



# The Voter

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MENDOCINO COUNTY

May, 2018

Cindy Plank and Nancy Kleiber, Presidents

Jary Stavely and Lee Tepper, Editors

### Annual Meeting and Luncheon to Be Held Next Week

by Jary Stavely

Our local League's Annual Meeting will be on May 8th at the Caspar Community Center. In addition to our annual business meeting (see the packet enclosed in your April

VOTER), we will consider various aspects of the June primary election. Voter Services Chair Carol Czadek, along with Jane Person, Jary Stavely, and Cindy Plank, will present pros, cons, and California League recommendations concerning the five statewide propositions and the two countywide measures on the ballot.

**ADMIT ONE (OR MORE)**  
League of Women Voters of Mendocino County  
**Annual Meeting**  
May 8th, 2018 at 10 a.m.  
Caspar Community Center  
\* To vote in the annual election, you must be a current member. Others are welcome to attend.

Information about past and upcoming forums for contested offices on coastal ballots will also be presented. The annual meeting will include the traditional potluck

luncheon as well. Members should bring an entree, salad, or dessert to share. This year, unfortunately, no soup from the Westport Hotel will be served. Coffee and conversation will be available at 9:30, followed by the business meeting at 10:00. The Election Review and the meal will take place afterwards.

### June 5 Ballot Proposals at a Glance

#### State Proposition

- 68** - Bonds for Environment, Parks, & Water
- 69** - Transportation Funding
- 70** - Cap and Trade Amendment
- 71** - Ballot Measure Effective Date
- 72** - Taxes for Rainwater Capture Systems

#### Local Measure

- G** – (Mendocino County) Transient Occupancy Tax
- C** – (Coast Health Care District) Parcel Tax

Still deciding about candidates? Check out the forum information on p.6.

And don't miss the County Superintendent of Schools forum this Wednesday!

### LWW Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, strives to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

*President's message ...*

## **Rethinking Our Plastics Use**

*by Cindy Plank*

Plastic this and plastic that...how did we get so dependent? Our parents' generation mostly used glass and metal for storage. Did you know that 4-5% of the total U.S. petroleum consumption is dedicated to the manufacture of plastic products? And petroleum products are used in cosmetics, medications, cleaning products, asphalt, synthetic fabrics, preservatives, colorings, and certainly more. My mom would tell me about using baking soda for toothpaste. Remember the stiff paper straws we used to have instead of the plastic ones that are so common now? What gets me is not only the multitude of plastic toys being sold, but the massive amounts of packaging. And some of that packaging is so thick, it's almost impossible to cut away.

A lot of plastic and other rubbish ends up in our rivers and oceans. The Pacific Garbage Patch keeps growing – it's now twice the size of Texas. All of that plastic and garbage is not only harmful to our environment, but it is killing sea life. Floating plastic bags look like jelly fish to sea turtles. There have been multiple stories of whales dying of starvation, with their bellies full of plastic items, fishing nets, ropes, etc.

"Oceans of Plastics" is a creative collaboration between our local Flockworks (Janet Self, Sue Coulter, plus three interns) and the Noyo Center for Marine Science, called the Upwelling Project. The aim is to raise awareness of the impact the use of plastics has on our oceans and earth ecosystem. "Re-Think Plastics" is at the heart of their effort. Plastics of all sorts were collected and resulted in "Trash Fashion" and "Bottles," installations recently on display at Fort Bragg's First Friday, also on display recently in Ukiah and on Earth Day. But more opportunities to view these creative displays will occur at World Oceans Day on June 8 and 9, and at Mendocino's 4th of July parade. Next year there will be more interns, more installations, and more "engagement" work with students on efforts such as "The Last Straw"—which encourages local bars and restaurants to stop using plastic straws.

When I chatted with Janet at the First Friday display, she mentioned a few other ideas she was tossing around, like making cloth produce bags that were fun enough people might buy them to use instead of the plastic ones from the store. And we both said we had heard of reusable, washable food wraps made from



bees wax, but neither of us had tried them yet.

