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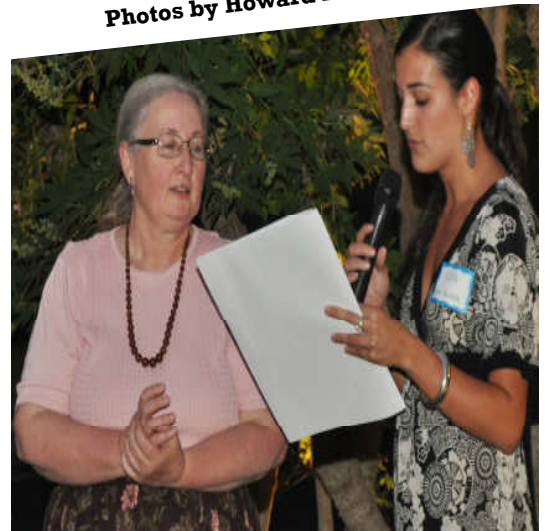
Genny Mayhew

Judge Chittick gets award, city manager speaks at ice cream social

by Murray Farber

As if coconut, pistachio, jamoca almond fudge, chocolate chip and cookie dough flavors weren't enough, 70 League members and guests at the annual Ice Cream Social were treated to a stimulating analysis of Fresno's problems and hopes by City Manager Mark Scott.

Photos by Howard K. Watkins



Aide Nia Sibley presents certificate to Judge Chittick from Assemblyman Henry T. Perea

And the extra topping on the evening – at the home of Dr. Juan and Clara Touya -- came as Judge Hilary Chittick and League member Radley Reep were honored. Judge Chittick received the League's first Women's Equality Award and her name was placed on a newly-conceived plaque. Presenting the award, board member Diane Blair called the judge a role model who blazed a path to equality as a public defender, a Superior Court judge, president of the County Women's Bar Association and alumnus of the year of UC Hastings Law School.



City Manager Mark Scott speaks to large crowd

Judge Chittick commented, "It's important to remember the folks to whom we owe a debt." She noted that she

(Continued on page 5)

Calendar

Tuesday, September 20
Regular Board Meeting
5 p.m., League office

Wednesday, October 5
LWVUS Education Study
See Save the Date notice

Tuesday, October 18
Regular Board Meeting
5 p.m. League office

Wednesday, October 26
LWVUS Education Study
See Save the Date notice

Saturday, November 12
Ed study consensus meeting
Details to be announced

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Our Silent Auction
earned \$375 towards
the Friant lawsuit.

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President's Message



Georgia Sisson and I serve on the Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure K and Measure Q of Fresno Unified School District, which meets quarterly. There are usually as many staff people present from Facilities and Finance as there are citizens, each of the latter appointed by a Board member in whose district they live. Georgia was recently appointed by Dr. Tony Vang and I am heading for my second (and final) two-year term appointed by Janet Ryan.

Our task under law is to review quarterly expenditures to ensure that proceeds from the bond measures are expended only for approved purposes, and to ensure that no bond funds are used for teacher or administrative salaries or other operating expenses.

At our August meeting we were brought up-to date on all projects for both bond issues. Measure K, including non-measure K funding from the state, originally over 275 million dollars, has completed the majority of its projects. Only about \$225 thousand remains to be used. The new southeast elementary school is underway at Cedar, South of Butler.

Last year taxpayers overwhelmingly approved measure Q at three and a half million dollars, with additional funding of almost \$8 million from the state, bringing over \$11 million available for projects. These projects include the new long-awaited southwest middle school, located at Kings Canyon and Church. Many portable classrooms will be replaced such as at Addams, Bullard Talent and Figarden schools. An overcrowding grant will provide relief for stuffed classrooms in a number of other places, and modernization is taking place throughout city schools such as lighting upgrades and other improvements.

Each of the quarterly meetings closes with a report from the district's outside auditor. He receives a list from the district of all of the bond expenditures during that quarter and selects about 40 percent of the total expenditures value to audit. It is gratifying to know that in the two years I have been serving on this committee, every audit has confirmed that the expenditures from bond funds have been made only for purposes approved by the voters and only on specific projects developed by the district's Board of Education.

Member News

Please make notes in your roster accordingly.

New Members

June Pearson

2715 East Bristol Court
Fresno, CA 93720
324-8907

Change of E-Mail Address

Jennifer Williamson

hughw@mail.fresnostate.edu

Board members in the news

Diane Blair appeared on KVPR's *Valley Edition* with Juanita Stevenson, discussing Women's Equality Day, on August 23.

