



Voter

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* **Linda MacMichael**, thank You for stepping *
 * up and doing a wonderful job as the League of *
 * Women Voters of Butte County *
 * Interim-President. We couldn't have done it *
 * without you. *
 * Your leadership made the transition a smooth *
 * one, and we truly appreciate your dedication *
 * and hard work. Thank you! *
 * *****

Get Involved!

If you are interested in joining a committee, please fill out the insert and mail it to:
PO Box 965
Chico, Ca 95927

It is going to be an exciting year, and we look forward to new energy and ideas. If you would like to submit an idea for direct action or League support, please include that on your form.

Summer Planning Meetings:

Butte County General Plan and Sustainable Communities

Over the summer months, Eileen Burke-Trent, *Communications Director* and Jan Dilg, *Special Events Director*, will host a series of informal meetings with other interested League members, to begin planning fall programs, intended to address the LWV's educational outreach regarding the General Plan, and Sustainable Communities.

At this crucial time in Butte County's development, we wish to further address the League's educational and civic outreach efforts in these areas of concern, and build upon and honor the commitment, hard work, and contributions of our Senior League Mentors as exemplified by outgoing President Linda Cole, and Outgoing Director Mary Watters.

Our goal is to join with visionary thinkers in Natural Resources, Transportation, Education, Energy, Water, Public Safety, and Housing interests ,etc., from the League, the community, and from other concerned organizations in the county, we want to provide public forums that will **encourage debate and civic action** on the above issues.

If you are interested in participating, or have suggestions, please contact Eileen Burke-Trent at (530)846-4444 or at DragonsLeaFarm@yahoo.com

Annual State LWV Meeting

Carol Burr and Barbara Hennigan attended the May 20-22, 2005 biennial League of Women Voters meeting. We learned a great deal and were able to network with state leaders and active local League delegates. Our two missions in going to Anaheim were to learn the priorities and structure of the organization and to caucus for protection of Sacramento Valley groundwater.

On both counts we were successful. We heard powerful presentations on redistricting and healthcare, the first by Kathay Feng of Common Cause and the second by State Senator Sheila Kuehl. We came away convinced that redistricting needs to be done and that the current healthcare system is broken. Sheila is carrying SB 840 - The California Health Insurance Reliability Act, a carefully conceived and rational approach to a problem that is hurting California's citizens and businesses. LWVC has named redistricting and healthcare as two areas for education and advocacy in 2005-2007.

We ran two caucuses, organized and beautifully presented by Barbara and her PowerPoint, and got our resolution on water passed as the will of the convention. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas the LWVC water position states under Planning and Management of Water Resources that one of the goals is to support measures that "protect the natural environment in areas of both water origin and water use" (I.b.), and

Whereas conjunctive use involves treating aquifers as reservoirs for water management, thus threatening intact aquifers by allowing massive water exports from the basin of origin, and

Whereas aquifer protection is critical for the sustainability of statewide water resources,

Therefore be it resolved that: the LWVC Board direct the Natural Resources Chair and Water Program directors to examine the existing water position and sustainability policy to determine whether they allow action to protect aquifers at basins of origin.

While this resolution does not ask for a state study or update of its current position and policy on water (LWVC made it clear it would not contemplate any new studies and no more than three issues for education and

advocacy, all of which had been determined), it raises the visibility of the issue and the Sacramento Valley, both traditionally buried by the thirst for water south of the Delta. We learned how to work with the State League that is struggling to meet current commitments and lacks significant representation from Leagues north of Sacramento. Susan Wilson, President of the Redding League of Women Voters, served a second for the resolution and wants to put together a North State Council of Leagues to focus on regional issues and increase our clout with the state, an idea we found compelling. Susan will be Treasurer of LWVC and is a force to be reckoned with, so we anticipate joint projects with Redding and other North State Leagues like Yuba City, Woodland, Mendocino, and Humboldt. As an indication of our activism, three North State Leagues were recognized for the Voters Service activities in 2004: Redding won the best Voters Service for a small League and Chico received Honorable Mention for its registration of over 4000 voters through the University and Butte College, candidate forum participation, and harnessing of local media to get that participation. LWV Humboldt was also recognized. We are definitely on the map with the state League!

At our May 24 LWVBC Board meeting at Anastacia Snyder's house, we discussed ways to get active with water and other regional issues. With a draft General Plan circulating, we want to involve our members in studying the elements of that document: 1. Land Use, 2. Circulation, 3. Housing, 4. Conservation, 5. Open Space, 6. Seismic Safety, 7. Safety, 8. Noise, 9. Scenic Highways, 10. Recreation, and 11. Agricultural (optional). You can go to <http://www.buttecounty.net/dds/Planning>, add a slash and write the element you wish to read about. The entire document is there.