There are multiple websites that give ideas for helping with some of the problems plastic items provide. There's a UK startup company turning recycled plastic into road base. Somewhere I saw a blurb about a company who will take used cosmetic tubes and bottles and recycle them, but people have to box their items up and mail them to the company. I've read about breweries that make biodegradable and edible 6 pack can rings. While plastic bags are typically made from polymers (made from carbon which comes from oil), there are businesses beginning to make bags with corn or a starch base. I even read about a non-petroleum "plastic" hard hat made from sugar cane, but I'm not sure I would trust my head in one without a lot more evidence of safety.

And there is more hopeful news: A Dutch company called The Ocean Cleanup, operating from Alameda Naval Air Station, is assembling large screens that will hang from dozens of black floating tubes, u-shaped barriers to act as a funnel for collecting plastic that is floating in the Pacific Garbage Patch. Boats will soon tow the devices some 2,500 miles out to sea towards Hawaii and drop them in the ocean. Currents are expected to carry the plastic debris to the screens to collect there. CEO Boyan Slat reported that every two months, a boat (or garbage truck of the ocean) will head out and put a net around the plastic, and then close the top of the net to lift it on to the boat. The company believes it can eventually capture 90 percent of the plastic this way, but it is estimated to take five years to remove half the debris and another twenty years to remove the rest.

Hasbro is offering a free shipping label to those who want to donate old toys. Hasbro is partnering with the recycling company Terracycle to transform the donated toys into material to make playgrounds, park benches and flower pots, among other things.

A supermarket in Amsterdam opened in February with an aisle that has more than 700 grocery items — and no plastic. The entire aisle is without plastic packaging, and instead uses glass, metal and cardboard containers, and materials that can be composted. Some of the packaging looks plastic, but it's actually a biofilm made of trees and plants that breaks down within 12 weeks in a home composter.

These stories are encouraging, but we as individuals can do our part, too. We already bring our own bags to the market, but what if instead of the plastic or

vinyl type, we used more of them that are made from canvas, jute, denim, or even handmade crochet. Maybe Flockworks will have some available to sell to us one day. And what if we say no thanks to that offered straw when we order a beverage? (I've heard some people carry around their own glass straw.)

I may not start making my own toothpaste anytime soon. And while I've now and then used my own home made cleaning products, I don't do it nearly often enough. All I can do is try to catch a tip now and then, recycle as much as I can, and try to reduce the amount of plastic I use. And there must be so many more ideas out there. Let's share them with each other, and help cut back on the 28 million tons of plastic thrown away each year in the U.S.

## A Sorry Tale Concerning Our Local Recycling

*by Meg Courtney*

For years I've known that China was taking our country's recycled materials, but recently I heard this was possibly no longer the case. Each week our local Waste Management trucks continue to collect the contents of our grey, green and blue trash bins. I know our compostables (green bins) go to Cold Creek Compost in Potter Valley, the trash (grey bins) goes to the landfill outside our county, but where are our "single stream" recyclables – cans, bottles, plastics, papers – going from the blue bins?

I called Robert Carlson of MendoRecycle, also known as Mendocino Solid Waste Management Authority, that oversees all waste issues in our county. He said, indeed, China no longer takes what we would call recyclables. To make matters worse, rather than making money for our recycled stuff the haulers are being charged, because they still, due to their contracts, have to get rid of this now worthless "stuff". It is easy to see this is not a sustainable way to do business. We have two haulers in Mendocino County – C & S in Ukiah and Solid Waste of Willits - who sort through all our stuff before sending it on.... but where?

I talked to Steve Shamblin of Waste Management who told me that the challenge is to find new ways to process our recyclables and find new uses for it. This will not happen overnight. He said, as far as he knows, our stuff is not going to the landfill, yet, and at some point it might have to be stored. This is a

gloomy prospect especially since we seemed to have come a long way since the days of throwing our trash into the ocean or filling up the already over-taxed landfills.

Another option is to have manufacturers assume responsibility for taking care of their waste products and this is happening in some sectors, but nowhere enough to make a difference. Even before I learned that China had dropped out, I was told that the United States, after all the education about recycling, only recycled two percent of its waste stream.

The bottom line, as both Mr. Carlson and Mr. Shamblin told me is: it is UP TO US! By buying less, by re-using, by minimizing the use of plastics, and by being really conscious that what we throw "away" is not going away. The "away" is going nowhere except into our earth, our rivers, our streams and the oceans.

