



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 20 Issue 23

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

March 2015

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Noon, Wednesday, March 4th
SRJC Culinary Arts Center
1670 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa

Please join other members by attending Lunch with the League when we will meet our newest Supervisor, James Gore. He now represents the 4th District, which was previously represented by Mike McGuire.

James Gore is a Sonoma County native who was born in Healdsburg and lived in Cloverdale and Santa Rosa.

Prior to returning to Sonoma County he served as a presidential appointee as Assistant Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

While in Washington, D.C., Gore was an active voice regarding Northern California policy issues, gaining feedback, and building partnerships with supervisors and community groups to address concerns at all levels of government.

Currently, he serves as the Co-Leader for the Working Landscapes team of the California Economic Summit. The Summit brings together leaders from throughout the state to take action on California's most pressing issues,

Gore served in the United States Peace Corps as an agricultural and natural resources volunteer in Bolivia, South America.



James Gore holds a Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and a Master's Degree from George Washington University. He is fluent in Spanish and Italian. James Gore lives in Healdsburg where he and his wife Elizabeth are raising their two-year-old daughter, Opal. On September 21, 2014, the Gore family welcomed the birth of their second child, Jacob.

The issues Supervisor Gore is actively supporting are: jobs and the economy, water, education, public safety, roads, and pensions.

For ticket information please:
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LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

\$30 per lunch

Send checks to LWVSC
555 Fifth St., Ste. 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Noon, Wednesday, March 4th
SRJC Culinary Arts Center
1670 Mendocino Ave. Santa Rosa

Parking is \$4-all-day in a lot on Carr, next to the Café, plus in lot behind Joe's cafe just northwest of the Café, and in the parking garage across the street on the corner of Pacific and Mendocino. Street parking is limited 1 hour only and is not advised.

For more in depth information on Supervisor Gore, please visit his website at James Gore <<http://votegore.com>> .

DeeDee Bridges,
Program Co-Chair

**Voter Service Committee's
Outreach to High Schools**

Volunteers Needed!

Last year your Sonoma County League of Women Voters began a new program going into high school classes to inform the students on the importance of voting. We were able to speak to civics and social studies classes at Elsie Allen and El Molino High Schools. We would like to expand the program this year but will need volunteers. It entails either presenting the information or just helping the students fill out the voter registration cards. If you are interested in helping, please contact Donna Roper at dodesr@aol.com or 869-9273.

Donna Roper
Voter Services Committee

LWVSC Calendar

Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 4th, 9:30-11:30 am.
Please note: the above is a one time-only time change.

Advocacy Committee Meeting: Wednesday, March 11th, 10:30 am.

Book Club: Thursday, March 19th, 10:30 am. See page 5 for details.

"Lunch with the League."

Wednesday, March 4th at 12 pm at SRJC Culinary Arts Center. Speaker: James Gore, 4th District Supervisor. See pages 1 and 2 for details.

LWVSC meetings are 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 to the public.

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

**Restorative Justice Film
Festival in Santa Rosa**

March 21 at 7 pm

"Restorative Justice in the Criminal Justice System"

The film will be shown at Congregation Shomrei Torah at 2600 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa. Each film is followed by a panel discussion. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. (<http://www.shomreitorah.org>)



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENT:

A big thank you to all who submitted recommendations for the League of Women Voters of California's (LWVC) 2015-2016 Program. The most frequent suggestion was to support concurrence with the League of Women Voters consensus on the Living Wage.

Two days before the board meeting, we received word that the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) had decided that state or local Leagues could advocate for a Living Wage under the Meeting Basic Human Needs position statement "People who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services sufficient to meet their basic needs for food, shelter and access to health care." There seemed to be no need for a state consensus on the living wage.

In the League Update following our board meeting, the LWVUS released a statement clarifying the position. Basically, at the national level "there is no member understanding and agreement as to the definition of a 'living wage', and LWVUS cannot support a federal minimum wage."

According to the Update this means is any state or local League board that wants to take action on the living wage must

... do its due diligence on any proposed legislation that addresses Meeting Basic Human Needs and judge whether there is member understanding and agreement that the proposed legislation meets the criteria quoted above. If it does, then the Board should carefully deliberate and make a decision based upon both the position and the needs of its own community. What fits other communities can only be addressed by the relevant League.

Now it appears that there will be an effort to commit to a living wage study at the LWVC Convention, and our delegates will be able to participate in the discussion there. In the mean time, our League has a position on the living wage issue. You can read about all of our positions on [our website](#).

At our Annual Meeting in May we will decide what our priorities will be for the 2015-2016 local League year. The Board asks that you recommend to the board what our program will be and what we should emphasize in the coming year. You can do so by completing [the form at the members web site](#). If you do not have access to a computer, please call the office. You will be mailed the form with a copy of our current positions. Instructions are on the form. Of course you may move a non-recommended item at the Annual Meeting, but unlike board recommended items, a two thirds vote of those members voting and present are required for consideration.

