



Phone: 559-226-VOTE

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

The *Fresno* **VOTER**

Calendar

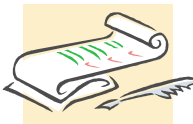
May 19-20
 LWV Leadership Council
 Sacramento

Tuesday, May 22
 Regular Board Meeting
 5 p.m.—League office

Tuesday, June 5
 Primary Election

June 8-12
 LWVUS Convention
 Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, June 26
 Regular Board Meeting
 5 p.m.—League office



NEW ROSTERS

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR NEW BRIGHT-GREEN ROSTER IN THE MAIL IN MID-APRIL?

If not, please let us know and we will send you one. 226-8683

Keep it up-to-date every month by reading Member News on Page 2 for changes in address, phone, e-mail.

County Clerk discusses election process, hopes for smooth primary in June

Our Annual Meeting was a successful and information-packed event on April 14. It began with a breakfast prepared by Board members and a two-hour business meeting which included reports about the year's accomplishments from the Board of Directors.

Three votes were taken at the business meeting. The first was to approve the budget prepared for 2012-13 by the Budget Committee headed by Mary Savala. The second was the approval of some by-law changes that were sent to the membership in the Call last month, and the third was the election of new officers and directors. Our restructuring of the Board is explained on page 5. The incoming slate includes new Director Mary Perich, a retired teacher, and says a grateful goodbye to John Donaldson who served on the Board for a number of years.



Brandi Orth

After lunch the thirty-plus members heard the Lipton Award for community volunteerism awarded to Coke Hallowell of the San Joaquin River Parkway. Ms. Hallowell was unable to attend due to a conflict but accepting the award for her was Jennifer Williamson.

The focus of the afternoon was the talk by Brandi Orth, Fresno County Clerk who replaced Victor Salazar a few months ago. Ms. Orth spoke about the budgetary and personnel needs in her office. Nonetheless, she said, she has put in place the proper mechanisms so that the June 5 Primary Election, the first under her direction, should go smoothly. She welcomes League support in opening mail-in ballots and answering the telephone on Election Day. It is anticipated that the new Top 2 Primary ballot will cause a flurry of telephone questions even though it is explained clearly on the ballots. Ms. Orth said her biggest wish is that the day after the election, the Bee has an editorial proclaiming that the election was smooth and uneventful.

President's Message



Under terrific pressure from many constituents, the Fresno City Council on April 19 selected Plan A, with minor modifications, as its choice to be the foundation for the revised General Plan that will serve Fresno until 2035. Plan A is only a precursor, and there is lots of work to be done. Hundreds of policies need to be reviewed, some new ones will no doubt be developed, and hundreds of documents and pages of information will have to come out of the City's Planning Department and related offices to guide Plan A's vision toward reality.

The Council responded to the public's wish to curtail urban sprawl, concentrate on downtown and work on the infill of existing empty lots throughout our current sphere of influence. Simultaneously, the City is working on revamping and streamlining its permitting process and updating ages-old building codes. Keep your fingers crossed that all of these efforts will converge into a new positive era for Fresno builders and home buyers.

Now comes the grueling work of hammering out policies and other support documents that will provide more structure to the philosophy and general guidelines delineated in Plan A. Will it be tough? You bet, and we need to help turn these visions into reality by continuously monitoring the implementation of Plan A into the General Plan as it unfolds.

One of the council members suggested an Urban Task Force for this purpose. Whatever it may be called, a watchdog group is imperative to keep our city on track and our citizens well-informed.

As the co-chair of the Citizens Committee to Review the General Plan, I have learned a lot about the many facets of urban development. All of us have to stay involved during this lengthy process to insure its success.

Francine

Member News

Please make notes in your roster accordingly.

Corrected Telephone Number

Robin Duke

439-506 (last month's correction was incorrect!)

New Contact information

Carol and W.O. Cowin
1656 NW Summit Drive
Bend, Oregon, 97701

New Member

Carole Laval
1605 West Celeste
Fresno, CA 93711
435-4043

claval@comcast.net

Sadly, we announce the passing of Margaret Thorburn, a member since 2002, on April 13. A memorial service will be held on June 30 at the First Congregational Church, 2131 N. Van Ness.

