



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

THE VOTER

Volume 22 Issue 8

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

November 2016



JOIN US for an *ELECTION AUTOPSY*

Come on Tuesday November 15, a week after the election,
Mary's Pizza Shack
535 Summerfield Road, Santa Rosa
4:00 – 6:00 pm

It will be a time for us to gather and dissect (or mourn?)
the results of the Election.

A Pasta tray and salad will be served.
Drinks are on you.
~ SEE YOU THERE ~

President's Message



From
Nancy Burrington
 LWVSC President

A Note of Appreciation

My brain has been so clogged with ballot measures for the last month that there has been hardly room for anything else. That in addition to the email traffic and trying to create a PowerPoint presentation about our League for the SSU Feminist Lecture Series (I'm a newbie at PowerPoint) has left me with what I hope is a temporary stitch in my left shoulder blade. But enough whining.

This is meant to be about you, not me. So many of you. I originally intended to name the names of all of the wonderful volunteers who stepped up to offer extra help with the considerable workload undertaken during this election season. Then as I started to recall all of the names I realized that I just couldn't do it; the list would be too long and probably imperfect. I might have left someone out and have that horrible experience of waking up in the middle of the night with an "OH NO" recollection.

Some of us perform jobs that are more visible than others, but all jobs are important. In this very crucial election year we can be proud of the work we did to encourage voter registration and citizen participation. We organized and moderated extremely well attended candidate forums. We provided public presentations on the ballot measure maze for curious and grateful

groups. And we provided ongoing access to these through linking videos to our website. Behind the scenes a small group of dedicated people worked to keep the wheels from coming off the wagon by covering the duties normally performed by the Administrative VP—covering the phone, making calls, handling the mail, ordering supplies and providing promotional materials. (A short reminder that the job is still open and would be a good place for an inquisitive newcomer who wants to learn more about the League and serve its mission) So rather than name names, I just wish to express my appreciation for all that you did and look forward to our "election autopsy" party in mid-November.

Whatever the outcome of the election our path is clear—to hold to our principles and continue our goal of MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK which entails increasing voter turnout, addressing campaign finance reform, continuing citizen education and supporting diversity in our public representation. Plenty of work to do, whatever the outcome. FINGERS CROSSED FOR A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

Advocacy Notes

Gene Zingarelli
 Advocacy Committee Chair
action@lwvsonoma.org

Advocacy Committee Meeting: This month's meeting primarily reviewed County-wide and Santa Rosa measures. A problem seen weighing on tax measures is that many citizens are concerned that the county employee pensions problem has not been solved. The next meeting, which will not be until December 14, will take up the possibility of developing presentations with speakers in different parts of the county on topics of immediate interest to the citizens there.

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

“Election Autopsy”

Tuesday November 15, 2016

Mary’s Pizza Shack—(See page 1)

Holiday Party—Save the Date

Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2016

LWVC Convention

June 1-4, 2017, Sacramento, CA

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting:

1st Wednesday, 10-noon.

Note: November meeting will be held on Second Wednesday

Voter Service Committee Meeting:

1st Thursday, 10 am.

Note: No meetings in November or December

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

2nd Wednesday, 10:30 am.

Note: No Meeting in November

Book Club:

3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

See 4 for details.

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.

Board Briefs-September, 2016

- ✓ Treasurer’s report: Member dues are under budget but member contributions are over budget. Those that have made contributions should be recognized.
- ✓ Discussion regarding the National Organization for Women 50th anniversary celebration. It was decided to buy one sponsor table and solicit interest from all members.
- ✓ Discussion on whether to have an Easy Voter Guide insert in a new Spanish language paper La Prensa. However, given the high cost, it was decided to not do this at this time.
- ✓ Discussion on the Voter Service events that have been held and that are scheduled. Events held so far have been very successful.
- ✓ There will be an Election Autopsy get together at Mary's Pizza after the election. The intent is to gather, discuss and socialize.
- ✓ A holiday party is being planned. The date and place are being worked on.
- ✓ There are currently 138 paid members. There will be more planning on how to engage new members.
- ✓ A profile of new member, Susan Rouder, will be in the next Voter.
- ✓ Media Outreach is doing well but there is always more that can be done to get information out to a broader audience. Articles that can be posted on FaceBook should be sent to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Jones

Welcome New Members

Fran Dixon

We’re so glad you’re here!

Member Profile



Susan
Rouder

Susan became a Sonoma League board member in May of 2016, after having been a long-time member of the Marin LWV. She served on their board, until moving to Santa Rosa in 2015.

