



Phone: 559-226-VOTE

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

# The *Fresno* **VOTER**



### **BOARD MEETING CHANGE**

**Regular Board meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month.**

**Monday, June 20**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**5 p.m., League Office**

**Friday, July 29**  
**Board Retreat, 9 a.m.—noon**  
**Home of Mary Savala**

**Monday, August 22**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**5 p.m., League Office**

**TUESDAY, August 23**  
**Ice Cream Social & Auction**  
**Scholarship Presentation**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Details to follow**

## **LWVF consensus reviews Higher Ed study**

by Francine M. Farber

**N**ever at a loss for words, League members had a lively discussion about Higher Education topics when they participated in the consensus meeting for the state study last month. Liz Shields served on the LWVVC committee to develop issues and questions for the study. She led the local workshop along with Jacquie Canfield and Lisa Bryant.

Discussions centered around five areas: the purpose of higher education, equitable access, funding and affordability, preparedness, and opportunities/barriers to success. The “purpose” area had multiple questions which participants ranked as very important, important less important, not important, or no consensus, both at the beginning and end of the meeting. There was no change in their rankings.

The other areas had statements with which participants had to strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree, or acknowledge that there was no consensus. Members strongly agreed or agreed with almost all of the statements. The one statement that provoked strong disagreement was with regard to a funding question and proposed that the state should pay for all higher education tuition and fees.

As a possibility for increasing access and reducing barriers to success, it was proposed that community colleges might offer four-year programs with the attainment of a BA or BS degree. The participants could not reach consensus on this issue.

Our League’s results from the consensus meeting have been forwarded to LWVC, which is collating results from throughout the state. The LWVC Board will eventually decide whether there is sufficient consensus to publish an official position. If so, it will be circulated widely to the member leagues and the public.

# President's Message



This month the LWVUS will host the National convention in Washington, D.C. The program up for adoption is a League-wide campaign for "Making Democracy Work". The core democracy issues included Voter Protection, Election Reform, Money in Politics, Constitutional Amendment Process and Redistricting.

Some of the suggested actions on these topics include: push for restoration of the Voting Rights Act by supporting the Voting Rights Advancement Act; support on-line voter registration; allow voters to register through federal health care exchanges; support legislation stopping Super PAC's; have public financing of congressional and presidential campaigns; oppose efforts of states that legislate voter suppression laws; support expansion of early voting and support S2611, the Federal Election Administration Act of 2016 that would change the Federal Elections Commission from 6 to 5 members with two from each party and a fifth appointed on a nonpartisan basis.

Convention information from LWVUS indicates that much is needed from local Leagues. The convention statement to us reads, "In recent years local league voter service has joined the front lines of voter protection. The 2016 election will be the first presidential election in 50 years in which voters cannot rely on the protections of the Voting Rights Act to ensure free and fair access to the polls. Registering voters in underserved communities, high schools, community colleges, and at naturalization ceremonies has become the primary focus of our voter service work. Long-standing relationships with elections officials have already produced good results in preventing careless or not so careless decisions regarding precinct locations and distribution of polling place resources. More is required. It is critical that, in this upcoming election, we promote and support a local presence in our most vulnerable communities by working together with community partners and using our 95 years of election experience to protect voters in this and future elections."

We can be proud of the LWV Fresno voter service activities. We already do what is being asked and it would be great if many League members volunteer to assist with our voter service efforts. Call Marianne Kast, Voter Service Director, at 279-7937.

*Nyla*

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

**Mailing Address: 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710**

**Volume 75, No. 6 \* Editor: Francine Farber**

## Member News

### LAST CALL—PLEASE SEND IN YOUR APRIL DUES RENEWAL

#### Roster changes

##### New phone

Howard Watkins  
355-7040

##### Corrected address & phone

Kathy Webb  
225 Schooner Ct.  
Richmond, CA 94804  
209-363-3426

#### New members

Jonica & James Bushman  
7637 N. Cheryl Avenue  
Fresno, 93711  
930-3649  
[jandjbushman@csufresno.edu](mailto:jandjbushman@csufresno.edu)

Dr. Tanya Fisher  
P.O. Box 1004  
Kingsburg, CA 93631

Marie Slater  
655 East Michigan Avenue  
Fresno, 93704  
224-5241  
[mcsfresno@gmail.com](mailto:mcsfresno@gmail.com)

The League is now a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization so your dues payments and all donations are tax deductible and gratefully accepted.