We gratefully accept celebratory and memorial gifts. Your check may be made out to LWVF Ed Fund, and it will be tax deductible. This month generous donations were received from

Patsy Anderson
John Donaldson
Marian Orvis
Janet Ryan
Jennifer Williamson



Your contribution for the Friant lawsuit should be made out to Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter and note Friant Ranch Lawsuit in the memo line.

All donations should be sent to
Terri Figgs
Treasurer, LWVF
1345 Bulldog Lane
Fresno, 93710

The LWVC Nominating Committee (NC) is looking for PROVEN leaders for the LWVC Board of Directors slate. Do you know of a League member who is passionate about League, has respect for the League mission, is observant of League traditions, has a vision for League's future, is experienced in League procedures and has notable achievements?

If so, we want to hear from you!

Let us know by filling out a nomination form at: http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/forms/nomination_form.html or contact LWVC NC Chair Trudy Jarrett at ftjarratt@chaerter.net.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

June 8—12, Washington, D.C.

Interested? Call Francine, 226-5455



VeinPros

The Clear Leader in Vascular Health

Fresno
7191 N. Millbrook Ste. 115
Fresno, CA 93720

Visalia
609 W. Acequia Ste. A
Visalia, CA 93291

P 559.261.0266

Don H. Gaede, MD

F 559.261.1307

HELPING TO PRESERVE

FRESNO'S PICTORIAL HISTORY

The Howard K. Watkins

Photographic Archive Project

www.watkinsphotoarchive.com

Donations payable to Fresno Regional Foundation

HKW Photo Archive Fund

5250 No Palm, Ste 424, Fresno, CA 93704

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

(559)435-1992, howardwatkins@gmail.com



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

Law Office of

Sara Hedgpeth-Harris

Attorney at Law

1204 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 102

Fresno, Ca 93711

(559) 283-8780 Office

(559) 478-5073 Fax

sara.hedgpethharris@gmail.com

Bar No. 124114



BYERS
ACCOUNTANCY
CORPORATION

*Licensed with the California
State Board of Accountancy*

SHIRLEY M. GOLDEN, CPA

shirley@cpabyers.com

1300 W. Shaw, Ste. 2A

Fresno, CA 93711-3713

(559) 803-6981 Phone

(559) 803-6984 Fax

EYE-Q
Latest technology. Caring doctors.

1 800 DR VISION • eyeqvc.com

 twitter.com/DrVision

The Voter

Volume 71, No. 5

The VOTER

is a monthly publication of the
League of Women Voters Fresno

Mailing Address:

1345 Bulldog Lane

Fresno, CA 93705

Editor: Francine Farber

Education

by Kay Bertken



High school completion is a focus of community attention this spring. The Mayor has announced the Learn 2 Earn Program to lure adults back to school, and the FUSD graduation task force is about half way through its planned agenda.

Twenty-seven percent of adults in Fresno County, 68,000 people in the City of Fresno alone, have not earned high school diplomas and are therefore unqualified for many work opportunities. This is financially devastating for those people and their families, but also for the city of Fresno. High unemployment and the attendant problems are only one effect. **The relatively low educational attainment level of our population has discouraged businesses from locating here that require a well educated and trained work force.** In partnership with Fresno Unified, Heald College, Ceasar Chavez Adult School, the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board and the Mayors Adult Education Task Force, the Mayor has initiated a public awareness campaign. She is promoting a return to school and easing the process with a central information/referral phone number.

The Fresno Unified Graduation Task Force has met four times thus far. We have had academic presentations about the issue, learned about the attendance issues, reviewed current FUSD initiatives and held round table discussions with members of the Workforce Investment Board, Career Technical Education Staff at FUSD and with staff at WestEd, a non-profit organization that works to improve student achievement.

A variety of listening sessions have been organized to solicit community input. During April community meetings at Roosevelt and Hoover high schools attracted large groups of parents, teachers and some students. Community interest was high and plenty of ideas about the causes and solutions to our dropout problem were proposed. More than twenty small group sessions with high school students and drop outs have also begun. The Task Force is targeting the end of May for the completion of its report and recommendations to the FUSD Board of Trustees.

