



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 20 Issue 5

Visit us at [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)

May 2015

## LWVSC

### ANNUAL MEETING:

SATURDAY  
MAY 30, 2015

#### AGENDA

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE - 9:30 AM  
BUSINESS MEETING - 10 AM  
LUNCH - 12 NOON  
SPEAKER - 12:30 PM  
ADJOURN - 2 PM

Rohnert Park Senior Center  
6800 Hunter Drive,  
Rohnert Park

Guest Speaker – Alison Howard,  
Assistant Professor,  
Political Science and International Studies  
Dominican University of California

Attending the annual meeting on Saturday, May 30, ensures you learn of past year's happenings and get to help plan the course for our League for the coming year.

We are delighted to have Alison Howard, Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies at Dominican University of California as our guest speaker. Her topic will be "The Future of Political Participation among the Millennials." A concern we all share.

***Please bring a plate, utensils, cup and a napkin PLUS a salad or dessert to share. League will provide coffee, tea, and muffins in the morning and iced tea with lunch.***

### Measure A Tax Forum:

Tuesday, April 28, 6:30  
Lucchesi Community  
Center, 320 N. McDowell  
Blvd. Petaluma.  
Co-sponsoring with AAUW.

## NEW MEMBERS!

Join us for  
CONVERSATION  
AND  
REFRESHMENTS

FRIDAY  
MAY 1, 2015  
3:30-5:00 PM

HOME OF LWVSC  
CO-PRESIDENT  
Juanita Roland  
6467 Stone Bridge Rd.  
(Oakmont)

Questions? Please call  
or email: Nancy  
Burrington, 707-795-  
6675 or  
[scrappyn@att.net](mailto:scrappyn@att.net)

## Delegates Needed!



*Register Now!*

May 15-17, 2015  
in San Diego

Visit <http://lwvc.wordpress.com>  
for more information

## League of Women Voters of California Convention 2015

This is a great opportunity to experience the League at work and participate in the decision making regarding plans for the coming two years. You can do this whether or not you are a board member—of course we need volunteers for that as well!

The League has accomplished a lot, but our mission is not complete, so please consider this as a way to become more involved.

For more information, link to <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/>

Contact Juanita Roland or Lynda Hunderford if you are interested in doing this. LWVSC has budgeted to help with expenses - hotel and registration.

Where: Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter, 910 Broadway Circle, San Diego, CA

When: Friday, May 15 – Sunday May 17

## LWVSC NEEDS YOU!

The Nominating Committee is requesting nominations for **President, Secretary, Membership, Voter Service Co-chair, and Nominations Chair** to the Board for the 2015-2016 year. Duties are for one year from July 1 to June 30.

Please send suggestions, nominations, and comments to Linda Garcia, Nominating Committee Chair at [drc\\_lcg@pacbell.net](mailto:drc_lcg@pacbell.net) or call 707-795-3236.

## LWVSC Calendar

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday,  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to Noon.

**Advocacy Committee Meeting:**  
Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am.

**Book Club continues throughout the summer:** Thursday, 10:30 am.  
May 21; June 18; July 16; Aug. 20  
See page 5 for details.

**Annual Meeting:** Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. 9:30 am; Registration and Coffee; 10 am: Business meeting; 12 pm: Lunch; 12:30 pm: Speaker.  
See page 1 for further details.

**Newsletter resumes after summer break:** September 2015.

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.

**Welcome New Member!**

Lee Lipinski

**Welcome renewed members!**

Janet Hack

Joyce Scramaglia

**We're so glad you're here!**

## ADVOCACY NOTES

### **Advocacy Committee Report from April 8th:**

One of our members will attend a summit on affordable housing in Petaluma next month. There was a presentation in April on water fluoridation problems sponsored by Clean Water Sonoma-Marin.

The League is considering an educational forum in the early fall as that could be the time the Board of Supervisors decides to add or not add fluoridation to the county water.

The League supports a living wage ordinance. The topic will again come before the Board of Supervisors in May.

The League also supports reworking the Santa Rosa Junior College District's "Santa Rosa Area" with its three trustees because it does not adequately represent minority groups. A committee member presented before the Board of Trustees.