League is a grass roots organization. You are the roots.

Lynda Hungerford

The League of Women Voters Sonoma County Needs YOU!

Do you have a few hours a week you could donate to the League? Or, would you like to nominate someone who you know would be a great addition to the LWVSC Board?

Right now we need someone to step forward to be President, and then an individual for Secretary. The terms would start July 2015. These are once in a lifetime opportunities!

Any ideas, questions, or comments please contact Linda Garcia, Nominating Committee Chair at 707-795-3236.

Welcome to a new member!

Kathleen "Kathy" Hilliard

We're so glad you're here!

Bay Area League Day Addressing Climate Change in the Bay Area

For many years now, I have enjoyed the Bay Area League Day organized by the LWV Bay Area each January to focus on one topic. This year the topic was climate change—what we are doing to decrease the emissions that cause climate change as well as to adjust to its effects.

Now you are in luck. You can enjoy this year's League Day at home on your own schedule. [CLICK HERE](#) to go to a web page where you can view the program, the speaker's resumes, each speaker's slides, and each panel discussion as one continuous video or as separate videos for each speaker.

If you can spare 12 minutes, I recommend clicking on [John Gioia](#) and watching his presentation. He is Chair of the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors and is also on the board of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board. He presents an excellent perspective on where we are and where we are likely headed.

Willard Richards

Yellow Rose Award

The Yellow Rose Award will be presented at the LWVC Convention to local Leagues for action and/or community education at a local level. Nominations will be due **April 15, 2015**. We know that all local Leagues work hard—so tell us about what you did! We encourage every League to tell us about its successes in advocating on LWV positions and/or educating the community. You may submit multiple nominations, but please use a separate form for each. If you have any questions about this award, contact Joanne Leavitt (jleavitt@lwvc.org).

ADVOCACY NOTES

Advocacy Committee Report:

The committee is working on finding possible Water Fluoridation Forum panelists who have a working, hopefully scientific research background in the topic, whether they are for or against water fluoridation. The city of Santa Rosa is seriously studying the issues of affordable housing and the recommendations raised by its Open Government Task Force. The SRJC Trustees are setting up a study group to consider dividing election District 3,4,5 into separate districts. The study group's first meeting is March 25th.

The committee meets on Wednesday, March 11th, 10:30 am in the third floor Conference Room of 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa,

Gene Zingarelli
 Advocacy Committee Chair.
action@lwvsonoma.org

BOOK CLUB READS

March 19:

Six Amendments: How and Why We Should Change the Constitution by Justice John Paul Stevens, 192 pages, 2014.

Moderated by Juanita Roland.

By the time of his retirement in June 2010, John Paul Stevens had become the second longest serving Justice in the history of the Supreme Court. Now he draws upon his more than three decades on the Court, during which he was involved with many of the defining decisions of the modern era, to offer a book like none other. *Six Amendments* is an absolutely unprecedented call to arms, detailing six specific ways in which the Constitution should be amended in order to protect our democracy and the safety and wellbeing of American citizens.

Book Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month listed above at 10:30 am in the third floor Conference Room of 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa,

From LWV California: Community Outreach Opportunity: LWVC Convention 2015

LWVC's biennial Convention in scenic San Diego promises to be both informative and exciting! The [border tour](#) will be an especially intriguing experience as immigration has been such a hot topic. The tour will include a visit to the American Consulate in Tijuana, a shelter for deported women and children, and a site visit to learn more about the border fences.

This and other special events at Convention are great opportunities to invite our community partners and/or potential League members to join us; by participating, guests of registered attendees can learn firsthand about "the League way" of understanding issues before evaluating policies. San Diego is a fabulous travel destination, and the Convention is a wonderful way to learn, network, and have fun! So don't forget to [register for Convention](#) and the border tour, and the sooner the better, as space is limited.

Connect with the League

LWVSC Board of Directors

Juanita Roland, **Co-President**

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Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

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Marsha Taylor, **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



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>

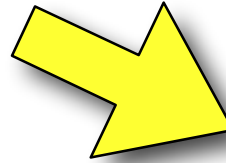
SmartVoter www.smartvoter.org

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.



*Become a Member of the
LWV of Sonoma County*



or

**Make a
DONATION**

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

<i>Susan B. Anthony</i> Individual Membership	\$60
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$90
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt</i> 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 | Membership | Speakers Bureau |
| Social Policy | Natural Resources | Voter Service |
| Newsletter | Fundraising | CableTV |
| Smart Voter | Community Outreach | 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

The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.