Any member of the public may submit ideas or comments to the Task Force via email at graduate@fresnounified.org. A website with reports of the Task Force meetings has been set up at go.fresnounified.org/graduate.

LOST LAKE PARK

Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m.

Meet at the park with hats, snacks and water. Tools and gloves will be provided.

To Do List

PAINT



MEND ROOFS



WEED INVASIVE PLANTS



REMOVE GRAFFITI



CLEAN UP



FILL SQUIRREL HOLES



Meet at the
campground kiosk

Transportation

by Dennis Manning



The California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) has again recommended that the High Speed Rail project not proceed. This in spite of Governor Brown rolling out the fourth revision of the HSR Business Plan which reduced the total cost by an estimated \$30 million. The State Legislature must okay the sale of HSR bonds by the end of August for HSR to move forward. Legislative hearings on the vote began on April 18.

Debate has also been restarted in Congress on Federal Transportation Funding.

The Mayor's plan to return cars to the Downtown Mall was at least temporarily stymied when the Measure C TOD Scoring Committee voted 6-5 to reject seed money for preliminary engineering work for the project. Bruce Rudd, Assistant City Manager, said this is just the first round of the process. The Mayor strongly supports downtown redevelopment and returning car traffic to the Mall.

It's Candidate Forum Time Again!



Using the facilities of the Community Media Access Collaborative, we will be filming candidate forums on May 8 and 9. The tapes will be run on public access channels and available for streaming on the web. Organizations may also borrow them for use with their membership.

The debates are being organized by Liz Shields and Murray Farber. Murray will be the forum moderator.

Changes in Voter and Board structure

by Francine Farber

As your Voter editor I decided to make a small restructuring effort with this issue. You will notice that the Calendar is now at the top of page 1. The list of officers and directors has been transferred to the back page. The reason for this will be explained shortly. The Table of Contents has been dropped from the back page since I am confident that with only 8 pages, you will be sure to read every one of them.

Part of the reason for switching the placement of the list of officers and directors was that more room was needed to show the new affiliations of our league managers. Taking my recommendation, your Board has decided to group the directors into related interest affiliations. **Mary Savala**, who is the Vice President for Natural Resources, is focusing on land use. Working under her mentorship are two relatively new directors: **Diane Merrill** for Energy and **Dennis Manning** for Transportation.

Likewise, our Vice President for Voter Services, **Liz Shields**, will have working with her brand new Board member **Mary Perich**, who will bring legislation news to the board and our members every month.

Jane Worsley, our new Vice President for Administration, will have among her duties mentoring **Nyla Zender**, our Director for Program Planning who joined us last year.

Working in their usual capacities are Education Director **Kay Bertken**, Membership Director **Dolores O'Neal**, and Director of our Student Unit **Diane Blair**. **Terri Figgs** will take over the post of Treasurer, while **Patty Campbell** continues as Secretary.

Natural Resources

by Mary Savala

SB375

The COG Task Force setting the targets for Green House Gas (GHG) emission reductions is working with consultants to establish three scenarios in order to understand what land use decisions would have to be made to reduce GHG by five percent by 2020 and by ten percent by 2035.

The task force has spent the last few months refining scenario assumptions. This month, the consultant talked about the first scenario – growth according to existing plans. The task force heard how our demographics compare to state and national trends, how our economic conditions drive our choice of housing, and where we would be likely to construct new housing and commercial centers.