The committee meets on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am, third floor Conference Room of 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa,

Any questions? Please contact:  
Gene Zingarelli  
Advocacy Committee Chair  
[action@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:action@lwvsonoma.org)

## **AN OVERVIEW OF RECENT IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICY**

*Our January program on Immigration, in cooperation with AAUW, was a great chance to learn a little more about the complex issues surrounding that subject, and to understand a little bit more how it impacts the lives of real individuals. For those of you who missed it, and for those who are still trying to learn more, one of the participants, Christopher Kerosky of the Kerosky, Purves, & Bogue, Attorneys, has put together the following summary of some of the more recent action in this area.*

*Juanita Roland*

The system of immigration laws and policies in the U.S remains deeply in need of repair. We have over 10 million undocumented immigrants here, most living without identification, driver's license, or the right to work. Meanwhile, we have an undeniable shortage of legal manual laborers willing to do unattractive jobs in the service industries and in agriculture. And there is no solution in sight to these problems, as Congress shows no inclination to take any action toward reform of the immigration laws.

On the other hand the Administration has implemented a number of significant changes in immigration policy during its six years in office. These changes have altered the landscape for immigrants dramatically.

### **Deferred Action for Undocumented Immigrants**

Two years ago, President Obama issued an administrative order implementing a version of the DREAM Act known as Deferred Action for Childhood Applicants (DACA). The law allows young undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to be given temporary legal status and a work permit, provided they have no serious criminal record.

This 2012 law has allowed more than 500,000 young people and their families a reprieve from deportation. Many of them have been able to get professional jobs, after years of work "under the table". Others are enrolling in universities, confident they will have a career when they finish. Those in high school no longer have to hide their undocumented status or live with the moniker of an "illegal".

Because California has thousands of DREAMers, the Sonoma County Human Rights Commission, in conjunction with KRCB, is producing documentary videos to tell the stories of the DREAMers of the North Bay generally. The short profiles of some of the young people here who have DACA status have already been shown repeatedly on KRCB, on YouTube and Facebook, and in many public forums and can be viewed at [www.NorthBayDreamers.org](http://www.NorthBayDreamers.org).

On November 20, 2014, President Obama announced a much-expanded reprieve from deportation for parents of US citizens or residents known as Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA). The law would give deferred status to undocumented persons in the US for more than five years with children born here or who have obtained citizenship or residency. This will allow them to work and most likely, travel outside the US with a permit, but it would not provide a road to a green card or citizenship.

On February 16, 2015, a judge in Texas stayed implementation of the DAPA law in a lawsuit brought by 26 states challenging the law. The case is now on appeal at the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

Whatever the decision in this case, comprehensive immigration reform is essential to fix this broken set of laws that serves no one's interests and leaves millions of our nation's immigrants living in uncertainty and fear.

Christopher A. Kerosky, Esq

## SUCCESSFUL FORUM ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN THE SCHOOLS

Despite competing events happening the same evening and unavoidable changes, fifty people attended the League forum *All About Restorative Justice and More*. A highly informative program was very ably moderated by Dee Dee Bridges. Bill Carle, board member for Santa Rosa City Schools (SRCS), talked about the board's concern about the number of suspensions and expulsions in the schools. In April 2013, school staff presented a plan for instituting restorative justice (RJ) practices in the schools and the response from the board was very positive. Susan Kinder, Executive Director of Restorative Resources, outlined the program to the board in July and it was decided to go forward with a pilot program at Elsie Allen High School and Cook Middle School for the 2013-2014 school year. The number of suspension days in 2011-2012 was 8,569. The first year the program was instituted, the numbers of suspension days dropped to 3300 and expulsions have also dropped even more dramatically.

Jason Lea, Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources for SRCS, was a last minute substitute for Socorro Shiels, Supt. of SRCS who was unable to attend. Jason had been the principal at Herbert Slater Middle School and had tried positive prevention practices with some success before joining the administration at SRCS. He has seen a cultural change and a breaking up of unhealthy cycles within the family as the student, teacher, and family work through the steps of restorative justice with the help of a facilitator.

Gabriel Albavera, Director of Student and

Family Engagement at SRCS, is the coordinator for the program He discussed how the student needs to accept responsibility for his actions and work through measures to resolve the conflict. If students fail to accept this responsibility, the services are not offered a second time.

A young student explained how much the program helped her, how she learned to work through her anger and express herself in positive ways. She received a very hearty round of applause. Unfortunately, the teachers' union had asked teachers to "work to rule" for the week of April 12 and so we did not have the benefit of a teacher's perspective.