We need active local League participation to study these elements. Our goal is to present as many of them as we can with get-togethers in the fall and spring to educate the public about proposed directions for our county and advocate for the positions we develop. With our area growing as rapidly as it is, we need a General Plan that fosters rational growth and protection of quality of life. Please help us by contacting any Board member with your area of interest and your suggestions for ways to get the job done.

-Carol Burr, *President*

Update on progress of the survey being sponsored by the League and other groups interested in the problems surrounding the outdated Butte County General Plan.

It now appears that necessary funds in addition to the League's contribution are in hand to undertake a survey of Butte County residents regarding the Butte County General Plan.

Jim Gregg and possibly a second League member will travel to Sacramento on June 13 along with representatives from other interested groups to discuss the survey with a professional pollster. The survey will be designed to measure public knowledge and attitudes about county planning.

In addition to Jim, Mary Watters and Barbara Hennigan have been regularly attending meetings with other groups concerned about the general plan.

-Jim Gregg, *Social Policy*

Need more information about the League of Women Voters and local League activities? **Go to www.lwvbuttecounty.org**. There is also information about national, state, and local league activities including newsletters, minutes of meetings, initiatives, legislative news, and contact information.

Observers Report

The Chico Unified School District has scheduled four three-hour meetings for a leadership team for school improvement relative to the federal "No Child Left Behind" act of 2001.

Team members include teachers, parents, students, site and district administrators, instructional assistants and community members. LWV member Lyla Gregg, who is the League's observer of the CSUD, will serve on the team as a Community Member.

-Lyla Gregg, *Observers*

FYI...

There is a General Plan discussion page at the County website. You can sign up to be on a listserv that distributes information and the elements of the General Plan, which are all available on this site.

<http://generalplan.buttecounty.net/>

The five elements of the plan include:

- 1. Land Use**
- 2. Circulation**
- 3. Housing**
- 4. Conservation**
- 5. Open Space**

Thank You

This month I want to thank everyone for their great support. Thanks to Linda MacMichael for doing a great job coordinating the Board, and to Carol Burr and Barbara Hennigan for such a great job at the convention.

I am currently reading the Public Review Draft of "California Water Plan Highlights April 2005" and another recently published book on aquifers, titled "Aquifer Characterization," which describes some of the latest techniques in analyzing aquifers. I will report on both next month.

-Bruce Smith, *Natural Resources*

Early Birds...

Would you like to be ahead of the game, be able to ignore pleas for LWV dues this fall? Consider paying your 2006 dues NOW, while it's summer and you don't have so much on your mind!

Under our new dues system, if your dues are already paid for 2005, any dues you send from now on in 2005 will be credited to 2006, so pay early and help our new Membership Chair, Jan Dilg, get a head start on getting dues in. Just clip the coupon from this newsletter and pop it in the mail.

-Lucy Sperlin, *Outgoing Membership Chair*

Are you interested in joining a committee? Do you have an interest in social policy, or maybe water issues? If so, just check the boxes below with your interests and mail it to the LWV of Butte County. The director of that committee will contact you with more information.

I want to help with...

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Voter Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observers | |

Other: _____

Please mail this to:
LWV of Butte County
PO Box 965 Chico, CA 95927

Name _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Address _____

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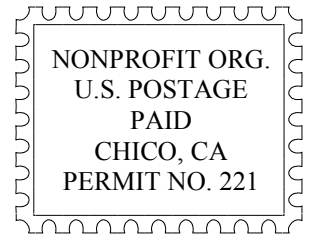
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Observers | |

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PO Box 965 Chico, CA 95927

Name _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Address _____

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



LEAGUE LEADERS

OFFICERS

Interim President	Linda MacMichael	345-5586
2nd Vice President	Anastacia Snyder	343-8322
Secretary	Carol Burr	343-1117
Treasurer	Sally Armstrong	891-0100

DIRECTORS

Action	Barbara Hennigan	893-8492
Fundraising	Heather Quilici	566-9848
Government	Janet Taylor	891-8195
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Natural Resources	Eileen Burke-Trent	846-4444
Observers/Publicity	Mary Watters	343-2579
Social Policy	Jim Gregg	343-0841
Voter Editor	Nikole Hilgeman	345-2105
Voter Service	Linda MacMichael	345-5586
	Carol Burr	343-1117
Publicity	Krista Gallwitz	345-8015
At Large	Kristin Cooper-Carter	
	Jan Dilg	566-1019

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 895-8683 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: _____