



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 23 Issue 1

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

January/February 2017

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

PROGRAM PLANNING MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017

BENNETT VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

704 BENNETT VALLEY DRIVE

11:00 am to 2pm

LUNCH PROVIDED

RSVP TO NANCY BARRINGTON:

president@lwvsonoma.org

707-546-5943

President's Message



From
Nancy Burrington
LWVSC President

What is Program Planning?

“In League, *Program* refers to the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work.

The Program Planning process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money. **It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital.** You’d never skip voting in an election; you shouldn’t skip the League’s equivalent. The program planning process is your voice!¹

The California league, prior to its state convention in Sacramento in June, asks each League to review its positions for necessary updates or gaps that may need study. This year instead of asking us to review each position it is requesting that we focus on choosing those issues that we feel need emphasizing for education and advocacy in the next two years.

Making Democracy Work is the umbrella program of the national league. It focuses on Voter protection and mobilization, Election Reform and Money in Politics, constitutional amendment and redistricting. Some ways that the state League supports the program include:

- expanding the electorate to make it more representative of the population
- improvement to the election process
- increasing transparency of the money spent on elections
- supporting local redistricting reform efforts and providing an adequate budget for the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

¹ From League of Women Voters of California Program Planning Kit

A subcommittee of your Board has met and chosen some issues that they feel are of vital local community interest and in alignment with the larger goals of the state and national offices.

Reviewing our state and local program positions, the subcommittee suggested the following issues as important to emphasize in the coming two years:

- Water
- Immigration
- Health Care (including Mental Health)
- Affordable Housing
- “Citizens Right to Know” (evaluating information)
- Cannabis Regulation

We will discuss these issues at our program planning meeting **on February 18**, including how to emphasize them through our work in community education and advocacy.

We suggest that you review the California positions and if you find other issues that you feel are of equal or more importance, please bring them with your reasons to add to the discussion.²

The California League has also asked if any of our members who have participated in the study process have recommendations on how to improve, clarify and simplify the process. If so, please contribute your ideas to Juanita Roland and we will incorporate the feedback into our program planning report (Due February 24).

After reviewing our local positions the subcommittee believes that they are basically acceptable as they are with the change of a few words. The local positions will be voted on at our annual meeting.³

As the quote at the beginning emphasizes, local grassroots participation is what is needed to keep our program vital going forward. In the next two years our work will be more important than ever. **PLEASE LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD ON FEBRUARY18.**

² Refer to <https://lwvc.org/our-work> and <https://lwvc.org/our-work/issues>

³ www.lwvsonoma.org/positions.html

Women’s March on Washington And in Sonoma County

The LWVSC will be participating in the Women's March being organized by 'Sonoma County Stands Together for Women' which will be taking place on January 21 at noon in front of Santa Rosa City Hall. All of the details for this event can be found on the Face Book page Sonoma County Stands Together for Women. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1749972928661468/>

This march is in support of the Women's March on Washington DC being held that same day. Please read the following message that we have received from the LWVUS President regarding the Washington DC March and the many supporting marches that are being planned.

If you, your friends, your spouse wish to join our League in participating in this march, meet at 11:30 in front of the Luther Burbank Gardens on Saturday, January 21. We will be wearing League Shirts or Royal Blue—any blue shirt will do. We have several left that will be available on the day of the march for \$20.00. 1 Small, 3 Medium, 2 Large and 4 X Large. If you want one held for you contact DeeDee Bridges at media@lwgsonoma.org .

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From Chris Carson, LWVUS President

Since the inception of the 2017 [Women’s March on Washington](#), the League has monitored the developments and plans for the event on January 21. Over the past few weeks, organizers have obtained permits and security, disclosed additional information about the organizers and partner organizations, and shaped the grassroots demonstration as a diverse and inclusive event. **For these reasons, the LWVUS Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday for the League to participate officially in the DC March.**

It was important for us to take the time to confirm that this peaceful protest is in line with the League’s principles. We know this event will bring together many organizations with a variety of priorities and messages for the incoming administration, not all of which we will agree with. **But as women and defenders of our democracy, there is more that unites us than divides us.**

This is an opportunity for the League to make our voice heard on our priorities. We march for voting rights. We march to reform money in politics. We march for health care. We march for the environment. These are our core issues and we want to ensure they are front and center.

