

Voter

January 2009

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Dear Friends,

Winter in the League is a time for making and settling-on plans for the future. Specifically, it is a time when we are asked to express our will and to clearly say what we believe the **State League** needs to address within our Education and Advocacy framework.

To that end, I am now asking each of you to **provide feedback on our State League Action Positions**. You will notice that the LWVC position summaries are contained within this *Voter*. As a League member, your homework assignment for the week is to read through these positions and give your feedback as to if we should "Retain, Update or Study." And also consider up to 3 areas of "emphasis" that you'd like to see the State League focus on over the next couple of years.

After reviewing these State action positions, please bring your thoughts and responses to our **Potluck on Wednesday, Jan. 28th** at the First Baptist Church, or you may mail them per the form's instructions.

Come March and April, things start to heat up again, with our always-hot **Observers' Reports** by our dedicated League Observers, **on Wednesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 26** starting at 4:30 p.m. at the League office, 635 Flume Street in Chico.

And Coming Soon: **The 36th Annual Wine Tasting** on Sunday, April 19th, as well as our **Annual Business Meeting** on Wednesday, May 20th. So, please stay in touch, and stay busy with us!

Sincerely,
Sharon Wallace

Our Mission...

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.

Did you know.....

the Butte County League of Women Voters has 10 local Members observing many County and City Boards, Councils and Commissions?

Most of our dedicated League Observers have been observing for many years. As you can imagine, they are incredibly knowledgeable regarding the issues, the conflicts, and the "good and bad" of each observed entity.

Would you like to know.....

their take on Disc Golf in Bidwell Park?

Or are you curious about.....

how well the newly elected members of the Butte Board of Supervisors or the Chico City Council are fitting into their posts?

We'd like you to know that.....

We have scheduled **Observer Report Meetings** just for our League Members to tap into this invaluable information from our Observers:

Wednesday, March 18 at 4:30-6:30 pm
& **Thursday, March 26** at 4:30-6:30 pm.

Observer Report Meetings are two of the best meetings the League has each year. The Reports are great, and you will find that the subsequent discussions are totally engaging for everyone in attendance. Please plan to attend both this year, and mark the dates on your calendars now!

Betsy Kruger
Observers Chair

Join us for our Annual

January

Potluck & Program

Single-Payer Health Care update

Wednesday, January 28th

6 p.m. Potluck

7 p.m. Program

@ The First Baptist Church

850 Palmetto Ave, Chico

Guest Panelists: Tom Reed, MBA (CSUC), Ken Logan, MD (California Physicians Alliance, Chico), Norma Wilcox, RN (Treasurer of Butte County Health Care Coalition), and Forest Harlan (President of Butte County Health Care Coalition).

For more information, please call:
Linda Furr, 893-1291

Coming Soon!

36th Annual

Wine Tasting &

Light Buffet

Sunday, April 19, 2009

4 - 7 pm

Lakeside Pavilion

California Park

Chico, CA

For more information, call:
Alexandra Trent, Committee Chair
(530) 521-3134

A New Year, a New Administration, and Another long-standing League issue:
"Single-Payer Health Care" is the topic of our Potluck on Wednesday!

First off, let me urge every member to read the *National Voter* that the League sends to each of us quarterly. There, you'll see exactly which immediate problems this Congress and administration must face, and how the League of Women Voters is right there as a key player in wise policy development.

Locally, the League has been very successful in involving the community in policies that we have long endorsed: Barbara Hennigan, Tony St. Amant, and Bruce Smith have been steadfast in their attendance and organization of workshops, meetings and forums to educate people on the fragility of our underground aquifers and what it means to protect them. As a result of their persistence, we now have a Water Element in the Butte County General Plan!

The League was also instrumental in recently creating *Spare the Air Week* for the Butte County Transit System. During those weeks we provided historians, biologists, geologists and elected officials as speakers on nearly every bus route in the County, with League members acting as hosts.