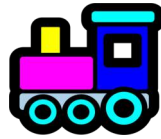
**A League donation is a great birthday or holiday gift or as a memorial.**

**Make checks out to LWVF  
1345  
Bulldog  
Lane  
Fresno,  
CA  
93710**

thank  
you!

# Transportation

by Stephenie Frederick



Madera County approved a huge development called Tesoro Viejo in 2012, to be built east of Highway 41, across the river from the City of Fresno. The project is destined to swallow up 1,656 acres of rangeland. It will have 5,190 houses and three million square feet of commercial space.

The City of Fresno filed a lawsuit against Madera County because of the potential effects of the giant project. Tesoro Viejo has the potential to flood the city's transportation infrastructure with thousands of commuters and consumers – at no expense to Madera County or McCaffrey, the developer, but at considerable expense to the City of Fresno.

The lawsuit is still alive in 2016. However, the two jurisdictions agreed to collect data on existing traffic flows in order to create a baseline they both agree is accurate and to inform a future fiscal impact analysis. Findings include:

- ◆ Northbound and southbound traffic flows are roughly equal throughout the day.
- ◆ Roughly 85% of observed vehicles were registered in Fresno or Madera counties.
- ◆ On SR 99, more trips began in Fresno County.
- ◆ On SR 41, more trips began in Madera County.
- ◆ Madera-to-Fresno work trips mainly occur on SR 41.
- ◆ Roughly 10% of inter-county trips use Avenue 12

. Some of the forces that are at work in huge developments in rural Fresno and Madera counties are economic. Developers can build more profitably on raw land than within urban boundaries. Farmers and ranchers are willing to sell their land because their offspring are not interested in continuing to farm or ranch; the sales provide needed retirement funds.

Some of the forces are social. Much of Fresno city is afflicted with crime, blighted neighborhoods, homeless people, gangs, and neglected infrastructure. The struggling city does not present an inviting prospect.

Finally, some of the forces are demographic. In 2015, the population of California increased by 348,241. That is one city's worth of people. We can expect the same in 2016 and in each succeeding year. Where will California absorb all of these people . . . or to put it another way, where will California place its new cities? The great metro areas are so crowded and expensive that they will not absorb much of the increase. That leaves the Central Valley, north and south.

New, extensive development is inevitable. We cannot keep it from occurring, but we must try to influence how it occurs, and sometimes where. Those who stand to profit from the new development must responsibly pay for the demands that their projects will place on transportation infrastructure, air quality, services, and water resources.

## Water News



The water committee reported that LWVC is following three California bills: SB 1713, which limits bisphenol A in containers used for food for babies and toddlers; SB 1262, which conserves water during the long sustainable groundwater management act process; and SB 1318, which ensures that disadvantaged groups and towns receive drinkable water.

The Monterey Amendment gave water storage rights to Kern County, and the rights ended up as a water bank in private hands. The Kern County water bank may be the only private water bank in California; individuals and companies may purchase water from it. Kern County farmers are paying for water they are not receiving; their allotments are based on "over-allocations" of water, a problem rampant in California. It means that water resources are over-estimated but contracted out anyway.

State water storage partners are the departments of Water Resources (DWR) and Fish & Wildlife, and the California State Water Board. The DWR will publish climate-change scenarios this summer, and will be making recommendations to the California Water Commission. The commission has been evaluating proposals and applications having to do with its water storage investment program.

- S. Frederick



According to recent news articles, hospital errors are the third leading cause of death in the US, after cardiovascular disease and cancer. Over 250,000 deaths annually have been attributed to mistakes committed by our inpatient health care system, says an article published in a recent issue of the British Medical Journal that set off the news flare.

This information is not new. Every few years news articles on hospital errors “trend” for a while, reporting annual rates of doctor-caused hospital deaths in the range of 100,000 to 400,000. These reports are based on labor-intensive reviews of hospital charts, chosen on the basis of flagged diagnostic codes, performed by various government health agencies. This process would likely underestimate the incidence of lethal error, because diagnostic codes are a crude tool for identifying medical mishaps. The author of the article, Martin Makary, Johns Hopkins professor of surgery and a health reform authority, makes this clear: "Incidence rates for deaths directly attributable to medical care gone awry haven't been recognized in any standardized method... The medical coding system was designed to maximize billing for phy-

sician services, not to collect national health statistics."

Dr. Makary's approach to forming an estimate of medical errors was simply to merge multiple studies done between 2002 and 2009, develop a plausible statistic for the overall rate of doctor-caused deaths, and extrapolate to total hospital admissions in 2013. He did not devise a new chart review process or discover a new key to identifying charts more likely to reveal medical mistakes. He did not improve the astoundingly subjective, standard definition of medical error or propose a grading system for degrees of error. It would take a hundred million dollar grant to complete that study.