Because the pilot program was so successful, RJ practices have been instituted for all the junior high and high schools in SRCS. This seems to be a win-win-win-win program. Many fewer students are suspended, students don't have to make up the class work they would have missed if suspended, students get a better understanding of the effects of their misbehavior, and the revenue received from the state for those class days not missed contribute to the schools and the administration of the program.

The League study on juvenile justice for young offenders recommended restorative justice as the choice route to follow in dealing with youths. We in the League are very pleased and proud that this program has been extended and adopted by the SRCS for the upper grades with thoughts for future expansion into the elementary schools.

Nancy Richards,  
Program Co-Chair

## BOOK CLUB READS

**May 21:** Moderated by Muriel Smith.

***Believer: My Forty Years in Politics*** by David Axelrod, 528 pages, 2015.

David Axelrod has always been a believer. Whether as a young journalist investigating city corruption, campaign consultant guiding underdog candidates against entrenched orthodoxy, or as senior adviser to the president during one of the worst crises in American history, Axelrod held fast to his faith in the power of stories to unite diverse communities and ignite transformative political change. Now this legendary strategist, the mastermind behind Barack Obama's historic election campaigns, shares a wealth of stories from his forty-year journey through the inner workings of American democracy.

**June 18:** Moderated by Marsha Taylor.

***Knocking on Heaven's Door: The Path to a Better Way of Death*** by Katy Butler, 336 pages, 2013. In this visionary memoir, based on a groundbreaking New York Times Magazine story, award-winning journalist Katy Butler ponders her parents' desires for "Good Deaths" and the forces within medicine that stood in the way.

***Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*** by Atul Gawande, 304 pages, 2014. In *Being Mortal*, bestselling author Atul Gawande tackles the hardest challenge of his profession: how medicine cannot only improve life but also the process of its ending. Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming birth, injury, and infectious disease from harrowing to manageable. But in the inevitable condition of aging and death, the goals of medicine seem too frequently to run counter to the interest of the human spirit. Nursing homes, preoccupied with safety, pin patients into railed beds and wheelchairs. Hospitals isolate the dying, checking for vital signs long after the goals of cure have become moot. Doctors, committed to extending life, continue to carry out devastating procedures that in the end extend suffering.

**July 16:** Moderated by Edith Mendez.

***The Smartest Kids in the World and How They Got That Way*** by Amanda Ripley, 320 pages, 2013. In a handful of nations, virtually all children are learning to make complex arguments and solve problems they've never seen before. They are learning to think, in other words. What is it like to be a child in these new education superpowers? In a global quest to find answers for our own children, author and Time journalist Amanda Ripley follows three Americans embedded in these countries for one year. Kim, 15, raises \$10,000 so she can move from Oklahoma to Finland; Eric, 18, exchanges an upscale Minnesota suburb for a booming South Korean city; and Tom, 17, leaves a historic Pennsylvania village for a gritty city in Poland.

***Building a Better Teacher: How Teaching Works (And How to Teach it to Everyone)*** by Elizabeth Green, 385 page, 2014. A former principal studies the country's star teachers and discovers a set of common techniques that help children pay attention. Two math teachers videotape a year of lessons and develop an approach that has nine-year-olds writing sophisticated mathematical proofs. A former high school teacher works with a top English instructor to pinpoint the key interactions a teacher must foster to initiate a rich classroom discussion. Through their stories, and the hilarious and heartbreaking theater that unfolds in the classroom every day, Elizabeth Green takes us on a journey into the heart of a profession that impacts every child in America.

**August 20:** Moderated by Ethel Schy.

***Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin***, by Jill Lepore, 464 pages, 2013. Historian Jill Lepore opens a smeared casement on the life of Jane, Benjamin Franklin's gifted sister, confidante, and lifelong correspondent. While Benjamin was able to forge a path to greatness from his obscure beginnings, Jane, trapped by gender, starved of education, was not. The contrast between the two destinies is by turns captivating, enraging, and profoundly moving. As Lepore sheds light on this one unsung life, she brilliantly illuminates an entire era."

## Connect with the League

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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](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)



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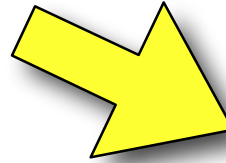
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

*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



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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

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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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