



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Social Policy Meeting

February 8, 2006
Mary Watters' home

LWV Open House

February 17, 2006 @ 4:00 pm
635 Flume Street
Chico, Ca

Candidate Forums

April 27, 2006 @7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

April 23, 2006
Lakeside Pavilion at California Park

Annual Meeting

May 9, 2006

Table with 2 columns: Event Name and Page Number. Includes Aquifers (3), Wine Tasting (3), Social Policy (4), Mooretown Rancheria (4), Observer's Report (4), Vernal Pools Conference (4), and New Website (5).

Dear Friends,

If you missed the January potluck, you missed a lot: great food, an outstanding presentation by Tom Lando, and some first-rate socializing with long-standing and recently recruited Leaguers. Our biggest thanks need to go to Jan Dilg and Stephany Gooch, two gifted party organizers. With wonderful wines from Landmark Vineyards—a contribution from Jan's brother, flowered tablecloths, camellias "borrowed" from the side yard of the Chico Women's Center, and an incredible variety of delicious food from all of us, it was an upscale event!

Before the program began, I gave a quick summary of our very successful work on the Special Election (kudos to Linda MacMichael!) and an update on the new League office at 635 Flume Street. We now have two "roommates" in the space: the Chico Heritage Association and Snow Goose/Audubon. The person to thank for this initiative coming together is

Sharon Wallace, whose work with non-profits and her long-standing commitment to the League brought all of us together. We have signed a one-year lease and, with your vote at the January potluck, shifted some of our resources to cover office expenditures. We are very excited about sharing ideas and activities with Chico Heritage and Audubon, two hard working and productive organizations with a proud history like the League's. Come help us christen the office at an open house on Friday, February 17 at 4 p.m. We'll give you a tour and serve up some wine and hors d'oeuvres. Save the date!!

Tom Lando was the highlight of the potluck, bringing his expertise, his years of experience, his honesty and sense of humor to talk about what Chico and Butte County need to do to maintain its quality of life while accommodating growth. It was informational, entertaining, and important to the League's work as observers of government agencies and advocates for sustainable

(Continued on page 2)



Left League members enjoying a wonderful potluck. Above Carol Burr, Jan Dilg, and Heather Quilici

LEAGUE LEADERS

OFFICERS

President Carol Burr	343-1117
1st Vice President Janet Taylor	891-8195
2nd Vice President Anastacia Snyder	343-8322
Secretary Barbara Todd	342-2549
Treasurer Lucy Sperlin	879-9369

DIRECTORS

Fundraising Heather Quilici	566-9848
Membership & Hospitality Jan Dilg	566-1019
Natural Resources Barbara Hennigan Bruce Smith	893-8492 343-0105
Observers Betsy Kruger	345-7563
Social Policy Linda Lunsford	342-2081
Voter Editor Nikole Hilgeman	518-1746
Voter Service Linda MacMichael	345-5586
Publicity Krista Gallwitz	354-6847
Kristin Cooper-Carter	893-5751
Lenette Dornon	894-7198

communities. Ramona Flynn and Linda Furr, two of the League's observers, spoke about the importance of being a citizen presence at government meetings and how much they learned about our governmental processes. Our thanks to Betsy Kruger for arranging Tom's presentation and overseeing our observer program!

This is going to be a busy year for the League. With a June primary and November general election, two measures already qualified and 55 propositions circulating, a probable shift to electronic voting, we will be holding forums for candidates for Butte County Board of Supervisors, Chico City Council, and Chico Unified School District board. This round we are partnering with the Chico

Enterprise-Record to make the forums as informative and well-attended as possible. Butte County will most likely be using electronic voting machines this year. At the invitation of Candy Grubbs, a few League members went to Oroville to sample and evaluate various machines. They now include a paper record that stays in the machine as back-up for the electronic ballot. We will keep you posted on the move toward voting machines. If you get a chance to see how they work, please let me know what you think.

We continue to work toward a county general plan that is balanced, has teeth, and lays out parameters for the next 50 years. We are participating in a sustainability conference march 7-9 at Chico State in March, bringing Petra Unger from a environmental planning group in San Francisco. Bruce Smith is also organizing a session with students researching environmental issues in our region. In April we are partnering with the Museum Without Walls on a series about ways to prepare for natural disasters, both issues needing coverage in such a plan. We are also trying to bring Sheila Kuehl to Chico to talk about her proposal for a single-payer health plan, one of the most promising alternatives we have seen to the expensive and inefficient system we now have. Mary Watters is hosting a get-together at her house on February 8 to work on this and other social policy issues.