What Dr. Makary did was publicize the problem, in service, I think, of moving the public and our government to progress more rapidly in creating a national health record database. Many medical errors will be prevented by computerized health records, once they escape from their stifling bondage to billing and begin to incorporate a lot more intelligence. But there will be no substitute for a national database for evaluating the performance of our healthcare system.

## Online Registration

Rhode Island, Tennessee and Wisconsin have joined the list of 31 states that have, or will soon have, online voter registration systems. Similar to most online registration bills, all of the new bills introduced in 2016 require voters to already have state IDs or a driver's license to register online - leaving out many citizens who do not have a license or the ability to obtain one. While there is not currently online registration in Ohio, the League of Women Voters in Ohio has worked with coalition members to garner broad support of a bill to create an online system and are hopeful it will pass soon.

Automatic voter registration was another popular reform introduced in legislatures across the country. Despite a strong movement, out of the 28 states that introduced legislation in 2016, only a handful passed the reform. West Virginia became the third state in the country to pass automatic voter registration and Vermont legislators passed a bill in late April to become the fourth state. Alaskans will have the opportunity to vote on a ballot measure in November to create an automatic voter registration system.

While West Virginia and Vermont's new laws tie automatic registration to the Department of Motor Vehicles, Alaska's proposal would create a system based on the state's Permanent Dividend Fund. Nearly every Alaskan resident is enrolled in the Permanent Dividend Fund, a state resource from oil profits that provides annual checks to every resident. and therefore is a more complete database



# Voter Services

by Marianne Kast



As you read this, LWVF Voter Services volunteers are still assisting the Fresno County Elections Department with this month's Consolidated Presidential Primary Election. If you were able to attend our Elections Warehouse field trip in May, you saw the complexity of putting on an election and the person-hours required to complete the voting process.

Some people feel that in the future, voting will be largely or completely vote-by-mail. I'm thinking that some very smart machinery will be needed for that to be feasible, since now the process is so labor intensive.

## **City provides mobile app**

**A mobile app to improve customer service has been launched by the City of Fresno as FresGO. Available in 17 languages, the application enables residents to report problems including illegal dumping, code enforcement problems, building violations, water problems and many other quality of life issues. Users can snap a photo and send it directly to City Hall. It is a free service available in the Apple App Store, Google Play or directly through the City of Fresno website at [www.fresno.gov/fresgo](http://www.fresno.gov/fresgo). You may still call in requests to 621-CITY.**

You may have received an email from the LWVUS encouraging you to sign a petition asking President Obama to bring the Affordable Care Act into compliance with the National Voter Registration Act. At this time, those who use the federal-run, national health care exchange (rather than their own state-run exchanges) for signing up for health care, are not asked if they would like to register to vote. The League is actively working to change this oversight, and make the process of signing up for healthcare yet another path to voter registration.

## **Our newest board member**

Sue Goldman, our new Board secretary, gained her first knowledge of the League as a child due to her mother being involved with the organization. Sue's participation in a Mental Health Lunch & Learn spurred her to join LWVF.

Her career as a school psychologist began at the Fresno County Office of Education, where she spent a decade working with hearing impaired students. For the past 29 years she has worked for Clovis Unified as a school psychologist for elementary intervention programs and as the psychologist for the Gifted and Talented Program. Semi-retired, she continues to work two days a week in high school intervention classes for students with emotional disturbance.

Sue was born in New York City. Her undergraduate degree is from SUNY Albany. Her junior year at the University of Nottingham, England, gave her a love for travel. She received her M.S. degree from Fresno State.

## **We note with deep regret the death of two LWVF members**

Vickie Haas, a League member for 35 years, passed away on May 8. She was the wife of Dr. Richard Haas, who received the Lipton Award at our recent 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Vickie worked for many years as the program manager for the Retired Senior Volunteers Program and in that capacity provided the first office for the League in its building on Fulton Street. A celebration of her life will be held during the summer, at a date to be announced.

Dr. Robert Merrill, a League member for 8 years and professor emeritus of earth and environmental science at Fresno State, died on May 13. Bob was the husband of Board member Diane Merrill. He was widely known for his expertise in water geology and his frequent presentations on scientific topics, as well as for articles and letters in the Fresno Bee. A memorial service will be held for Bob at the Unitarian Church on Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m.

