for the site—a themed program, for example. It gives the new principal considerable control over the school's staffing, budget and calendar. Instead of an initial turnover of the staff and redefinition of the school, the Transformation Model

requires the development and use of a rigorous evaluation model and incentives for teachers and principals that will reward effective and remove ineffective personnel. Both models allow for extensive professional development, reformed data systems, extended school days and curriculum review and reforms.

More Schools Meet Targets

The State released its 2009 Academic Performance Index Reports this month, enumerating student performance on last spring's round of testing. Fifty-one (59%) of Fresno Unified's schools met their growth targets. Another 19 (22%) improved their scores but not enough to meet their targets, and 17 schools (20%) had scores that remained the same as last year or declined. The percentage distribution almost exactly mirrors the state distribution. **Fresno's lowest performing schools outperformed the comparable schools across the state.**

While all of the major ethnic subgroups in FUSD improved their scores, the differential between the scores for non-Hispanic White students was nearly 100 points higher than the scores for the other ethnic subcategories. These major differentials continue to challenge the District.

Promising Poll for Bond Issue

At an April Board workshop, the Trustees heard the report of a recent community poll about the prospects of a facilities bond issue that might be put on the ballot in November of this year. **In spite of the dismal economic climate, there was remarkably strong support among likely voters—well above the 55% that would be required to pass a bond measure.** The consultants presenting

the report noted similar positive reactions to possible school bonds or parcel taxes around the state. They noted that there appears to be broad public awareness of the negative effect of state budget cuts on their schools and an evident willingness to make local efforts to compensate. The Trustees will be voting soon whether to put a proposed bond issue on the November ballot.

Training for Redistricting

The League is training observers to watch and evaluate the selection process for the citizens who will oversee redistricting of California. **They are asking for people to watch videos of the process and then fill out questionnaires that will be made public and evaluate the process.** Completed questionnaires will be posted on CAVotes.org and, eventually, collated for a *Public Report Card* on how the process worked, and what improvements or changes should be contemplated for the next round of redistricting in 2021.

Training is free, but you must register in advance. The training will be held over GoToMeeting, so you must have a computer and either a phone or VOIP (voice over IP) in order to participate. The training will be held on June 17th. More information and links to register can be found at <http://cavotes.org/event/2010/june/redistricting-observer-corps-and-media-watch-training>

Interested members may begin by viewing the Applicant Review Panel (ARP) on June 1, 2010. All public meetings of the ARP are streamed live on the Internet, and videos of the three meetings already held are available at <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov>.



Leadership Council

(continued from page 1)

Ms. Arguedas has managed international programs for Muslim women from Kenya, for civic leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan and for women in political leadership in Brazil.

New LWVC Budget Changes



Another important aspect of the Council was the presentation and voting on the budget for FY 2010-2011. Interestingly although usually there is a

long line at microphones waiting to comment and question the budget, this year the budget passed in a few minutes.

The budget reflects an increase in

Per Member Payment (PMP) of \$1, to \$23. The budget also broadens earned revenue sources by imposing fees for value-added services provided to local leagues. A 3% administrative charge on local league premiums for liability insurance and a 3% charge on local league education fund balances were enacted. A local league may establish its own education fund if it wishes to avoid this charge.

Additional grant funding is being sought to finance the November 2010 Easy Voter Guide Project, beyond what has already been received from the Irvine Foundation.

The new budget reflects an increase of 18 percent because next year is a convention year and there are higher revenues and expenses associated with it. On the other hand, the Education Fund budget reflects an increase of only 3 percent. While last year the Ed Fund needed a contribution from LWVC to bring it into balance, this is no longer true.

Proposal for Education Study

A study proposal recommended by the LWVUS board is being supported by the California League. The proposal is to study the role of the federal government in public education focusing on the basic goals for public education, the relationship between national, state and local levels, and the movement toward common core standards. The League has a long-standing commitment to children and families, access, equal opportunity and good government. Without a national position on public education, we can take no part in ongoing deliberations about the increasing federal role in education.



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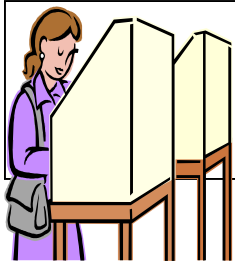
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Voter Services

by Liz Shields

Prop Guide from LWVC

- ◆ *Yes on 15*
- ◆ *No on 16*
- ◆ *Neutral on Others*

Candidate Forums

Thanks to Bill Murphy for acting as moderator for the candidate forums taped for the League by the Fresno County Office of Education. As usual he conducted the proceedings masterfully.

The forums were made available on Channel 98 beginning May 24, nightly at 6:30 p.m. They were also made available on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. on Channel 96.