Right now, Jim Gregg is exploring the process of how to gather information about California's budget system and its negative effects on Butte County citizens. Out of concern for the impending severe human and economic cost to our community from the recent state budget breakdown, the local League has joined with Independent Living Services, Valley Oaks Children Services and other groups to form the **Butte County State Budget Coalition**. This group's purpose is to gather information about the state's budgeting process, record the effect of its results, and offer possible solutions.

Later this spring, the League will help to sponsor the **Single-Payer Health Care Conference** that the local chapter of California Physicians Alliance will be offering. It will be held May 8 & 9 at the Trinity Methodist Church in Chico. More details come in our next *Voter*, so keep an eye out!

Meanwhile, we have something for our members to participate in this very next week! You can do your part to support the League's education and advocacy efforts with regard to **Single-Payer Health Care** by bringing a dish to our **Potluck & Program on Wednesday, January 28th** at the First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave, 6:00-8:30 pm. We'll break bread, enjoy each other's company, and indulge in our propensity for learning!

The local League itself is still helping to educate the community about the vital "single-payer" health care system. The more we learn about the downward spiral in California's health care and the drawbacks to Massachusetts's Commonwealth Care (the closest thing to "universal" healthcare in the U.S.), the more convinced we are that single-payer is the only way to go. **President Obama** has said that universal health care is part of the solution to our country's economic comeback. It's up to us to make sure that we get the REAL universal health care!

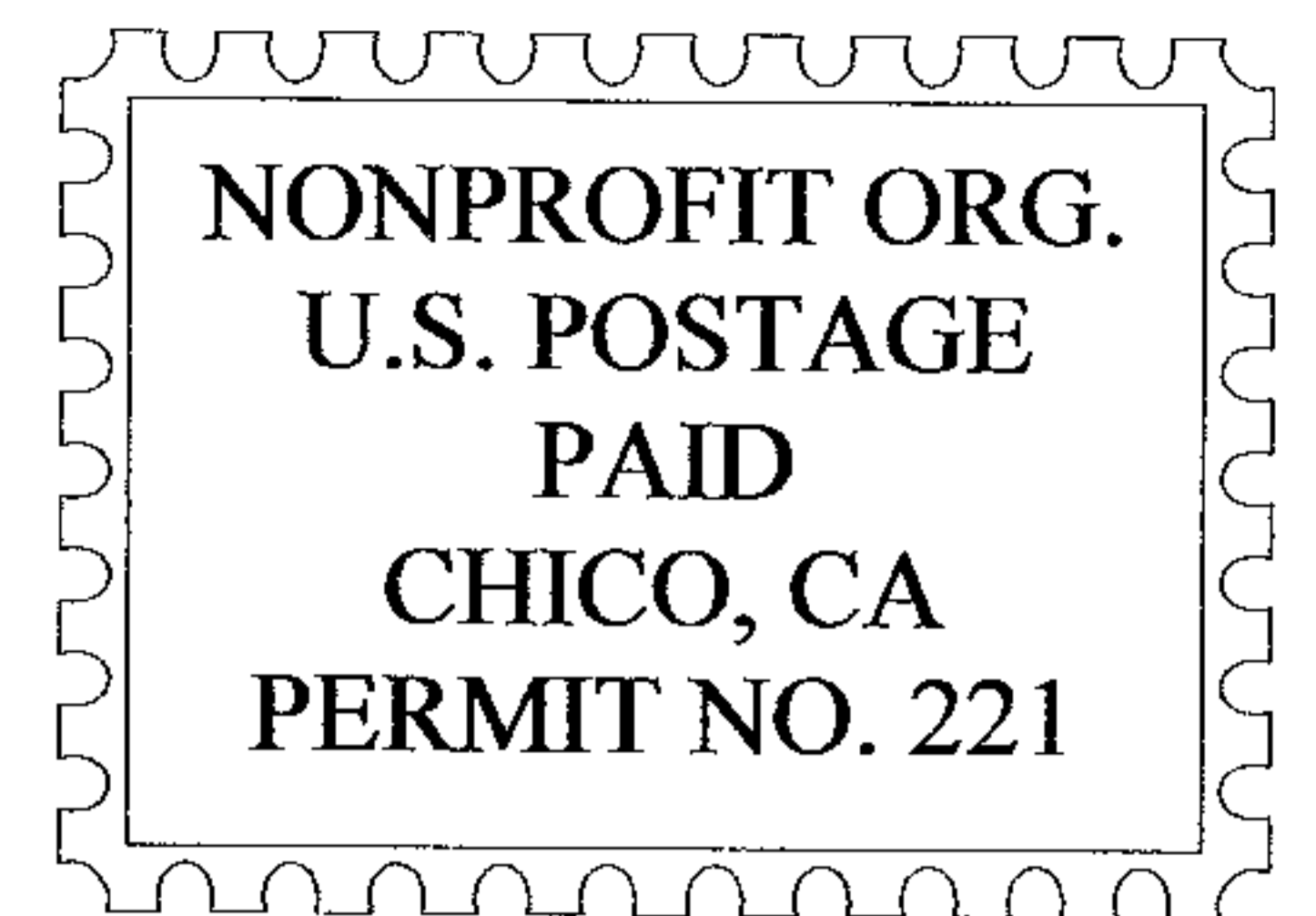
For the educational portion of our **January 28th Potluck**, the local League is doing its part by having an information-filled Single-Payer program with expert panelists consisting of **Tom Reed, MBA (CSUC)**, **Ken Logan, MD (California Physicians Alliance, Chico)**, **Norma Wilcox, RN (treasurer of Butte County Health Care Coalition)**, and **Forest Harlan (President of Butte County Health Care Coalition)**.

