

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUTTE COUNTY

Voter

Spring 2009

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Dear Friends,

When it comes to rounding out a calendar, nobody does it better than the League of Women Voters of Butte County! So, rather than spending a lot of your time reading, I will get straight to the point before I lose your attention.

Here are the **most important things** that I need to share with you right away:

- * First, you have the **EXCLUSIVE opportunity** (*this coming week and the week after*) to hear the "inside scoop" from our **League Observer Corps!** **Wednesday, March 18 & Thursday, March 26 starting at 4:30 p.m.** @ the League office, 635 Flume Street in Chico. (*See page 2 for details*)
- * Next, we need your **SUPPORT** to keep the **Wine Tasting** (our 36th year) as fresh & alive as always, regardless of how good or bad the economy! ***So, please post the attached flyer*** on bulletin boards at your workplace or at favorite stomping grounds — to help us (and YOU) sell those tickets! Also, please **USE THIS ADDRESS** to send in proceeds from sales of Wine Tasting tickets — **Mail to: LWV c/o Lucy Sperlin, 18 Yale Way, Chico, CA 95926.** (*This info was accidentally omitted in the WT packets*)
- * And with another Special Statewide Election slated for **May 19th**, please **PARTICIPATE** in DEMOCRACY along with us! Be an informed and active Member of League, by involvement in the above events & more!

Thank You!
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.

On Wednesday, March 18th & Thursday, March 26th we will have the great honor and privilege (*as dues-paying League members*) to hear some of the more private observations from our own cadre of “special agents” — more often referred to as the **League Observer Corps!**

Please mark your calendars to attend one or both of these interesting sessions, at the League office, 635 Flume St in Chico. **Both sessions begin at 4:30 pm and continue to 6:30 pm.**

If you can't make a whole meeting, that is OK. Come for all or part of these "insider" sessions!

LWV Observers patiently attend commission and council meetings, making note of the big issues and the personalities which dominate the scene.

At our **Observer Report sessions**, we often hear (for the first time) the real scoop behind the nature of our local government entities; what happens at those meetings; who makes it all happen; and even occasionally, who doesn't make it happen!

So, if you'd like to receive the benefit of our League Observer insights and knowledge, you must attend one or both of these sessions....

It simply doesn't happen anywhere else!

Observer Reports on March 18 will be:

Butte County Board of Supervisors, 1— Mary Watters
Butte Co. Assoc. of Govts. (BCAG) — Linda Furr
City of Chico Planning Comm.— Ramona Flynn
Chico Unified School Board — Lyla Gregg

Observer Reports on March 26 will be:

Paradise Irrigation District — Madeleine Caton
Chico Area Recreation District — Margaret Bomberg
Bidwell Park & Playground Comm. — Gerda Lydon
Butte Co Planning Comm--Barbara Gates/Julia Jenkins
Butte Co. Board of Supervisors, 2 — Barbara Conklin

Sincerely ~

Betsy Kruger, Observers Chair

At our **January Potluck**, Marba Hazzard and I read the summary of all LWVC Action Positions and then received responses from our members, both orally and in writing, in order to report our local Program Planning wishes back to the State League. In all, 40 League members participated, and the following are the results which we submitted to the State League.

There was a strong consensus to **RETAIN all the State League positions** in the categories of Government, Natural Resources and Social Policy. In addition, we recommended that the State League engage in a **NEW study regarding WATER**, as the last update was done about 30 years ago. The added fact that **California is over-allocating its existent water supplies by 8 times our actual amount of water available** contributed greatly to our belief that our State League positions need updating.

As for our **Issues for Education and Advocacy**, we recommended that the State League create an **Action Plan** by combining the current positions of **Constitution, Initiative and Referendum, and State Finances** to more effectively respond to the CA State Budget crisis. Our second choice for an LWVC **Issue for Education and Advocacy** was to combine the positions of **Air Quality and Transportation** in order to focus more on community education in support of our current **Action Plan on Sustainability**.

These results were submitted to the State League office on Feb. 13, 2009.

