

# League of Women Voters of Butte County



## e-Bulletin November 2015

Dear Members,

The days are racing by. It has been an action packed autumn and I am learning so much about our splendid organization. Now it is time to turn our attention to the November 4 program, 'Working Toward a Healthier Butte County,' our Holiday Party on December 10 at the Stansbury Home, and our January 21 Potluck on our 'Higher Education Study.' Exciting events!

Please join us for each activity. It is important that the Board and I have time to mingle with members. We want to visit and hear what you are thinking. And, our Holiday party is the perfect opportunity to play and share a festive moment.

We look forward to seeing you.

Call or send an email anytime.

Margaret

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### **Our Social Policy Committee Needs Your Warm Bodies & Sharp Minds!**

*The Social Policy committee will be working on **two main topics** this year, and they could use both short-term and long-term commitments and involvement from our local League membership.*

***Short-term help needed:*** Per member request at the Annual Meeting in May, the committee is preparing to "update" our one-page position on **Health Care Delivery**, particularly in light of the changing landscape post-implementation of the Affordable Care Act, as well as other changes in the modern health care delivery model.

***Please consider participating on this ad hoc committee***, along with Carol Burr and Linda Furr. Contact Carol at [CBurr@csuchico.edu](mailto:CBurr@csuchico.edu). Provided here is a link to our Local Action Positions, where you will find our current LWV of Butte County position on "Health Care Delivery" on Page 19:

<http://lwvbuttecounty.org/LWVBC-2015-%20Local%20Action%20Positions.pdf>

***Higher Education Study help needed:*** In August 2014, a 15-member statewide committee of the LWV of California began its work, at which time they refined the scope of the state League study to "**examining access to quality public higher education in California, including funding, affordability, preparedness, equity, and opportunities and barriers to student success.**"

***Our local Study committee must now review the state League's Study Guide*** and break it into manageable components for our local use. We may choose to interview education administrators at Chico State and Butte College, for instance, and we will certainly be presenting focused programs to our members, with the goal of arriving at "consensus" about specific questions that the State Study committee has asked our local League to address or answer.

***State League Studies provide wonderful opportunities to engage with other leaders in the community***, and to work alongside fellow committee members and the membership in order to arrive at solutions or answers to timely and compelling questions. If you are interested in exploring this Higher Education Study further, please contact Jim Gregg or Carol Burr at [CBurr@csuchico.edu](mailto:CBurr@csuchico.edu).

Sincerely,

Linda Furr, Social Policy Director

## **League Observers Making a Difference**

**Margaret Bomberg**, a local attorney and longtime League Observer for Chico Area Recreation District (CARD), briefed the League Board about the changes CARD has made in the last year.

Our President, **Margaret Swick** and I met with **Ann Willmann**, **CARD's new general manager**, the following week. We both found her to be open to and appreciative of our suggestions for increased transparency. We believe CARD is in very capable hands and we look forward to her leadership. Additionally, we hope she decides to become a member of our chapter of LWV – Margaret made a compelling pitch for her to join us.

**Margaret Swick** also addressed the **Chico City Council** at their Oct 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. She commended the Council for moving in the direction of developing a *Code of Conduct and Ethics* for councilmembers. She eloquently and respectfully expressed the LWV views and made a few suggestions. *Watch the video of Margaret's City Council appearance on our website at [www.lwvbuttecounty.org](http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org)!*

The Council voted unanimously to have the 12-page document submitted by the City Attorney to move to their Internal Affairs Committee for further study.

We have three new observers joining our local Observer Corps. **Thank you Merrily, Nancy and Linn.**

Butte County Board of Supervisors – Merrily Stover will be a co-observer with Toni Reid  
Bidwell Park & Playground Commission – Nancy and Linn Hanson

Sincerely,  
Rose Kelley, Observers Director

### **National Voter Registration Day and our new High School-Civics Partnership**

In recognition of National Voter Registration Day 2015, the LWV of Butte County teamed up with government teacher **John Wiggins of Pleasant Valley High School**, setting-up an outreach booth to encourage eligible students to register to vote. During the brief lunch period, we provided students with information and the opportunity to register to vote on campus.

The event was highly successful, and in conjunction with a mock national election, the event generated considerable student interest. The outreach group was comprised of Voter Service Director **Shawn Murphy**, and League members **Sharon Wallace, Dave Garcia, Diana Magrey, Caroline Langen, and student member Samantha Boeger**. Together the team distributed 57 voter registration forms to eligible juniors and seniors. **Sandi Shand** also generously made brownies and rice crispy treats to hand out to the students who stopped by.

Our high school voter registration and educational efforts will continue through the 2016 election year, as we have joined a coalition called the **California Civic Learning Partnership**. The Voter Service committee

will be developing an outreach program in the coming weeks, and will soon share with League members similar opportunities for your personal involvement! So, please stay tuned, and meanwhile you can see photos of our voter registration tabling team on our website at: <http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org>

### ***And on the Natural Resources Front...***

The Butte County Supervisors supported a plan to form a **groundwater sustainability agency**. For the full story, head over here: <http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20151013/butte-county-supervisors-unanimously-back-plans-to-form-groundwater-sustainability-agency>

**The California Water Commission** held another public meeting, this time in Yuba City on October 21st. For details about that meeting's agenda, along with great background information about **Water Storage in California** via a PowerPoint presentation, see the commission's web site at: [https://cwc.ca.gov/Pages/2015/10\\_October/102115PublicMeetingAgenda.aspx](https://cwc.ca.gov/Pages/2015/10_October/102115PublicMeetingAgenda.aspx)