Thanks also go to Eileen Bryan, Pat Campbell and Carolyn Murphy for time keeping. Dolores O'Neal and Radley Reep greeted the candidates and escorted them to the studio. Thanks also go to Paul Gong, Digital Media Specialist and his capable production crew. Jan Biggs, Senior Administrator to the Superintendent, facilitated the proceedings.

Candidates running for Board of Supervisors, Districts 1 and 4, the four candidates running for Fresno County Assessor-Recorder office and candidates running for City Council, Districts 3, 5 and 7 participated in the forums. All these races are non-partisan races. Districts 3 and 5 have eight candidates each which necessitated dividing the groups into two sessions for each district. Mr. Cano running against Mr. Xiong in District 1 was unable to attend so there is no tape for that race. All the other candidates for City Council participated.

DVDs of the forums are available and are copyrighted to the League. Channel 30 and the Fresno Bee have requested copies for their web sites

I also assisted Channel 30 this week with time-keeping for the Republican and Democratic candidate forums they hosted for the 19th Congressional District being vacated by George Radanovich.

Easy Voter Guide

Francine Farber's letter to the Bee resulted in requests for 20 individual copies of the Easy Voter Guide as well as several sets of 20 - 40 copies delivered to organizations. The library got 2000 copies in English and 1000 copies in Spanish. Thanks also to League members who delivered many copies to various other organizations.

Unfortunately, after many copies of the Easy Voter Guide were distributed, the LWVC sent out a notice about errors in the Guide. The Guide was sent to the printer earlier than usual and some candidates who later withdrew were still included, while others who submitted later than usual were omitted. Further, this year the Secretary of State's office did not co-sponsor the Guide but his co-sponsorship was still listed on the cover. LWVC sincerely regrets these errors, but the Guide remains useful and the material on all propositions is accurate.

High School Voter Registration Project

Our participation in the High School Voter Registration project has been extended until October 30, 2010 to allow us to organize school assemblies for presentation of voter registration material at Sunnyside High School and Kerman High School at the beginning of the fall semester. Other schools may be added to the list by the project designers at the National



League Office

Charlotte Pavelko and I presented voter registration material in classroom settings to seniors at Fowler High in May and registered 24 students. I performed the same program at Hoover High and

registered 15 students. Many of them were not eligible due to birthdates later in the year or had already registered.

Natural Resources

by Mary Savala



John Donaldson, Georgia Sisson and I attended a seminar on Global Warming at UCMerced recently. Besides enjoying the spring visit to the new UC campus, the seminar was a wonderful opportunity to hear the best climatologists in the world talk about the latest climate information and research technology as well as the challenges in communicating the urgency of the issue.

The lectures covered evidence since the 2007 IPCC report and a good explanation of the research process whereby that information is obtained. The lectures also covered the complexity of the many factors that affect greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change, such as population growth, economics and energy. Trying to teach climate change has illustrated the conflict between cultural and religious values and scientific methods and evidence. The speakers were also forthright about the deliberate attempt by special interests to confuse and simplify the issues and how confusion and falsehood might be overcome. The lecturers, all prominent and respected scientists, urged the audience, including other scientists, to be advocates for reducing greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activities.



That afternoon experience prompted me to visit the web site of LWVUS to read about League position and find links to getting better educated in order to take responsible action.

LWVUS believes that global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

LWVUS believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go further on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. AB32 and SB375 in California are efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

Watch to see how these legislative initiatives are implemented by local government. Go to www.lwv.org and click on Global Climate Change under Take Action for more info.

And try www.copenhagenagnosis.org for latest results on global warming.

LWVUS Statement on Climate Bill

We are pleased to see the long-awaited release of the comprehensive climate and energy bill, and we appreciate the tenacity of Senators Kerry and Lieberman in maintaining forward movement on this urgent issue.

We especially appreciate that programs for international adaptation and reduced emissions from deforestation are included in the discussion draft.

However, we are deeply disappointed by the overall lack of adequate investments in international action to tackle climate change, including the absence of any program for clean energy promotion.

These investments are squarely in America's interest. Without these investments, we will miss a critical opportunity to create new American jobs, help avert global instability, foster our national security, and mobilize the global climate action needed to solve a problem that is already affecting communities here in the US and around the world.

Achieving these goals will require significant, predictable and near-term investments for climate resilient solutions in vulnerable countries and communities hardest hit by climate impacts, cost-effective efforts to reduce emissions by protecting tropical forests, and incentives to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies.

These investments will also strengthen our national security by limiting the global instability caused by climate impacts. **They will protect past development gains and ensure that the poorest and most vulnerable populations, including women, can tackle climate change.**


They will help build upon a strong international consensus to minimize emissions from tropical deforestation, one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases. And they will help us to build global leadership on clean energy that can create more jobs here in the United States.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support in "Making Democracy Work."
 League members who wish to be sponsors or to secure sponsorship for us, may contact Francine Farber at 226-5455

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SPECIAL INSERT: LWVC Nominations Form and minutes of LWVF Annual Meeting	

Democracy is not a spectator sport

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 .