Pattie McDevitt
2nd Vice President

36th Annual
Wine Tasting
&
Light Buffet

Sun, April 19th
4 pm - 7 pm

Lakeside Pavilion
at California Park
Chico, CA

**Please use the attached
flyer to publicize this
IMPORTANT EVENT**

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

Please join us in an evening with
CSUC Professor Charley Turner as he presents the
Pros & Cons of the State Ballot Propositions

Monday, April 20, 2009 @ 7 p.m.

Chico City Council Chambers

Proposition titles for the May 19 Special Election which we will learn more about:

Prop 1A — Stabilizes State Budget. Reforms California Budget Process. Limits State Spending. Increases "Rainy Day" Budget Stabilization Fund.

Prop 1B — Election Funding. Payment Plan.

Prop 1C — Lottery Modernization Act.

Prop 1D — Protects Children's Services Funding. Helps Balance State Budget.

Prop 1E — Ensures Funding for Children's Mental Health Services. Helps Balance State Budget.

Prop 1F — Elected Officials' Salaries. Prevents Pay Increases During Budget Deficit Years.

NOTE: The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of California voted at its March meeting to "oppose" Propositions 1A, 1C, 1D and 1E. They have taken a "neutral" stand on Prop 1B, and have taken "no position" or stand on 1F. More specifics from the State League will be released over the next month.

The January Potluck program was great!

Information about Single-Payer health care was delivered with precision, passion, and a wealth of knowledge from a panel of experts who have worked long and hard for this publicly-funded, privately-delivered health care system that the California League of Women Voters has supported since at least 1992.

Kicking-off the program was **Tom Reed**, founder of Butte County Health Care Coalition, who pointed out the moral and economic reasons for California's need to adopt SB 840. Then **Forest Harlan**, the current President of BCHCC followed, with a PowerPoint presentation comparing universal health care systems internationally — their strengths and weaknesses.

Next, **Dr. Ken Logan**, Chair of California Physicians Alliance, Chico, told us very clearly of the collapsing health care system he sees around him day-by-day. He believes the solution is right here at hand in the form of Single-Payer health care and is dismayed at the political paralysis that delays its adoption. Following Ken's passionate call for awareness of what's taking place medically to our neighbors and to ourselves,

Norma Wilcox, of BCHCC, then quietly and wryly reminded us that there are winners and losers in our health care system. She pointed out the astronomical salaries and perks for the "winners" you'll find in the health insurance and medical supplies corporations and compared them with the poor health outcomes, loss of health care, and personal bankruptcies found among the "losers" in our current health care system.