### Welcome, New Members

Please welcome new members John Redding and Barbara Barkovitch, who joined the League after our April meeting about keeping civility in civil discourse. John is already a contributor to the *Voter*, see p. 5.

*Sister League news*

## Education about the Environment

by Karen Warner Nelson

*Karen Nelson is a member of the LWV California Climate Change Task Force and LWV San Jose/Santa Clara Climate Change Committee -- editor*

The California League is publicizing the following webinar and live presentation:

***Soil Health for Carbon Sequestration in the Face of Climate Change***, to be held on **May 16, 2018** from noon to 1 p.m. It will take place at the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board Room, 5700 Almaden Expressway, in San Jose. Elizabeth Guimarin, Consultant and Educator on Soil Health, will lead the presentation, which will be hosted by the LWVC Climate Change Task Force and the LWV of San Jose/Santa Clara. The **LWVC Climate Change Task Force** is dedicated to helping League members understand the consequences of Climate Change, how the State's new policies align with the League's State and National positions, and climate change actions members can take at the individual, local, county and state levels. We are supported in this work by the **LWV San Jose/Santa Clara Climate Change Committee**.

The program will address:

- How can we drawdown carbon with healthy soils?
- How does regenerating landscapes sequester carbon and stabilize the climate?
- What is being done in California? What can we, as Leagues and individuals, do?

As we look for ways to mitigate climate change, one answer is literally underneath our feet. Healthy soils

can remove carbon from the atmosphere and store it in the soil. This can change agriculture and land management from a major cause of climate change to a solution within reach!

Storing carbon in the soil is considered an important solution to climate change and offers many additional benefits such as, increased water abundance, moderation of extreme weather, food security and good livelihoods for farmers and ranchers.

Whether we live in an urban or rural area in California, we can all participate in regenerating land by capturing carbon through soil health.

For in-person attendance, please RSVP at: [climatechange@lwvsjsc.org](mailto:climatechange@lwvsjsc.org). Light refreshments including coffee, tea, water and snacks will be available. For webinar attendance, visit: [www.register.gotowebinar.com/register/436077696587812355](http://www.register.gotowebinar.com/register/436077696587812355). Webinar spaces are limited, so please reserve early.

Elizabeth Guimarin consults, advises, and educates on soil health for carbon sequestration and water abundance to reduce the risks from climate change. She has an education and background in environmental chemistry with a Master's degree in Soil Science. Elizabeth is an experienced program and project manager in science, technology, and education services for companies and nonprofit organizations with PMP and LEED General Associate certifications. You can learn more about Elizabeth Guimarin, and the subject, at her website: [www.soilcarbonwatch.org](http://www.soilcarbonwatch.org). We hope you can join us.

## Earth Day Climate Change Presentation

Linda Jupiter reports that Dennak Murphy spoke at the Caspar Shul on Earth Day about his work with the 50/50 Climate Project, which calls on investors to challenge large corporations to adopt policies which are more environmentally sustainable. He spoke about his work with the organization (which he co-founded), as well as about legislative, advocacy and

local sustainability paths to addressing the crisis of climate change. More information about the 50/50 Climate Project can be found at its website, <https://5050climate.org/>. Mr. Murphy and his wife, Laura Goldman, have recently moved to the Mendocino Coast.

*April meeting*

## A Discourse Concerning Civil Discourse

by Jary Stavelly

Twenty League members and interested citizens came to the Caspar Community Center on April 10th for an in-depth consideration of civility in civil discourse—what it is, and how to accomplish it. The program, compiled from a variety of sources, was presented by Dorine Real, who also moderated a lively audience discussion of various aspects of the state of civil discourse today. Pat Dunbar assisted by posting audience input on a flip chart. Cindy Plank, Jane Person, and Jary Stavelly performed a humorous skit about incivility in public meetings; Lee Tepper showed the movie.

The program began with an animation of the Dr. Seuss story *The Zax*, in which two seemingly similar creatures encounter each other head on, and refuse (in a highly verbose way) to make any accommodation for their opposite number.

After that introductory example of incivility in social discourse, members of the audience were invited to offer their ideas on what civility is, to which Dorine added definitions from the National Institute for Civil Discourse: “*Civility* means showing mutual respect toward one another. *Civil discourse* is the free and respectful exchange of different ideas.”

