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Volume 55, No. 3

March 2005

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY

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

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Observers/Publicity	Mary Watters	343-2579
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Voter Service	Linda MacMichael	345-5586
	Carol Burr	343-1117
Publicity	Krista Gallwitz	345-8015

At Large

Kristin Cooper-Carter
Jan Dilg

566-1019

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

March 10, 2005

**North State Solar
Energy Conference**

Hosted by North State
Renewable Energy

Contact: Terry Battle at 530.898.5963

April 17, 2005

**Wine Tasting
Fundraiser**

Lakeside Pavilion
Chico

May 10, 2005

Annual Meeting

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

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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: _____

In just a few days you will be receiving your packet for the 32nd
Annual Wine Tasting.

Please call Ann Rutherford (345-1894)

or Charlene Vigallon (345-3416) to indicate what you will make for the
Wine Tasting on April 17.

We look forward to seeing you at the event!

If you have questions about the wine tasting, please contact Heather Quilici (566-9848 or tqhq@pacbell.net) or Jan Cooley-Dilg (566-1091 or jcool524@aol.com)

The Wine Tasting Committee wants to hear from you!

Get Involved in League and join a committee!

Action Committee—The job of the Action Chair (and committee) is to organize local support, mostly in the form of letter writing to state and national officials, in response to LWVC or LWVUS calls for action. Similarly there are local issues designated by the Board that require action usually as Letters to the Editor campaigns.

Social Policies—Committee work has focused on a restudy of the League's Education Position adopted in 1985. After a series of study sessions the committee will seek consensus from members for forwarding to the State League and for adoption at the 2005 state convention. Members interested in this committee's work may contact Jim Gregg, phone 343-0841, e mail, jgregg16@sbcglobal.net

Voter Service—Our Butte County League of Women Voters wants all members to be involved! If you are interested in Voters Service, here is a brief description of what is involved in this work:

1. organizing and/or helping at candidate forums and other related events
2. helping with voter registration activities
3. preparing and distributing voter information like Pros & Cons, Easy Voter, and Facts for Voters
4. helping arrange speakers on the propositions (or becoming a speaker yourself!)
5. coming up with other ways to educate our Butte County voters

Contact Carol Burr at 343-1117 to learn more about ways to support this important League service. need you!

Observers Corp—There are too many vacancies in our Observers Corp. Any one willing to give some time to a Chico or Butte County agency please let me know. Also I would be delighted to share the observation of the Butte County Board of Supervisors. I really believe if you start to observe you will find it interesting and a valuable education both for yourself and our League. Some of the major vacancies are: Butte College Board, Bidwell Park and Playground Commission, Butte County Assoc of Government, Butte Planning Commission, Butte County School Board, Chico Airport Commission, Chico Architectural Review Board, Chico Area Recreation Department (CARD), Paradise Town Council, and Paradise Unified School District. Please give some thought to observing. You might also share the task with another member. Call me for more information. Mary Watters 343-2579

Outlook Comment by Lyla Gregg

As printed in the Chico Enterprise Record February 28, 2005

The Governor says of our state budget that we don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem.

Citizens of Chico like me feel we must have a revenue problem when the Chico Unified School District says we must close schools. Parents say closing schools would not best serve students.

Funding public education is the responsibility of the State. Unfortunately in the last fiscal year, educators agreed to a \$2 billion cut to help resolve the state budget crises. Educators agreed to this because the Governor promised that education would get a fair share of state revenues in 2005. The governor's proposed budget breaks that promise. Our legislators, Rick Keene, Doug La Malfa and Sam Aanestad, do not appear to be lobbying for the state funding we need in Chico to prevent school closures. Therefore I propose a small parcel tax, \$4 or \$5 a month, a total of \$50 or \$60 a year, on 33,000 parcels in the CUSD to keep our schools open. I like to compare a small tax increase for schools to the way we pay for other necessary services. If we needed a land fill site, it would be paid for by some tax measure. We would agree and not object to paying for it. When our water and sewer rates go up, we pay the increases without much, if any, objection. I think we should think the same way about a small tax increase for our schools and our children.

Lyla Gregg

Education Study Update

The committee under Linda Lunsford has completed the Education Update Study 2003-2005 with a consensus meeting on February 24. will be forwarded to the State. (A full report will available for the April Voter.)