This decision also pertains to state and local Leagues interested in participating in sister marches.

When I think about our heritage, I am proud that the League will participate in this historic day, which will bring Americans together in the spirit of democracy. After all, the League was founded because women and men marched.

And this month, the League will march again. **We are Making Democracy Work!**

Board Briefs-January 2017

- ✓ The holiday party was a success with generous contributions from members which nearly covered the cost of the party.
- ✓ Our current dues for members do not cover the dues paid to the California and US Leagues. A proposal to raise our dues will be submitted at the annual meeting for member approval.
- ✓ Next year's budget submissions are due by next meeting.
- ✓ Discussion on the LWVUS advisory on the Women's March on Washington DC. A clarification will be sent out via Mail Chimp and on Facebook.
- ✓ Discussion on the annual legislative interview process. This will be arranged and a report will be submitted to LWVC by March 10.
- ✓ The LWV Bay Area Day will be January 28 in San Jose. A message will be sent out to invite members. A stipend will be offered to a limited number of members if they wish to attend and report back on their findings.
- ✓ The LWVC Convention will be in Sacramento June 1-4. There was a request for donations and volunteers. Our League will donate \$250 to help with costs and may offer volunteers.
- ✓ An updated Government Guide will be published soon.
- ✓ The Advocacy group is working on details for monthly member action meetings.
- ✓ The Voter Services group will be meeting to discuss the use of Skype and how to handle League recommendations at future pros and cons meetings.
- ✓ There is concern that election results take too long to be made public after an election.
- ✓ The February 18 member meeting on Program Planning will be held at the Bennett Valley Senior Center for 11:00 - 2:00. Information will be going out to the members.
- ✓ The Spring Lunch with the League will be in March. Planning and speaker selection is under way.
- ✓ Discussion on a new member meeting which may be held this Spring.
- ✓ Our Face Book page now has 100 friends.
- ✓ Discussion on how to broaden our exposure and influence. For instance, Spring Lake Village will be having a series on local issues which we could possibly co-sponsor, writing letters to the editor, getting more involved with action items from the LWVUS and LWVC.

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Jones



LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

Women's March

Saturday, January 21, 2017, Noon
 Santa Rosa City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa Ave
 (See Page 3)

Bay Area League Day

Saturday, January 28, 2017, 8:30 am - 3 pm
 San Jose, CA
 (See Page 5)

Program Planning Membership Meeting

Saturday, February 18, 2017, 11 am - 2 pm
 Bennett Valley Senior Center

LWVC Convention

June 1-4, 2017, Sacramento, CA

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting:

1st Wednesday, 10-noon.

Voter Service Committee Meeting:

1st Thursday, 10 am.

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

2nd Wednesday, 10:30 am.

Book Club:

3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

LWVSC meetings are held in the third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office, 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon request. All other meetings are open.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.

Advocacy Notes

We had very good attendance with three new faces. A lot of the meeting revolved around the new Action Meeting initiative, and the upcoming Program Planning meeting in February for all members to choose important topics for the coming year. We are also promoting the Women's March on January 21, which members are reading about in a separate column. At the next meeting we will hear of the experiences of the Sonoma County Transit-Paratransit coordinating Committee and information about the S.R. BoDean Asphalt Plant among other items.

Next meeting on February 8 at 10:30.

Gene Zingarelli
 Advocacy Committee Chair
action@lwvsonoma.org

Member Action Meetings

At the energetic and emotional Election Autopsy meeting in November, we heard that members wanted to know how to get more engaged in the political issues that we face as League members and as citizens. Currently, the LWVSC has four formal member meetings per year: Lunch with the League in the Spring, Annual Meeting in May or June, Kickoff Meeting in September, and the Holiday Party in December. This year, there will also be a Program Planning meeting in February to discuss Issues for Emphasis. (see article)

In addition to the already scheduled meetings, we have been working on organizing Member Action meetings where we can learn more about issues and how to act on them. We will introduce our ideas at the February Program Planning meeting and kick off a process that will hopefully result in a better educated, relevant and effective League. We will need your inputs, enthusiasm and involvement in order to make a success of our plans!