She has made two great discoveries: “Sonoma County is a wonderful place to live and the Sonoma League is the perfect place for me to learn about this county and meet men and women who care, as I do, about public affairs and issues.”

Susan first joined the LWV after the NO on Prop.13 campaign, way back in 1978. She joined the Marin *No on 13 Coalition*, as the Chair of Marin Common Cause, and found a perfectly organized effort to defeat this measure, chaired

by the Marin LWV. While Prop.13 passed, the local campaign was impressive, and some of the League members active in that effort continue to be good friends.

Susan says, “The League is a perfect fit for me. I taught political science for 30 years at City College of San Francisco, received a PhD in political science, and, when I was very young, had the audacity to write a college text book for introductory political science classes. My primary interests have been civic participation and public policy.”

Like many men and women, Susan wasn’t able to be active in the League until she retired. Before that, teaching, serving as the chair of California Common Cause and as a member of the Common Cause national board, kept her more than fully occupied. That can happen when you are young!

She did have the opportunity to travel widely, seeking areas in the world with magnificent high mountains because her passion, in addition to politics and policy, was hiking. She also had the chance to do research in other countries.

Susan looks forward to working with the Sonoma League, and hopes to continue to learn about local government and issues.

Book Club Reads

November 17, Final Meeting of the Year

This is the time when we select our book list for the coming year, so bring your suggestions and join us for what is always a great discussion of all the interesting books out there.

As this is our final meeting of the year, we are planning to go to Gary Chiu's for lunch after the meeting. Please email Carrie Anabo to RSVP that you plan to attend and she will make reservations.

Voter Service Activities

Chlele Gummer, Co-Chair

We all give a huge sigh of relief when the last forum has its last word and the audience applauds. The scramble of details of each forum has been woven into a calm, civilized meeting of candidates with an audience of their supporters and antagonists. The moderator sets the tone of fairness with the first drawing of lots for the placement of the candidates at the table. With videographer and sound experts the forums are taped and broadcast on our own YouTube station for everyone who couldn't attend. These are duplicated on our website for our members to watch.



As a new Voter Service Co Chair I have learned much about the process in arranging forums. Beginning with an invitation to the candidates including a choice of times the process starts. After that, a choice of venue, the application for insurance needed for each venue, the engagement of a videographer and sound systems, all details that must be confronted, continues the planning. Email chains grow on the computer as conversations go back and forth.



The committee supplies the necessary help during the forums. The moderator has the responsibility to provide the timing (the amount of time each candidate has for opening and closing speeches and time to answer the questions) besides running the show. She prepares a script to ensure that all information necessary for the candidates, the audience, and our viewers, is contained within. An important member of the team is the timer whose eyes must concentrate on the stop watch. Then we have the greeters, runners who pick up the audience questions, and the question sorters who vet the questions coming in.



Putting up the banner, pouring water for each speaker, printing name plates, enforcing our rule that campaigning has to be outside of the forum room, gathering the candidates to sign the release form for the filming process, all these jobs must be planned for.



After five Candidate Forums and a filmed Pros and Cons Presentation plus several others, I must say a loud THANK YOU to all of you who helped with our Voter Service program. None of above could happen without your willingness to serve the League. We will rest during November and December and begin anew with a January meeting.

The Voter Registration Outreach Committee Does it Again!

What does this VRO Committee do? It is a very active group in our League this time of year. A little background information: one goal of the Registrar of Voters of Sonoma County (ROV) is to ensure that voter registration forms are available to county citizens. The ROV has a contract with us, the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, to keep an adequate supply of these forms in boxes throughout the county. This contract is a double benefit for our League. First, it supports our mission of encouraging voter registration and voting; secondly, it supplies a significant amount of money to our budget. VRO committee members deliver the registration forms to post offices, libraries, schools, businesses and other sites throughout the county – and they replenish these boxes as needed. In the 2016 Primary and General Election seasons, they distributed over 12,000 registration forms!