NONPARTISANSHIP: 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.

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, Dolores O’Neal at 435-1185**. Prospective members receive one issue of *The Fresno Voter* free.

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.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$60 ~ Family - \$90 (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: _____

DO YOU HAVE A NOMINEE FOR THE STATE BOARD? THEN COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SUBMIT IT AS BELOW.

To: LWVC Nominating Committee for 2011-2013 State Board of Directors

Recommended for nomination to the LWVC Board is

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Why are you nominating this person to the State Board?

What qualities and expertise does this person have which would be valuable in her/his work on the LWVC Board of Directors: (Continue on a second page if needed.)

Signature: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail _____

Please send this form by June 30, 2010 to

Kate Quick, Nominating Chair

1437 Ninth Street, Alameda, CA 94501

Home: 510 523-3612 Cell: 510 610-4042

nominating@lwvc.org

Self nominations are welcome. Please use a separate form for each nomination.

SEND TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR ADDRESS ABOVE. DO NOT SEND TO THE STATE OFFICE. THANK YOU.

MINUTES OF THE 69TH ANNUAL MEETING, LWVF

APRIL 17,2010

Submitted by Pat Campbell, Secretary, Approved by Reading Committee Eileen Bryan and Bernice Stone

Ratified by the LWVF Board on May 18, 2010

- At 9:35, President Francine Farber called the meeting to order. She noted that next year would be our 70th year and a big party is to be planned for February. Diane Blair and Jane Worsley will co-chair the planning committee. She welcomed all present and referred everyone to the meeting agenda in the Call.
- President Farber then introduced the current Board. Terri Figgs was absent.
- Alice Powell, Parliamentarian, read the rules of the day.
- Last year a new policy of reading the minutes was started. They will be read by two readers. Once any changes are made, they will be submitted to the Board for approval. They will then be printed in the Voter.
- Eileen Bryan and Bernice Stone will be this year's Reading Committee.
- Jane Worsley presented the Treasurer's Report which was approved.
- Past Presidents present at the meeting were recognized. They were Mary Savala (75-77, 99-01, 01-03), Jane Worsley (79-81), Georgia Sisson (81-83), Bette Noblett (83-85), Shirley Valett (89-91), and Joan Lipton (95-97). Georgia Sisson was given special recognition because she is retiring from the Board. She was thanked for her many years of service to the League in several capacities.
- Dolores O'Neal gave the membership report. The goal was to increase membership and diversity. Since the last Annual meeting, membership has increased by 23 new members. We have a total of 211 members plus 7 student members.
- The Directors gave their reports. The complete reports may be found in the Call. Each director tied their report to the Board goals that had been set for 2009-2010.
- Mary Savala presented the 2010-2011 budget. She explained that dues are consistent, donations are down, voter income has been down but may increase, and fundraisers may be necessary. Dolores O'Neal moved to adopt the budget. Eileen Bryan seconded it. The budget was approved.
- Georgia Sisson presented the 2010-2011 Local Programs. Campaign Finance Reform was the issue chosen at the national level. On the local level, education (charter schools), transportation, and reviewing the City Charter Section 1504 were the chosen issues. Alberta Ferrer moved to approve the local program. Liz Shields seconded it. The 2010-2011 local program was approved.
- Shirley Valett presented the slate of officers and Board members. She read who was staying for the 2010-2011 year. They are Francine Farber, President, Liz Shields, Vice President/Voter Services, Pat Campbell, Secretary, Dolores O'Neal, Membership, and Diane Blair, Student Unit. Recommended for officers are Terri Figgs, Vice-President/Program Planning, Kay Bertken, Vice-President/Administration, and Jane Worsley, Treasurer. Those recommended for directors are Mary Savala, Natural Resources, John Donaldson, Transportation, and Eileen Bryan, At-Large. Alberta Ferrer moved to accept the slate, and Kay Bertken seconded it. The slate was approved.
- At 11:45 we broke for the luncheon catered by Hewitt Catering.
- This year the Werner Lipton Award for advocacy was given to William Simon. Jane Worsley introduced Bill who is a retired P.G.&E. employee. He is a member of the Peace and Justice committee and St. Paul's Newman Center. He started the Northern chapter of the ACLU and advocates for the homeless.
- President Farber introduced our guest speaker, Eddie Aubrey, who is Fresno's first Independent Police Auditor. Before he became Fresno's Auditor, he was a police officer, a prosecutor for nine years, and a judge. He approached every job hoping he would add value, make a difference, and help others to succeed. He lives his life by a strong code of ethics and integrity.
- The Annual Meeting adjourned at 1:35.