## Politics and Community

by John Redding

As a follow up to the great workshop on Civility, I want to share some recent articles on how to improve our public discourse.

First there is an article by Scott Rasmussen called “Politics Polarize; Community Unites”:

<https://townhall.com/columnists/scottrasmussen/2018/04/19/politics-polarize-community-unites-n2472299>

Here is the pull quote:

“Perhaps worst of all, political polarization blinds many to the common ground we share as Americans. As a nation founded upon the ideals of freedom, equality and self-governance, we share a common creed: just about all of us believe we have

That led to a broader discussion of how civility applies to civil discourse, including how to call out incivility in a public forum, and how to avoid people taking pleasure in making witty put-downs of others. Jane shared her experience running League public information events. She has rarely needed to interject reminders in order to maintain decorum and avoid emotional incivility. She shared three main rules for maintaining civility and decorum at public events: taking turns, disallowing interruptions, and no *ad hominem* remarks.

Other facts that were presented include:

- Research has shown that incivility activates the brain’s instinctual defensive mode, actually suppressing noticing, problem-solving, and creativity.
- Robert’s rules of Order include the basic principles of civility (called “decorum” in meetings), but most people are not aware of this.
- Many local Leagues, in particular San Luis Obispo, are working on civility issues. SLO has created a civility handbook and gotten the members of many local agencies to sign a civility pledge.

*For resources from the presentation, see p. 7*

the right to live our lives as we see fit, so long as we respect the rights of others to do the same.

We also share a nearly universal desire to create a better world by working together in community. That’s the best use of our individual freedom.”

I also listened to an interview on how to bridge the gap between different sides of the ideological spectrum. This person’s advice was to not put people with different views in a closed room and have them discuss topics but rather to get the same people to work on something in the community together. By working together on a worthwhile project, they would see the others as people pretty much like themselves.

## Candidate Forums: One Last Week, Two More This Week

by Jary Stavely

### County Schools Superintendent Wednesday, May 2

The League will hold a forum for the two candidates running for County Schools Superintendent on Wednesday, May 2 from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Caspar Community Center. Candidates Michelle Hutchins and Bryan Barrett will present 2-minute opening and closing statements, and give one minute answers to written questions from the audience. Carol Czadek will moderate, Jane Person will assist, Roberta Brockschmidt will distribute and collect 3 x 5 cards for audience questions, and Sharon Gilligan will keep track of time.

The Mendocino Office of Education has a budget of almost \$16 million, 70% of which is for salaries and benefits. What are the administration and educational support services that the Superintendent of Schools provides? What are the spending priorities? Please come, contribute your own penetrating questions, listen to the answers, and make an informed choice in the June 5 election.

### 5th District Supervisor Friday, May 4

Voter Services Chair Carol Czadek has confirmed that on the morning of May 4, the League will hold a forum of all the 5th District Supervisor candidates especially for the 40 students of the Mendocino High Schools who are studying civics and are eligible to vote this June or soon thereafter. MHS teacher Andy Wellspring will moderate. Cindy Plank will be on hand to distribute the new voter packets the League has prepared for the students (see the April 2018 *Voter*).

Unfortunately, due to School District policies, this event is open to students and their families, but *not* to the general public. However, a video of the Anderson Valley supervisor forum, featuring all five candidates, is available from MendocinoTV at: <https://mendocinotv.com/2018/04/10/fifth-district-supervisor-candidates-forum-at-the-anderson-valley-grange/>.

### Assessor Clerk-Recorder Friday, April 27

More than 30 citizens attended the League's forum for Mendocino County Assessor Clerk-Recorder candidates on April 27 in the Fort Bragg Senior Center Activity Room. Dirk Larson, Katrina Bartolomie, and Jeanette Kroppman introduced themselves and answered live questions from the audience. The hour-long event was moderated by Pat Dunbar.

All three candidates were born and raised in Mendocino County. Larson graduated from Fort Bragg High School, while the other two grew up inland. All have extensive experience working in the Department of the Assessor Clerk-Recorder. Kroppman began working for the county in 1989, and is now a Real Property Appraiser II. Larson began in 1994 and is now also a senior appraiser in the Assessor's side of the department. Bartolomie had worked for non-profit organizations before joining the County office in 2004, and has worked in the clerk-recorder side, now serving as Assistant Clerk-Recorder, the second-in-command.