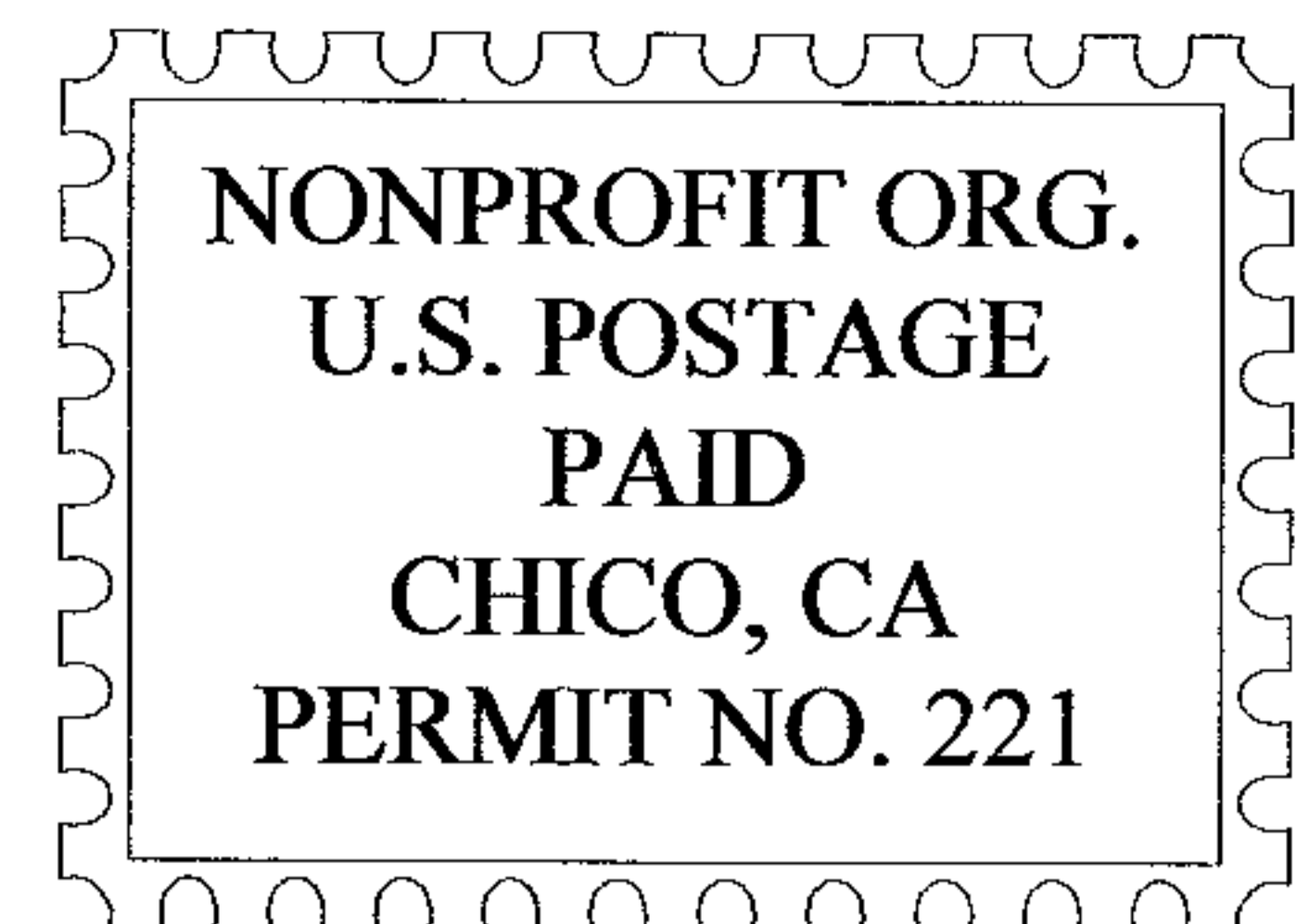
Again, the question and answer period that followed was an education in itself for League members, guests and the panelists. I want to **Thank All** who attended!

REMEMBER THIS, FOLKS: **Senator Mark Leno** of San Francisco is reintroducing the previous SB 840 bill into the California State Legislature as **SB 810**. That's our magic number now!

A FINAL NOTE: The California Physician's Alliance (CaPA) is hosting an exciting educational conference on **May 8-9** all about Single-Payer Health Care! Mark your calendars now, and we will share more info soon!

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: Information
contained within regarding the
May 19th SPECIAL ELECTION

Printed on Recycled Paper

LEAGUE LEADERS

Officers:

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1 st Vice President	Jim Gregg	343-0841
2 nd Vice President	Pattie McDevitt	895-1802
Secretary	Marba Hazzard	345-1895
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Government	Eileen Burke-Trent	846-4444
leave-of-absence	Beulah Robinson	

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

March-May 2009 LWV Calendar

- * **Wednesday, March 18** starting at 4:30 p.m.
and Thursday, March 26 starting at 4:30 p.m.
Observer Reports — *for LWV Members-Only*
@ the League office, 635 Flume Street, Chico
- * **Sun, April 19** — **Wine Tasting & Light Buffet**
4-7 p.m. @ Lakeside Pavilion at California Park, Chico
- * **Monday, April 20** — **Pros & Cons of Statewide Propositions @ Chico Council Chambers, 7 p.m.**
Tuesday, May 19 — *Statewide Special Election*
- * **Thursday, May 21** — **LWV Annual Meeting with Potluck at 6 p.m., Bus. Mtg. at 7-8:30 p.m.**
First Baptist Church, 850 Palmetto Ave, Chico

LWV Board of Director Meetings

Tues, April 14 - 5:30 p.m.
Tues, May 12 - 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.*