Mary Savala will be honored on September 9 at the San Joaquin River Parkway and Trust for founding the River Committee in 1985 with two other women.

Francine Farber has been appointed to the Mayor's Committee to review the city's General Plan.



We gratefully accept celebratory and memorial gifts. Your check may be made out to LWVF Ed Fund, and it will be tax deductible.

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 Jane Worsley, Treasurer, LWVF
1345 Bulldog Lane
Fresno, 93710**



COMING TO A MAIL BOX NEAR YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



Look for your personal study guide to the League's national education study workshops to be held in October. (see announcement, page 4)



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"THE FEDERAL ROLE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION"
WORKSHOPS IN OCTOBER
CONSENSUS IN NOVEMBER



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League of Women Voters Fresno

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Fresno, CA 93705



The new school year began on August 22, and the Board of Trustees had its first meeting of the school year on August 10. The meeting was dominated by issues raised by members of the public attending that meeting. **A number of parents and medical personnel requested that the district remove chocolate milk from cafeteria offerings.** They contended that the extra calories in flavored milk were contributing to the obesity epidemic among children. The District will survey a large number of district parents on the topic.

A routine agenda item prompted a long Board discussion of the state budget and the likelihood of the promised increases in funding to districts. Staff recommended that the district not change the budget they approved in June, a budget that incorporated ongoing cuts from previous revenue reductions and additional cuts. The state budget asked districts to assume that revenues would not decline this year. The request and promises of revenues to meet that promise were based on a short-lived period of increased state revenue, an increase that has not been sustained. **The superintendent warned that the promised money to FUSD would never materialize.** Currently, the state is already borrowing from Districts by delaying payments. Board members Larry Moore and Carol Mills were disappointed that the District was not planning to reopen budget discussions and requested it be put on their next meeting agenda.

Local League members continue to plan for participation in the national study on the federal role in education. **News on the federal front has the Department of Education granting waivers to states around the country which have protested the impending rise of No Child Left Behind targets to 100% proficiency by 2014.** In recognition of the knowledge that more and more schools nationwide will be “failing” under the advancing targets, states

are being granted more flexibility pending a Congressional reconsideration of the mandates under a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Arne Duncan, the Secretary of Education, told reporters that he was acting because Congress had failed to rewrite the Bush-era law, which he called a “slow-motion train wreck.” He is waiving the law’s proficiency requirements for states that have adopted their own testing and accountability programs and are making other strides toward better schools, he said.

SAVE THE DATES

The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education

Wednesday, October 5

Superintendents Larry Powell * FCOE

Michael Hanson * FRESNO UNIFIED

Juan Garza * KINGS CANYON

Wednesday, October 26

Panelists to be announced

Are Too Many Children Left Behind?

What Can We Do About It?

Both October meetings at First Congregational Church
(Big Red Church)

2131 North Van Ness Boulevard, Fresno

**4—6 p.m. ** refreshments will be served **
free and open to the public**

Questions? Call 226-8683 and leave a clear message

*Co-sponsored by EECU * FC Office of Education **

Assoc. of Ca. School Administrators, Fresno Consolidated Charter

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

((continued from page 1)

became the first woman presiding judge of the Superior Court because of the help of a male judge.

She also received certificates from representatives of Congressman Jim Costa and Assemblyman Henry Perea.

Radley Reep Honored

Also honored was Radley Reep with a gift certificate in recognition of his many hours devoted to environmental issues. Board member Mary Savala pointed out that Reep “took the extra mile” in preparing the analysis in the fights to preserve Morrow Mountain, Friant Ranch and Lost Lake Park.

In his talk and as he patiently answered a long series of questions, Scott delivered the equivalent of a state of the city address touching on local controversies. He particularly praised Mayor Ashley Swearingen for “taking hard news on an even keel. She will go on to great things.”

800 positions vacant

In response to the bad economic times, he noted 800 of the city’s 4,100 positions have been left open over the past two years. More than 400 people were laid off and 250 were demoted in accordance to union rules. “People were not used to this. We have been able to figure out how to do government differently with reduced resources.”

He gave credit to city employees and the public who continue to clean up parks. “Non-profits are

running the community centers with passion. We are getting better results. They are doing it out of the goodness of their hearts.”