VRO members and their far-flung areas are:

West County –	Sukey Robb Wilder, Donna Roper, and Linda Robinett
Cloverdale –	Nancy & Will Richards, Susan Clark (resigned)
Healdsburg, Windsor –	Liz Hawthorne, Dianne Graner
Santa Rosa –	Andrea English, Pat Anton, Anita Lytle Linda Trodden Karrow, and Kati Quibel
Cotati, Rohnert Park –	Linda Garcia, Nancy Burrington (resigned)
Petaluma –	Lynn Camhi
Sonoma –	Claudia Robbins
Oakmont, Kenwood –	Lynda Hungerford

THANK YOU one and all for your superb work in helping the League to achieve our goals in reaching out to citizens in Sonoma County. Anita Lytle, VRO chair

Thanks to Our Donors

This is a big election year for the League and the cost of producing, recording and replaying all of the election forums has added to the expenses column. So League is very grateful to everyone who has been so generous in their contributions. The Board, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, would like to say a big THANK-YOU to all the donors who have generously supported the League this year:

Ageson, Anne-Therese Clement, Robert & Phyllis Dhesi, Gwendolyn Dupre, Jack & Marsha Goriin, Susan Hanes, Katherine (Wendy) Katherine Harkness Leavitt, Louisa Lytle, Anita Mansfield, Hilda Mendez, Edith Olson, Maurine	Reseck, Shirley Richards, Nancy & Willard Robb-Wilder, Sukey & Natalie Sanchez, Katherine Scheibel, Jacqueline Schulz, Jean Southwick, Amy Theis, Rick & Carolyn Johnson Velasquez, Mary Lou Watts, Carleen Nancy Burrington, President
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Great News from Our State League

Our hard work has paid off, and great things are in store for California with so many new laws going into effect.

Money in Politics

- SB 1107 removes the ban on public financing of campaigns and helps level the playing field for candidates.
- SB 1349 modernizes the state's online database of campaign finance and lobbying information.

Climate Change

- SB 32 and AB 197 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect disadvantaged communities and those most affected by this pollution.

Voting Rights and Redistricting

- AB 2466 makes it less likely for Californians to be unfairly denied their voting rights after a criminal conviction.
- SB 450 makes voting more accessible with vote-by-mail ballots, early voting, and vote centers, starting in 14 counties in 2018.
- AB 958 establishes a Citizens Redistricting Commission for Los Angeles County, and SB 1108 allows all other California cities and counties to have these commissions too.
- AB 350, AB 2220, and AB 2389 promote better representation and protect voting rights when local governments change to district-based elections.
- AB 2010 helps local candidates reach voters with more affordable, online options for displaying their statements in official election materials.

PreK-12 Education and Juvenile Justice

- AB 1014 and SB 527 reduce truancy and serve students at risk of dropping out of school, as required by Proposition 47.

Immigration

- AB 2792 protects the rights of immigrants in local custody.

Natural Resources and the Environment

- SB 122 supports the public's voice in land-use decisions by streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

- SB 7 promotes conservation by requiring individual water meters in new multifamily housing.
- SB 1262 protects our long-term water supply by preventing the overuse of groundwater in new developments.
- AB 2480 puts funding of watershed restoration projects on an equal basis with other water infrastructure.

These wins aren't possible without your support! Thank you to everyone who responded to our action alerts and made your voices heard in Sacramento. For more information about all the bills we've been working on, check out our [Bill Status Report](#).

You can make a big difference in our ongoing work—[your gift today supports League work at a critical moment](#).

On the World Wide Web

YOUR FACEBOOK FIX

These are some interesting articles from the League of Women Voters' Facebook page. If you enjoy any of them we encourage you to go to our page and "Like" us. www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty/

Read about a new law that will expand mental health services for low-income Californians
<https://ww2.kqed.org/stateofhealth/2016/10/12/new-law-will-expand-mental-health-services-for-low-income-californians/>

California is facing a serious teacher shortage. Read an opinion piece on how to help them before they get to class.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/15/opinion/help-teachers-before-they-get-to-class.html?_r=0

Last link to share this month is about the individual donors who give huge amounts of money to influence your vote on California initiatives.

<http://elections.kqed.org/articles/11124191/individual-donors-spend-big-in-california-initiative-battles>

So, you don't want to wait a whole month for more interesting articles? Check us out on Facebook and let us know what kinds of information you would like to see on our page.

Like us on Facebook! We'd be glad to be one of your friends!



And for election information, go to Voters' Edge.

LWVSC Board of Directors

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Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

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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>

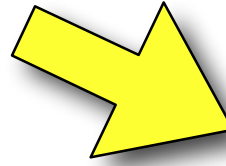
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

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:

- Program: Social Policy, Newsletter, Smart Voter
Membership: Natural Resources, Fundraising, Community Outreach
Speakers Bureau: Voter Service, Cable TV, Website

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.

555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 546-5943

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