If you are interested in any of these activities, I urge you to contact me or the League directors and get involved!

-Carol Burr, *President*



Above LWV of Butte County President, Carol Burr

Below January Potluck guest speaker Tom Lando sharing.



How big is an Aquifer?

An aquifer is an underground volume of material that can hold water. The gravel sections of Lindo Channel provide a good example of what an aquifer may look like. If you walk along Lindo Channel from beneath Highway 99 to Mangrove you will see a lot of gravel.

In the middle of the stream the rocks are bigger and as you go toward the banks the gravel and rocks get smaller. When you are standing in the middle of the creek you may not be standing on just the bottom of a creek. You may be standing on the top of an aquifer.

How would you go about finding out? You could dig up the entire creek but since it is miles long and possibly hundreds of feet wide digging is not practical. Wells are drilled and data from those wells are used to estimate the size of the aquifer. The number of wells drilled will depend on the size of the aquifer. The larger the aquifer the more wells needed.

Let's say you decide to start your first well on the bank next to the creek and you can see there is gravel at the surface. As you drill you keep a record of the

material you go through. In this case, along Lindo Channel you may drill 30 feet deep and then you hit clay. That clay may be 50 feet deep and then you hit gravel again. That second layer of gravel may be another aquifer. This data is called a mud log.

Your next well will be farther away from the creek. Pick a distance. Let's say you decided to drill the second well a quarter mile away from the creek. You repeat the same drilling steps as you did for the first well. Keep a record of the material you drill through. Does it look the same as the first mud log?

To determine the size of an aquifer may require hundreds of wells to be drilled and each of the mud logs to be compared. The depths of the gravels are calculated to give an idea of the size of the aquifer. And these are just the first steps in estimating the size of an aquifer. A number of other methods are needed to find out how big an aquifer is, but these will be discussed in a future Voter.

-Bruce Smith, *Natural Resources Committee*

Wine Tasting April 23rd!!

It's that time of year again! Great wine, excellent food and the one day of the year we ask our members to roll up their sleeves and work on behalf of the League.

Soon you will be receiving a mailing of recipes and tickets for the **April 23rd Wine Tasting at Lakeside Pavilion**. It is the only fundraiser we have and enables the League to accomplish our goals of voter service and education. We count on each member to contribute to the success of this annual fundraiser.

Please respond promptly to the mailing by:

- 1. calling the food committee to let them know what recipe you will prepare;**
- 2. selling your four tickets; and**
- 3. be ready to lend a hand on Sunday, April 23.**



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER CONTACT HEATHER QUILICI



The Vernal Pool Complexes of the Northstate: Biology, Conservation, and Management Conference

March 23 - March 24, 2006 Sierra Nevada Brewery, 1075 E. 20th Street, Chico, CA, 95928 Butte Environmental Council is hosting a vernal pool conference and tours on March 23 and 24, 2006. The conference will be held at the Sierra Nevada Brewery, 1075 E. 20th Street in Chico. There will be presentations by eminent scholars and agency representatives concerning plant and animal species dependent on the vernal pool ecosystem, conservation efforts and needs, and what management techniques have been used to enhance the viability of certain sites. The tours on March 24 are still evolving. More information and details will follow in the next few days at www.becnet.org

OBSERVER REPORT

At our Annual January Potluck Meeting, League Observers Ramona Flynn and Linda Furr gave testimony to the importance of League's commitment to observe public councils, commissions and boards. Ramona has observed the Chico Planning Commission for several years, while Linda is new to observing and attending Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) and the Butte College District Board of Trustees meetings. Thank you, Linda and Ramona for speaking at the Potluck meeting, expressing your enthusiasm for your important work.

Please watch for the date in March when our Butte County LWV members only Observer meeting will be held. At that time, each member of the Observer Corps will report on the board, council or commission observed. These are great, informative meetings with Observers being forthright regarding the performance of various entities being observed, as well as offering attending League members an opportunity to ask questions.

As always, there are uncovered boards, commissions and councils. If you are interested in joining in doing this vital League activity, please call me at 345-7563. Again, thank you Ramona and Linda and to all our devoted Observers.