Rebecca Jones, Chair

BAY AREA LEAGUE PRESENTS HOUSING FORUM

On January 28, 2017 the Bay Area League will present a forum on **the Bay Area Housing Crisis**.

Since this issue may be of interest to many of our members, and is being held in San Jose, the Board is offering to subsidize the trip up to \$200 per attending member. This amount should help with registration and hotel costs for those who may wish to stay overnight.

The Forum runs from 9am to 3 pm at the Camden Community Center, 3369 Union Ave., San Jose.

The presentation consists of four panels addressing housing and affordability and a keynote speech by Assemblyman Tony Thurmond. Mr. Thurmond represents the 15th Assembly District which includes the East Bay cities of Emeryville, Albany, Berkeley, Richmond and north to Pinole and Hercules. He is Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment.

Access to the Bay Area League descriptive flyer is at

[file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/2017%20LEAGUE%20DAY%204%20w%20sign%20up%20sheet%20\(1\)%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/2017%20LEAGUE%20DAY%204%20w%20sign%20up%20sheet%20(1)%20(1).pdf).

If you are interested in attending this forum with the subsidy and would like to report back to the Board about your learnings and experience, please contact Nancy Burrington at president@lwgsonoma.org 707-546-5943. Depending on interested members, carpools can be arranged.

Legislative Interview Committee

A committee has been formed to prepare for the annual legislative interviews. One purpose of these interviews is to see what state legislators are doing and how we may help in their causes. The four members who are working on this activity are Sukey Robb-Wilder, Linda Robinett, Fran Dixon and Chlele Gummer, as team leader. We would welcome a fifth member, preferably a new member. Let me know if you'd like to join us. We will consult with the printed Legislative Interview Kit online at the California League website. Then we will meet to plan our strategy. We are interviewing Senator Mike McGuire of District 2 in March.

Chlele Gummer



Member Profile



Gayle McKinney Peterson

New Sonoma League member, Gayle Peterson, knows the world, US history and politics, but, she says, she knows little about local government. This important missing ingredient, according to Gayle, triggered her interest in joining the LWVSC.

Gayle moved to Sonoma County several years ago after traveling for 14 months in a VW camper throughout Europe, Turkey, and Egypt. She developed a strong interest in Greek and Roman histories and loved visiting ruins. When Gayle became a teacher at Maria Carrillo High School in Santa Rosa, she was able to apply her love of history and politics in the classroom. She wanted her students to understand how history and politics directly relate to the quality of their everyday lives. She also wanted them to

know the importance of civic participation.

Teaching didn't immediately follow her early period of travel. She returned to the US, married a Santa Rosa native, became an actively involved parent of two children, and assumed leadership roles in the school PTA's. The experiences in her children's schools influenced her decision to return to school herself and get a teaching credential.

After ten years of a satisfying life teaching and raising her children she decided to do more than just react to what the government was doing locally. She wanted to know more about the processes involved in making government policy. It wasn't enough to know that a new street was being constructed nearby. That is why, she said, she finally decided to join the local league.

The Sonoma League welcomes Gayle and appreciates the energy and experience she brings.

Welcome New Members

**Phyllis Y Brewer
Chris Kosloff
Deborah McKay
Karen Purdy**

We're so glad you're here!

From Our National League

On 2016

As we prepare to close the book on 2016, we find ourselves reflecting on all of the hard work we've done and are astonished at how much we have accomplished:

- Over 4 million voters used VOTE411
- More than 35,000 media mentions
- Winning critical court cases to protect voting rights

We are so proud of this team.

[We hope you'll take a moment to look at this recap of 2016 and see what the League is doing to defend the rights of voters.](#)

As we prepare for the challenges in 2017, we are confident this organization is ready for the road ahead.

We are truly reclaiming our place in election reform for the next generation of women, new citizens and men who are working with us to **Make Democracy Work for all**.

Suggestions on Ways to Help

The League put together this blog: [10 Ways You Can Help Defend Our Democracy.](#)

From volunteering your time, to running for office, there are lots of ways concerned citizens like yourself can get involved and make a difference.

[The League is a great place to start.](#)

You know the saying, "all politics is local?" We bring together voters in more than 700 communities all year round.

