

President's Message

Changes in Tax Law May Affect Non-Profits...

2018 will be a different year for non-profit organizations. The La Verne Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is facing the uncertainty of changes in the new federal tax law. Specifically, individuals or couples who itemize their deductions can no longer claim donations to charitable and non-profit organizations. Instead, they may choose to take the standard deduction as a simpler means of addressing their tax obligations. With many deductions no longer allowed, it is predicted that opting out of itemizing will be a good tax choice for many citizens. It is also predicted that this shift will result in significant reductions in charitable giving.

LVHS Benefits from Random Acts of Kindness...

What other ways can people contribute? Last June I was contacted by a couple living in Covina who found two journals belonging to Frank S. and Olive (White) Sheldon, La Verne citrus growers who lived on Williams Avenue, north of Foothill Boulevard. The Covina couple felt that the LVHS should have these journals and brought them to us. Bill Lemon researched their contents and produced a great feature article for the September 2017 *LVHS Newsletter*, preserving another little piece of La Verne's history. Two weeks ago I was contacted by a past employee of the City of La Verne who wants to donate a Lordsburg Water Department water meter box with cast iron cover. Plans are in process for shipping this artifact from Arizona back to its home in La Verne, where it will be the subject of another feature article. Last year the LVHS was also gifted with a pristine copy of circa 1980's *"The Game of La Verne"* and a 1916 Lordsburg dog tag. So if you have an interesting object that is part of La Verne history, please contact us.

Act Locally...

All members of the LVHS board perform hours of service on a volunteer basis. No one on the board gets paid for the effort and time that it takes to keep the LVHS operational and growing in scope, excellence, and importance. I want to ask you to add your energy to the work of the LVHS but I will do so by sharing something that has occurred in my

life. For close to thirty years I was a university professor and trained hundreds of teachers in the field of special education. These were proud years full of value and achievement but the time came last December for me to retire "for good", as they say. I was asked countless times if I was afraid of becoming bored or regret the stimulation of a career in higher education. I was not worried because in the LVHS I found the perfect home for my interests and talents. And – I am doing it for love, not a salary. So are the LVHS board members. So can you.

I looked over my non-profit contributions in 2017 and plan to match them in 2018 despite the real possibility that there will be no tax advantage for this choice. A friend of mine has a car bumper sticker that reads "Think Globally – Act Neighborly." These days I think a lot about the world, the nation, the state, and the community in which I live. And I know that the La Verne Historical Society has enhanced my life and allowed me to meet neighbors and friends whom I would never have known otherwise. This is worth \$20 in membership dues – and more. Consider the LVHS for your act of giving in 2018.

Sherry Best,

LVHS President



Welcome New LVHS Members!

Dick & Diane Bahruh

Vic & Mary Bowman

Luis & Laura Garcia

Victoria May & James Giese

Marilyn Kilgore

Donna Rogers

Dale & Debi Stanley

Alan Wadham