-Betsy Kruger, Observer Corps Board Director

Mooretown Rancheria

For almost three years, the Butte County LWV has provided the Mooretown Rancheria with independent observers for Tribal Council elections and measures requiring tribal approval/disapproval. Members of League who have acted as independent observers include Anne Nordhus, Barbara Hennigan, Tony St. Amant, Eileen Burke-Trent, Dorothy Jackson, and Sally Armstrong.

At the request of the Mooretown Rancheria Tribal Council, two observers have been present from the opening of the polls through the counting of ballots and posting the results. Because Council law governing elections are fairly complex, the observers must be present from the time the polls are opened until they are closed and whenever ballot boxes are opened for any reason. One observer also accompanies members of the election committee and a security officer to the Post Office to retrieve absentee ballots that have been held until election day. After the polls close, the observers are present when voter signatures are verified, the ballots are opened and examined, the votes tallied and posted. Through the hard work of these observers, the League has earned the respect and trust of the Mooretown Rancheria.

Social Policy

February 8, there will be a luncheon at Mary Watters house to discuss possible activities for the Social Policy committee to pursue in the near future. If you're interested in working with the Social Policy group, join us on that date to help us plan.

Please call Mary Watters at 343-2579 or Linda Lunsford at 342-2081 for further information and to reserve a space for a delicious lunch!

We look forward to seeing you there.

New League Website

As many of you may know, I have been in the process of creating our new League website. Here is a sneak peek of my work so far, this is by no means a final product. It's still a work in progress, but I hope to go live with the new version by the end of February. Then we can continue to evolve the site to meet our needs for the future.

My goals are to make the website user-friendly, to increase our visibility on the web, to increase visual appeal for first time users, and to attract potential members. I need all your help to make that happen.

I'm asking all members to submit any photos you have of League events over the years. Send it all! I will be creating three squares of rotating photos boxes down the right side of the webpage, so each time we refresh the webpage new pictures will display.

If possible, send the photos via email to ldornon@techico.net or on a CD or floppy to 1207 Arcadian Ave., Chico 95926. If you send prints, I will scan and return. You can also drop off photos at the League office. Bring them to the open house on February 17!

Thanks so much!
-Lenette Dornon

 <b style="font-size: 1.2em; color: #8B0000;">Butte County League of Women Voters <i style="color: #8B0000; font-size: 0.9em;">Serving the citizens of Butte County to make democracy work!</i>		
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-weight: bold; color: #8B0000; text-decoration: none;"> Home About Us Membership Newsletter Donations Calendar Contact Us </div>		
Tuesday, January 10, 2006		
<p>Related Sites: National LWV LWV California Smart Voter Butte County Clerk The League E-voice</p> <p>Contact Us: League of Women Voter</p> <p>Location 635 Flume St. Chico, CA</p> <p>Mailing Address P.O. Box 965 Chico, CA 95927 530-895-VOTE</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: #8B0000; font-size: 1.1em;">Welcome Butte County LWV</p> <p>The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy. The League's enduring vitality and resonance comes from its unique decentralized structure. The League is a grassroots organization, working at the national, state and local levels.</p> <p>There are Leagues in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong, in addition to the hundreds of local Leagues nationwide. The League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters Education Fund operate at the national level with grassroots support from state and local Leagues.</p> <p>The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; it neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. At the same time, the League is wholeheartedly political and works to influence policy through advocacy. It is the original grassroots citizen network, directed by the consensus of its members nationwide. The 900 state and local Leagues – comprising a vast grassroots lobby corps that can be mobilized when necessary.</p> <p>Over time, the League's legislative priorities change to reflect the needs of society and critical issues of concern. The organization remains true to its basic purpose: to make democracy work for all citizens. The League of Women Voters makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and</p>	<p>Dev Tools:</p> <p>CSS [on/off]</p>

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BUTTE COUNTY**

*P.O. Box 965 Chico, CA 95927
530-895-VOTE*

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICO, CA
PERMIT NO. 221

FEBRUARY VOTER

JOIN THE LEAGUE

League of Women Voters of Butte County
P.O. Box 965
Chico, CA 95927
530-895-VOTE

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Annual dues are \$50 for individuals, \$75 per household. If \$50 is prohibitive, please call Membership at 895-VOTE to arrange another option.

Dues and contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax-deductible, but contributions to the LWV Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Day Phone: _____

Evening Phone: _____

***Join us at the LWVBC
Open House***

Help christen the new office!

February 17, 2006

635 Flume Street

Chico, Ca

4:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be provided.