Throughout the discussion and during their closing remarks, the candidates seemed to agree that their office has suffered from being directed in a brusque, rigid way, and all pledged to have better relations with the public. They stressed the need for having better communication skills within the department and without.

Many of the audience questions centered on election procedures and mail-in balloting, the area in which Bartolomie had the most direct experience. All of the candidates agreed that results ought to be available sooner than they have been in recent years. Kroppman advocated using more than the current six "volunteers" (temporary poll workers at minimum wage who are not regular county employees) to process the high volume of mail-in ballots. Larson believes that faster results could come from redirecting the 17 current department employees to focus on the counting process for the time it takes.

Bartolomie emphasized her familiarity with the state regulations that make the procedure so time-

consuming, and promised that help could come from new processing systems that will soon be available.

The candidates also differed on the future of voting in the county. Larson feels that universal mail-in balloting is what the future holds, because of the new state voting law, which is being implemented in 11 counties this year. (See the February 2018 *Voter*.) He advocated the establishment of "election centers" in neighborhoods, at which voters could pick up and return their ballots, thereby preserving the feel of the polling places of the past.

Bartolomie, citing her involvement in creating the current county ballots, does not feel such election centers can conform to laws guaranteeing privacy and restrictions against partisan pressure.

Kroppman, referring to former elections chief Marsha Whorf's efforts to divide up precincts to force mail-in only areas, said she would work to recombine them, restoring many polling places for people who have lost them.

During the forum there were few significant differences of opinion, but each candidate mentioned at least one idea which neither of the others seconded. Kroppman suggested going to Mendocino College for help and expertise in resolving the delay in reporting absentee ballot results. Bartolomie hopes to involve independent service organizations such as Kiwanis in helping with elections. Larson thinks the Assessor's office should be separated from the Clerk-Recorder's, as they do not have overlapping responsibilities.

The candidates treated each other with courtesy and gave the impression that they could work well

together regardless of which one wins the election. In the event that no candidate gains more than 50% of the vote in June, there will be a run-off between the top two in the November election.

## Mental Health Followup

Remember last fall's Measure B, the mental health initiative which was approved by more than 2/3 of the vote? The commission authorized by that measure has been established and is called the Mental Health Initiative Citizen's Oversight Committee. It meets on the last Wednesday of each month in Ukiah, and most recently reviewed documents about the suitability of using the old Howard Hospital in Willits for the work which the initiative should initiate. The eleven members are listed below.

Thomas Allman, Sheriff

Jed Diamond, District 3 appointee

Mark Mertle, District 4 appointee

Shannon Riley, District 2 appointee

Carmel Angelo, County CEO

Ross Liberty, District 5 appointee

Jenine Miller, County Mental Health Director

Lloyd Weer, County Auditor

Ace Barash, District 1 appointee

Jan McGourty, BHAB (Behavioral Health Advisory Board) rep

Donna Moschetti, NAMI (the National Alliance for Mental Illness) rep

Dora Briley serves as the Committee Clerk. Those styled "appointee" were named by their respective

supervisor. Although the committee has had little press coverage, its agendas, minutes, and videos of its meetings can be found at:

<https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/mental-health-oversight-committee/agendas-and-minutes>.

The videos are on the MendocinoTV website at: <https://mendocinotv.com/category/government/>

### Resources from the Civility presentation:

The Zax:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZmZzGxGpSs>

On staying friends despite differences:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/caitlin\\_quattromani\\_and\\_lauran\\_ardedge\\_how\\_our\\_friendship\\_survives\\_our\\_opposing\\_politics#t-853495](https://www.ted.com/talks/caitlin_quattromani_and_lauran_ardedge_how_our_friendship_survives_our_opposing_politics#t-853495)

On civility and the brain:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoT-nmSdAOs>

San Luis Obispo League's handbook:

[http://slo.ca.lwvnet.org/files/handbook\\_june\\_2017.compressed.pdf](http://slo.ca.lwvnet.org/files/handbook_june_2017.compressed.pdf)

*LWVC priority*

## Campaign to Reform Prop. 13 Changes Strategy

The California League's effort to qualify an initiative reforming Prop. 13 has been modified so that the signatures gathered will be used for the 2020 election, instead of the one this November. The initiative would exclude many corporations from the protection against property tax increases which the original proposition provided for them. Here is a message from Elizabeth Ralston regarding the change.