# Education

by Kay Bertken



**Next FUSD Board Meetings**

**June 1 and June 15**

**Watch on Comcast channels 94 or 98**

**AT&T U-Verse Channel 99**

Budget proposals have been the heart of Board meetings and a community FTA meeting in the last weeks. The one-page FTA platform proposes a reduction in class sizes from K through 12 and the hiring of full time Registered Nurses, Health Assistants, Social Workers, Psychologists, and Safety Assistants at each school site that does not have one. In addition, the FTA wants more inclusion in the budget proposal process.

## **Money for English Learners**

In the meantime, the Board has approved 2.5 million additional dollars as initial support for the new English Learner Task Force recommendations. Those recommendations include bolstering the recruiting and development of bilingual teachers as well as involving all teachers and school leaders in professional learning so that all teachers and educational leadership are engaged and addressing the needs of bilingual students.

## **Expanded learning time**

Expanded learning time was another recommendation. The district proposes to expand after school programs at schools with the highest percent of EL students; partner with Early Learning to support dual language learning for pre-kindergarten and younger; increase the size of the English Language summer program; and add 8

teachers to provide Hmong language and culture programs at all the high schools.

The Task Force recommended increasing the involvement of parents of English Language Learners. With that in mind the district proposes expanding work with Parent University, expanding Family Literacy and Culture sessions, and expanding courses for parents of all Early Learners.

## **Additional staff needed**

The Board also reviewed its increased commitment to individual school budgets. That allocation has increased from \$15.5 million in 2013-14 to \$25.9 million for next year. Those school funds are allocated by the school site councils, made up of teachers, administrators and parents, to target specific school needs. For next year, the majority of those funds will go to fund 43 additional teachers, and 42 family liaison positions plus other classroom positions such as tutors and aides.

## **Career Ed increases**

The District's Career Technical Education programs are growing, too. Aided by grants and current district allocations, the CTE program has expanded to 135 different one period course offerings in grades 7-12 plus 25 two period capstone courses provided by the Regional Occupational Program

of the County Office of Education for grades 11 and 12; seven different academies that are partnered with local businesses and 17 linked learning pathways that offer sequenced courses for students at each high school that include work-based learning components. The CTE director, Sally Fowler, is requesting \$50,000 in ongoing funds and \$195,000 in one-time funds for course design and administration and expanding course offerings and transportation access to Duncan Polytechnic High School.

## **Scope of CTE classes explained**

Following the CTE presentation, a board member complained that the program was still not enough and proposed the need for real training to meet specific job needs that he was aware of in the community. Ms. Fowler explained that the current requirements of a high school diploma are so demanding of a student's time that providing entry level training and/or certification for specific trades is not likely within a high school career. The ambition of most of the program is to expose students to various occupational fields and opportunities, provide them with some initial skills training and general workplace competencies, and to make them competitive for certificate programs in the community colleges or as apprentices.

## *Behavioral Health*

by Carolyn Evans



Prior to the May meeting, members of the Behavioral Health Board (BHB) conducted a site visit of Blue Sky Wellness Center. Blue Sky is a peer designed and peer run center dedicated to wellness and recovery from mental health disorders. Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Blue Sky has been a model program, receiving accolades from throughout the state. In recent years with leadership and clientele changes, there have been concerns about the quality of the services offered, the safety of the clients, and the security of the facility. Kings View Behavioral Health System, the agency holding the contract, has made efforts to solve community concerns. Kings View is working with Fresno Police Department's Homeless Task Force to prevent inappropriate uses of the facility. Kings View has proposed a screening process for clients to assure that they are there to improve their wellness and recovery, not just to use the showers and get a free meal. Kings View would like to offer incentives to encourage clients to take advantage of the programs and activities that support wellness. Some of these measures are in conflict with the philosophy of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI), which necessitates a welcoming environment and inclusion for all.

During the BHB meeting Director Utecht provided the annual outcomes report from Blue Sky. BHB members expressed their concern for the safety of clients and the purpose for Blue Sky, as a center to support the wellness and recovery of its clients. Director Utecht agreed to meet with Kings View to discuss proposals to solve issues causing community concern and to report back to the BHB.

Kelly Orender was introduced as the new director of Survivors of Suicide Loss (SOSL), now a part of Hinds Hospice. Under her leadership SOSL plans to focus on education and outreach, especially in the schools, where there are increasing numbers of suicides among children.