Subtopics covered in the study include: Equitable Access to Quality Education, School Finance, Governance, Accountability and Assessment, and The Public's Role in Public Education.

Under School Finance the committee concluded that State support should conform to Proposition 98, which the Governor promised last year in return for schools taking cuts in the State Budget last year. The committee also recommended supporting a local parcel tax to avoid future budget short fall in the Chico Unified School District budget.

Jim Gregg, *Social Policy*

Local Education Issues

A BIG Thank You to Linda Cole

League of Women Voters History

1922

In the League. . .

Baltimore Convention held in connection with Pan American Conference of Women. Cable Act for Independent Citizenship of Married Women passed. Maud Wood Park given pen used in signing bill.

In the world. . .

Washington Arms Conference; first session of the World Court. President Warren G. Harding dies; Calvin Coolidge becomes President.

1923

In the League. . .

Convention in Des Moines. Work on behalf of U.S. entry in World Court and on disarmament. Passage of Civil Service Reclassification Act, including equal compensation for women. First "get out the vote" campaign.

<http://www.lwv.org/about/pastfuture/timeline.html>

The League of Women Voters of Butte County now has a website!

For more information about the Local League and the National League of Women Voters go to
www.lwvbuttecounty.org.

For ideas, suggestions, or if you would like to help with the website please contact Carol Burr (343-1117).

An Observers Report

The Bidwell Park and Playground Commission, at its monthly meeting of February 28, decided to ask for input from the Chico Planning Department staff regarding regulations for 'viewsheds'. Of concern is the intrusion into the Park of houses built on the rim of the Canyon Oaks property. Eventually, the possible changes of these regulations will have to be addressed by Chico City Council. Looking into the future, 'viewshed' concerns will also probably have to be addressed along the North Rim trail. The property there, adjacent to the Park, is in the County. This is looking 10 - 15 years into the future.

Another interesting item under discussion were 'Neighborhood Parks'. Specifically Baroni Park south of Little Chico Creek and east of Bruce Road (nr. Potter Rd.). There have been numerous discussions with neighbors and a specific plan has been agreed to. The City Council is scheduled to consider the project for final approval at its March 15, 2005 meeting.

Things are 'stirring' with respect to Highland Neighborhood Park (on Cerest Ave in NE Chico) See our Parks and Greenway Position (p.6) of 2002.

The members of the Bidwell Park and Playground Commission are: Jim Walker, Chair, Michael Candela, Russell Mills, Richard Ober, Tom Barrett, Steve Lucas, and David Woods.

Gerda Lydon, *Observer*

As some of you may be aware Linda Cole, our hard-working, deep-thinking president, has had to step down because of a health problem. Being president of our 150-member organization under the best of circumstances is a daunting task, and Linda took it on with her whole self. She wanted our chapter to be organized, diverse, effective locally and in conjunction with the state and national League.

Linda worked to get strong board members and portfolio directors together. She provided each with a description of his or her duties, materials to help define and execute those duties, and encouragement to expand participation by reaching out to new and potential members. She constantly considered ways the League could make a difference in educating voters, studying issues of concern to our region, and observing organizations and agencies whose decisions affect Butte County residents. She also launched the Mita Markland Award to celebrate the work of other League leaders.

Many of you have worked with Linda during her years of active participation in and leadership of our League and can speak to the many large and small accomplishments that are the result of her effort and expertise. We hope we will not lose her, especially as we take on a key role in studying water issues. Linda is one of the most knowledgeable water resources people in the state!

Until our annual meeting on May 10, Linda MacMichael, our first vice-president, is serving as interim president. The Nominating Committee has put a slate together and we are asking members to step up to the plate and volunteer to participate in one of the service areas; Social Policy, Voters Service, Observers Corp, and the Action Committee. We have asked each portfolio director to provide a brief description of the work in that area and a way for you to contact him or her to sign on or ask for more detailed information. Look for information about the other committees such as Natural Resources, Publications/Communications, Fundraising, Government, and Membership in the April issue of the Voter.

Join us in thanking Linda and help sustain the strides we have made under her leadership by being an active League member. The League's role is important and we have the sense of community to improve our world!

We love you, Linda!