Dear Coordinators and Signature Gatherers:

Thank you again for stepping up to work on your League's signature gathering efforts for the Schools and Communities First initiative! Winning this reform and restoring \$11B in funding to schools and communities is LWVC's top priority, and LWVC sits on the Executive Committee for the campaign.

After much discussion, the campaign has decided to extend signature-gathering efforts through June and qualify the measure for the November 2020 election rather than the 2018 election. This is a strategic decision. We know a delay may be disappointing to some, but the League is in this fight to WIN it. The 2020 ballot provides the best path to victory. Why?

- The presidential election offers higher and more representative turnout—critically important in passing the measure.
- A 2020 ballot means we have more time to inform and engage millions of voters!
- The volunteer signature-gathering period will be extended to the end of June! In just the past couple of weeks, League members have gathered thousands of signatures—leading the pack in volunteer signature gathering statewide.
- Our opposition has deep pockets and is ready to spend \$100 million or more to defeat reform. The next two years provide much needed time to build the financial resources we need to win this fight.
- There are other benefits as well—including getting this measure at the top of the ballot.

This has been a multi-year fight from the beginning. The early support from local Leagues has been inspiring and incredibly valuable. Your continued leadership is instrumental to our success. How can you help?

- *Continue to gather signatures!* With the extension through June, consider whether you can increase your signature-gathering goal.
- Reach out to your local elected officials and community organizations to ask for their endorsement.
- Budget and plan public events in 2019 and 2020 to educate your local community about the measure and critical need to reform Prop 13.

Forty years ago, the League warned of the catastrophic impact Prop 13 could have. Today we see California's wealthiest companies benefiting while our schools and communities suffer. In November 2020, voters will finally right that wrong.

Thanks again and keep up the good work!

## The Threat of a New Constitutional Convention

Both the national and state Leagues are concerned about the movement to convene a convention to revamp the U.S. Constitution. They both urge members to publicize and participate in a webinar entitled "Understanding the Dangers of a Constitutional Convention," to be held this Wednesday. Here is what they say:

A dangerous and misguided effort to alter the US Constitution through a Constitutional convention is being proposed and considered in state legislatures throughout the country. Many leading conservative and progressive groups, scholars, economists, lawmakers, and policy experts rightly oppose a constitutional convention, because of the unintended consequences of unraveling our nation's fundamental freedoms.

**Sign up to join a webinar on this topic on  
Wednesday, May 2 at noon PDT:**

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/652550645443526914/>

We'll discuss this issue and the efforts supported by the League to stop this threat to our democracy from moving forward. For questions about this webinar please contact Jessica Jones Capparell ([jjones@lww.org](mailto:jjones@lww.org)).

To read the League's excellent position on this topic <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/league-position-adopted-constitutional-conventions-under-article-v-us-const>.

*Update*

## Some Good News on the Environment

Readers who remember our presentation from Ann Cole, the director of the Mendocino Land Trust (May 2017 *Voter*, p. 6) may be interested to know that the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) received funding after all in the massive

appropriations bill approved by Congress in late March. The LWCF has been one of our nation's most successful conservation programs for over 50 years, protecting places across the country, and has received broad bipartisan support during that time.

## Let 1,000 Flowers Bloom (Virtually)

This year's Virtual Garden Tour has raised \$1,665 so far, which exceeds the budgeted amount of \$1,500. This is our only actual fundraising effort of the year, and it produces the only funds that we can spend any way we want, since membership dues go right to the state and national organizations. So thanks are due to Cindy Plank, who planned the letter campaign, put virtual garden photos on our Facebook page, and stuffed envelopes; to Jim Havlena, who handled the mailing; to Lee Tepper, who dealt with the checks; and to the 21 members and member households who generously contributed.



*To enhance your virtual experience, visit [our Facebook page](#) to see members' gardens ... and please post some pictures of your own. These and several more were contributed by Cindy Plank.*