## *Natural Resources*

by Mary Savala



The Fresno City Council has approved a consultant services agreement with Wallace, Roberts, and Todd, LLC of San Francisco not to exceed \$449,995 to develop an extensive public outreach program and to present a vision statement for Fresno Parks at the end of the year. #Parks4All advocacy continues to press for an advisory committee and a plan which analyzes Fresno parks' geographical distribution, management, resources, and programs and makes recommendations for improvement.

BHC and allies are organizing to press the City of Fresno to keep its promise to do an Industrial Compatibility Assessment (ICA) and to insure its funding in the next City budget. An ICA helps a City identify the proper places where industrial and heavy commercial facilities should be located and where they should not. The ICA is an opportunity for residents, City staff, elected officials, and residents, and other stakeholders to come together to discuss what industrial facilities and zoning are "compatible" with neighborhoods. An ICA is important for Fresno as South Fresno neighborhoods rank among the least healthy places to live in California. South Fresno residents are more impacted by pollution, asthma and poverty as well as concentrated air pollution, groundwater contamination, brownfields, and landfills. Industrial and heavy commercial facilities in and around south Fresno neighborhoods contribute to pollution and conflict with neighborhood settings.

The City promised an ICA over a year ago, but no progress has been made or even started. The City has prioritized the Development Code update and Housing element to the General Plan in its work program, and has had to be pushed to begin the Parks Master Plan Update. The ICA project is not popular with City officials and is in danger of falling by the wayside unless public pressure moves elected officials and staff to put the ICA on the front burner. League will be working with the BHC partners as advocates to get the analysis started, and for a full public process.



League members who wish to be sponsors or to secure sponsorship for us, may contact



**PATIENCE MILROD**

LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES  
POLICY WORK

844  
North Van Ness  
Fresno, California  
93728  
559/ 442-3111  
pm@patiencemilrod.com

Congratulations  
**League of Women V**  
on its contribution  
to our  
community

North of Herndon &  
East of Fresno

530 E. Herndon Ave., Ste. 104  
Fresno, CA 93720-2990

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

(559) 447-9040  
(559) 447-9042 Fax

By Appointment



Larry Ni

2747 W. Bulla  
Phone: 559.2



725 Pollasky Ave., #107  
Clovis, CA 93612

559.221.0768  
printshack@gmail.com  
www.printshackclovis.com

MOTORS  
SOLD • REPAIRED • REWOUND



**Robert H. Gunning**

Principal Financial Group  
Senior Financial Services Represe...  
(559) 650-2645 Work  
(559) 999-0773 Mobile  
gunning.bob@principal.com  
1350 E. Spruce Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93720  
principal.com

Be a Voter sponsor



This s  
Joan






**Be a Voter Sponsor** **\$100 per year for 12 issues**  
**Send check to Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno 93710**


**Alice Powell**  
**Member since 1982**

**Frank Powell**  
**Member since 1999**

*In support of the League  
and the Voter*




**POPPY LANE PUBLISHING**



*Elizabeth Peterson*  
(559)299-4639  
E-mail: Bette1234@aol.com  
Fax: (559) 299-4639  
Www.poppylane.com

POST OFFICE BOX 5136  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93755



**HELPING TO PRESERVE  
FRESNO'S PICTORIAL HISTORY**

**The Howard K. Watkins  
Photographic Archive Project**

**Www.watkinsphotoarchive.com**

Donations payable to Fresno Regional Foundation

**NOTE: "HKW Photo Archive Fund"**

5260 No Palm, Ste 122, Fresno, CA 93704

Contact info: 1785 W. Dovewood Lane, Fresno, CA 93711



**SHIRLEY M. GOLDEN, CPA**  
shirley@cpafresno.com

---

1141 W. Shaw Ave., Ste. 103  
Fresno, CA 93711-3713  
(559) 803-6981 Phone  
(559) 803-6984 Fax

*Licensed with the California  
State Board of Accountancy*

Law Office of  
**Sara Hedgpeth-Harris**  
Attorney at Law

5445 E. Lane Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93727  
(559) 233-0907  
sara.hedgpethharris@shh-law.com  
www.shh-law.com

**Support Your League!**  
**Your personal or business card ad  
could be here  
for only \$100 per year  
In print and on-line  
Call 226-5455**

**YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE 2016-17 LEAGUE ROSTER IN YOUR  
E-MAIL. IF YOUR INFORMATION IS NOT CORRECT, PLEASE LET US  
KNOW AT FMFARBER@HOTMAIL.COM**



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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**US Postage Paid**  
**Fresno 93706**

**Permit # 896**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

***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. 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: \_\_\_\_\_