I hope you'll check it out and [become an e-Activist to stay up to date on legislative priorities and advocacy efforts at the League.](#)

As we prepare to fight voter suppression in the months ahead, we need passionate voters like you to suit up! Spread the word and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Check out the blog for all [10 Ways You Can Help Defend Our Democracy.](#)

And thank you for doing your part in Making Democracy Work® for all.

Sincerely,

Chris Carson, President
League of Women Voters of the United States

P.S. [Consider a donation!](#) Your support makes it possible for the League to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms across the country.

On the World Wide Web

YOUR FACEBOOK FIX

Start off the New Year fully informed, with some recent highlights from our League of Women Voters Facebook page!

The L.A. Times published a simple guide to new California laws in the article, “How will California’s newest laws affect you?”

<http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-new-2017-laws/>

KQED addressed the problem of fake news in the article, “Fake Or Real? How to Self-Check The News And Get The Facts.”

<https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/12/06/fake-or-real-how-to-self-check-the-news-and-get-the-facts/>

Also related to media literacy, we highlighted the website AllSides, which provides a bias rating system to help readers evaluate the news:

<http://www.allsides.com/bias/bias-ratings>

To receive Facebook updates as they happen, be sure to “Like” our LWVSC Facebook page! We'd be glad to be one of your friends

How to “Like” LWV Sonoma Group



Or anyone else you want to “like” on Facebook

1. Open Facebook and at the top where the “search bar” is, type in League of Women Voters of Sonoma County
2. Move down from the search bar to the name of the organization
3. Click on the organizations name: League of Women Voters of Sonoma County
4. Then go under the picture of Sonoma County’s lovely coastline
5. Click on the “Like” button for the page.

When you look at your own page in the future, on the far left side you will see our name for you to look at our page!

At our Holiday Party

A time to enjoy friends, celebrate our work in the past year, and recharge for the coming challenges.



Book Club Reads

January 18, 2017 Moderated by Anita Lytle and Mary Virdeh

Becoming Grandma: The Joys and Science of the New Grandparenting, by Leslie Stal
288 pages, 2016.

After four decades as a reporter, Lesley Stahl's most vivid and transformative experience of her life was not covering the White House, interviewing heads of state, or researching stories at *60 Minutes*. It was becoming a grandmother. She was hit with a jolt of joy so intense and unexpected. She wanted to "investigate" it—as though it were a news flash. And so, using her *60 Minutes* skills, she explored how grandmothing changes a woman's life, interviewing friends like Whoopi Goldberg, colleagues like Diane Sawyer (and grandfathers, including Tom Brokaw), as well as the proverbial woman next door.

February 16: Moderated by Ethyl Schy

War on Science, Who's waging it, Why it matters, What we can do about it, by Shawn Lawrence Otto
514 pages, 2016

Otto's provocative new book investigates the historical, social, philosophical, political, and emotional reasons for why and how evidence-based politics are in decline and authoritarian politics are once again on the rise, and offers a vision, an argument, and some compelling solutions to bring us to our collective senses, before it's too late.

LWVSC Board of Directors

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Chlele Gummer, **Voter Service**

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Juanita Roland, **Editor**

Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website. www.lwvsonoma.org

Connect with the League



LWVSC www.lwvsonoma.org
www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty

LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California www.ca.lwv.org

LWV of the United States www.lwv.org
<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

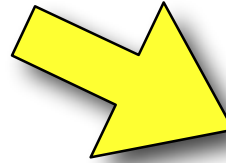
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.

Tell us what you think!
Send in your comments,
questions, and
suggestions.
Email, snail-mail, or call!

We want to hear from you!

Become a Member of the LWV of Sonoma County



Make a DONATION

or

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name
Address
City Zip
Phone Email

Memberships Levels

Table with 2 columns: Membership Level and Price. Includes Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership (\$60), Student/ Limited Income Individual Membership (\$40), Amelia Bloomer Household Membership (\$90), Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$100), and Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$200 or more).

Membership dues and donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law

I am interested in the following areas:

Table with 3 columns: Program, Membership, and Speakers Bureau. Lists various areas of interest like Social Policy, Natural Resources, and Voter Service.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

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