So, please do join us on Wednesday, January 28th, and feel free to bring friends and family along with a dish to share – at the First Baptist Church in Chico, beginning at 6 pm.

I hope to see you there!

Linda Furr
Social Policy Chair

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



DATED MATERIAL:

PLEASE OPEN IMMEDIATELY

Important LWVC Program Planning
information contained within for use at our
Wednesday, Jan. 28 Potluck & Program!

Printed on Recycled Paper

LEAGUE LEADERS

Officers:

President	Sharon Wallace	342-0910
1 st Vice President	Jim Gregg	343-0841
2 nd Vice President	Pattie McDevitt	895-1802
Secretary	Marba Hazzard	345-1895
Treasurer	Lucy Sperlin	879-9369

Directors:

Membership	Linda Lunsford	342-2081
Voter Service	Carol Burr	343-1117
Hospitality	Sandi Shand	343-8115
Natural Resources	Barbara Hennigan	893-8492
Observers	Betsy Kruger	345-7563
Social Policy	Linda Furr	893-1291
Action	Janis Chisholm	892-0213
Wine Tasting	Alexandra Trent	521-3134
Southside Liaison	Eileen Burke-Trent	846-4444
leave-of-absence	Beulah Robinson	

League Office: 635 Flume Street, Chico
www.lwvbuttecounty.org
530 895-VOTE (8683)

Winter/Spring '09 League Calendar

Wed, Jan. 28 - LWV Potluck & Program @ 6 p.m.
First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave, Chico
(please bring the Program Planning kit contained here)

Wed, March 18 & Thurs, March 26 @ 4:30 p.m.
Observers' Reports — *League-member-only* events
League office, 635 Flume Street, Chico

Sun, April 19 - Wine Tasting & Light Buffet, 4-7 pm
California Park Lakeside Pavilion, Chico

Wed, May 20 - Annual Business Meeting, 6-8:30 pm
First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave, Chico

LWV Board Meetings:

Tues, Feb. 10 - 5:30 p.m.

Tues, March 10 - 5:30 p.m.

Tues, April 14 - 5:30 p.m.

@ the League office, 635 Flume Street, Chico

*All League meetings are open to ALL League members.
Forums and Panel Discussions open to the public, as well.*