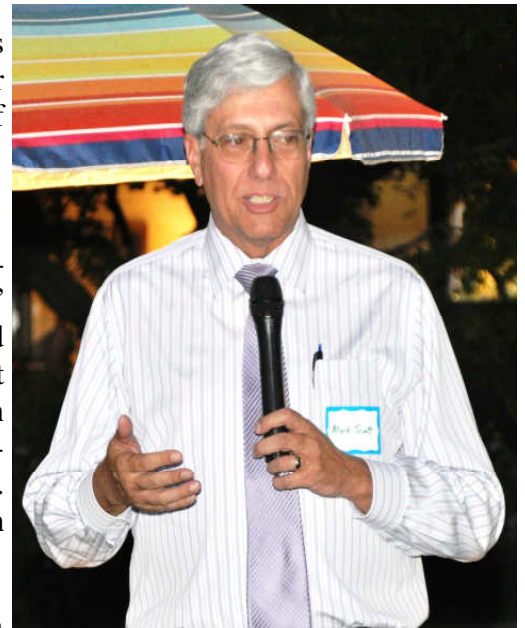
Saving Downtown Possible

He took a strong position in insisting “we are not wasting our time” in regard to saving downtown and held out hope that IKEA, but not Nordstrom, would be interested in locating there. “We can bring people downtown with boutiques. Other cities have come back with less.”

Scott added, “We have to do a lot more economic development. Cities are in competition and we have to fight for our future. We don’t want Visalia to become the capital of the Valley.”

In regard to crime, “we have our share.” His key points included finding a solution to being forced to release chronic criminals; the need to work with young people and not just focus on arrests; and recruiting a successor to Eddie Aubrey for the Office of Independent Review

Responding to environmental questions, Scott said the city is installing meters to conserve water and is studying methods of recycling waste water; diverting river water and pursuing surface water treatment. While he was encouraged by talks seeking to resolve West Fresno complaints about the problems with the Darling International rendering plant, he said a solution will take a few more months and “I can’t talk about it.”



Other Issues Addressed

He also referred to other issues:

*Homeless: We started moving people we can help but many don’t want help. We interviewed 289 and found the 100 most impacted and will try for a plan to help each of them and treat them respectfully. Major fund-raising is needed.

*High speed rail: Two downtown sites are under consideration for stations near the Fulton Mall and near City Hall. “It’s a way off.”

*Federal study: A team from such federal agencies as housing, environment and agriculture will live in Fresno and five other cities including Detroit, Memphis and Chester, Pa., for up to two years. They say: “We’re not telling you what to do. We will find ways to help you and find resources. Mayor Swearingen will show them a model that will work. I’m excited. This is a real opportunity to get help.”


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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THANK YOU

Volunteers Needed for "Friends of Lost Lake" Project

by Radley Reep

The "Friends of Lost Lake Park" (FLLP) has good news to report. On August 30 FLLP will go before the Fresno County Board of Supervisors with an offer to help the County maintain and operate the park. FLLP is coordinating this all-volunteer effort. The participants



include LWVF, Fresno Audubon Society, Revive the San Joaquin, the San Joaquin

River Parkway Trust and the Tehipite Chapter of the Sierra Club.

FLLP first organized in the fall of 2010 in response to various proposals affecting the park: the Lost Lake Park Master Plan, the Friant Ranch housing project and the location of the new Friant Community wastewater treatment plant. FLLP now meets twice monthly at the River Center located on Old Friant Road.

Over the next 18 months, FLLP hopes to firm up its volunteer program, gather data on plant and animal life in the park and participate in the Environmental Impact Report that will be prepared for the park master plan.

FLLP's first volunteer day at the park will be September 17 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. That Saturday is California Coastal Cleanup Day, an



annual beach and inland waterway cleanup event that draws tens of thousands of volunteers. FLLP volunteers will be cleaning up the river edge within the park under the direction of the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust. To register for cleanup of the park, contact Parkway Project Manager Lina Valenzuela at linav@riverparkway.org.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Friends of Lost Lake Park or would like to offer assistance, please contact radleyreep@netzero.com.

FRESNO TRANSPORTATION FORUM

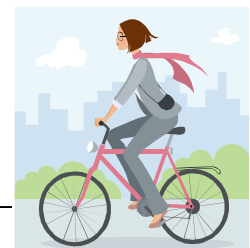
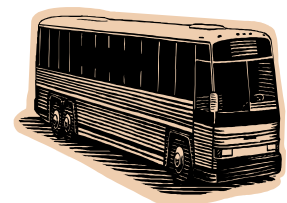
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

7:30 A.M. to Noon

Fresno Convention Center, M Street

Sponsored by Fresno Council of Governments (COG)

An update on a variety of transportation issues





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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.

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