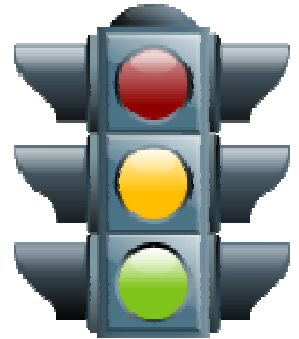
The second scenario is known as growth according to the way the county and the cities are updating and revising their General Plans in light of the Blue Print for development. The third scenario is growth following “complete communities” planning. While no one knows if any of these scenarios will achieve the targets, the county will be able to point to good faith efforts to map the direction for improvements in GHG reduction and improvement in air quality

Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

The first round of applications for \$2.7 million accumulation in TOD funds was evaluated in April. Only two applications were submitted, both from the City of Fresno. The first for \$700K was to fund waiver of development fees for downtown housing, and was approved by the scoring committee. The second application for the remaining \$2 million was more controversial. The City was asking for funding for the environmental and engineering studies to put traffic back on the Fulton Mall. The committee, in a vote of 5 to 6, denied the application on the grounds that the City Council had not yet approved a plan for restoring traffic to the Mall, and the application was premature.

Committee members also raised the issue of whether traffic, even including transit traffic, was an appropriate TOD project.

The two applications will proceed through the COG committee process to the policy Board in May and to the Fresno County Transportation Authority in June. The Measure C Extension Citizens Oversight Committee will consider a recommendation for the applications at a special meeting of the COC on May 10.



Measure C Extension Citizens Oversight Committee (COC)

The COC met to review 21 2009-2010 audit reports and two budget reports for 2011-12. The committee discussed the number of agencies who have been reserving Measure C funds for four years beginning with the first receipt of tax funds in October 2008. The Measure C Extension legislation provides that agencies can accumulate the funds for five years, and then must spend the first year program funds. COG staff explained that many of the small cities are accumulating funds for a specific project and/or may be spending only general transportation funds and reserving Measure C tax revenues due to the uncertainty of state and federal transportation funding.

The committee also heard from the Fresno County Transportation Authority (FCTA) that the small cities of Huron and Selma have discrepancies in their Measure C funds and the auditors and FCTA are working with them to repay their accounts. Measure C tax funds have specific purposes and cannot be mixed with general funding.

The Committee heard a report from the Commuter Van and Farm Labor Van Programs. These programs have not spent all the money they have available on a yearly basis. The COC recommended that FCTA increase their public outreach to the farm labor community to make more riders aware of the savings and safety of the program. The COC asked for an update on ridership in a year.


**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**



PATIENCE MILROD
LAWYER/LICENCIADA EN LEYES

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

Congratulations
League of Women Voters
for
another successful year
of service
to our community



HEBERGER & COMPANY
AN ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION

John W. Heberger, CPA, CVA
Henry Oum, CPA
Aron Flores, CPA

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

NELSON
PHYSICAL THERAPY

Larry Nielson, P.T.

2747 W. Bullard, #105, Fresno, Ca 93711
Phone: 559.261.1425 Fax: 559.261.4573

PRINT SHACK
Printing, Copies & Design

379 E Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710
(Mission Village)

Bruce Tamiyasu
Owner

ph 559.221.0768
fx 559.221.0760
cell 559.273.8575
printshack@gmail.com



MOTORS
SOLD • REPAIRED • REWOUND

PH (559) 650-1153
FAX (559) 650-1186

Electric Motor Shop and Supply Co.

ELECTRICAL WIRING "Since 1913"
No. 246015

253 FULTON ST.
P.O. BOX 446
FRESNO, CA 93709



Robert H. Gunning
Senior Financial Services Representative
Princor Registered Representative
Financial Advisor

1350 East Spruce Avenue
Fresno, CA 93720
(559) 261-2000 Ext. 142 / Fax (559) 261-0501
Cell (559) 250-5377
gunning.bob@principal.com

Be a Voter sponsor—\$100 per year—226-8683



This space sponsored by
Joan Lipton

Merci

Gracias

THANK YOU



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	Francine Farber
Secretary	Pat Campbell
Treasurer	Terri Figgs
VP Administration	Jane Worsley
Director, Program Planning	Nyla Zender
VP Voter Services	Liz Shields
Director, Legislation	Mary Perich
VP Natural Resources	Mary Savala
Director, Energy	Diane Merrill
Director, Transportation	Dennis Manning
Director, Education	Kay Bertken
Director, Student Unit	Diane Blair
Director, Membership	Dolores O'Neal
Webmaster: Jacquie Canfield; Social Media: Genny Mayhew	

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: _____