UPCOMING FORUMS

Hear what the candidates have to say.

Santa Rosa City Council Candidate Forum: September 15, Monday, Santa Rosa City Council Chambers. 6 pm.

Cloverdale City Council Candidate Forum: September 18, Thursday, Cloverdale Performing Arts Center, 209 N. Cloverdale Blvd. 6pm.

Healdsburg City Council Candidate Forum: September 30, Tuesday, Healdsburg School, 33 Healdsburg Ave. LWV moderated forum with the Healdsburg Chamber of Commerce. 6:30 pm

Petaluma Forums: October 1, Wednesday, Petaluma City Hall. Co-sponsored by AAUW Petaluma. School Board 5:30 pm.; Mayor & City Council 6:30 p.m.

4th District Supervisor Candidate Forum: October 2, Tuesday, Raven Theatre, 115 North St. Healdsburg. 7 pm.

The public is invited to all of these forums.

Can't Attend a Candidate Forum? Live TV, rebroadcasts, and/or Internet video on demand will be available for most of the forums. http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/tvforums.pdf

For more information on the forums, please visit www.lwvsonoma.org

LWV of California’s Recommendations on the November Ballot Measures

YES on Prop 2, the measure to strengthen the state Rainy Day Fund (reserve) process.

YES on Prop 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act that will change the lowest-level, nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors, and dedicate the savings to crime prevention.

We opposed Prop 43, the water bond originally placed on the 2010 ballot then postponed to 2012 and again to this year. It has just been replaced by a new water bond, Prop 1. We are currently reviewing this measure and do not yet have a recommendation.

For more, visit: www.ca.lwv.org

SAVE THAT DATE!
ANNUAL THEATER PARTY “THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW”
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23
MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS:

Most of us have at one time or another been lifted from boredom or gloom by the opportunity to do some small thing for others--pick up a key dropped by someone else, shop for someone who is sick, or provide directions to someone who stands bewildered on at a busy intersection. Perhaps that lift comes from making a difference, however small.

Do California voters feel a similar lift when they drop that blue envelope in the mail or the ballot box? There is research that shows that young adults who vote when they first become eligible continue to vote more regularly than those young adults who let early opportunities slip by.

As League members we have many opportunities to encourage voters to acquire the voting habit. For example, by making voter registration forms easily available. All it takes is delivering voter registration forms to a few sites several times a year or manning a voter registration table.

We can also lift spirits by helping voters to understand issues (Pros and Cons) or by helping at a League candidate forum. Don’t you find voting more satisfying when you are confident of your position on an issue or feel that you understand what issues separate candidates? Some voter service jobs are large and time consuming, others are or can take one afternoon or evening.

League’s work is not limited to the pre-election period. Throughout the coming year, we will conduct studies and programs to educate ourselves, and the public about important public policy issues. If you have time to spare to help in a study or in planning an educational event, please let one of us know.

Lynda Hungerford and Juanita Roland
Welcome new members!
Betty Pagett
Marianne Holt
Dorothy Battenfeld
We’re so glad you’re here!

MEMBER PROFILE:

This lovely picture of Ardath Lee was taken on the occasion of her 80th birthday celebration at Quarryhill Botanical Garden, one of her favorite local spots. Ardath became a member of the League in the 1980s, and after her retirement as an administrator and teacher at Sonoma State joined in League studies on Water and Alternative Energy. She served as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee and on the Board for the 2 years. Although she spends much of her volunteer time in other groups related to environmental issues, she is still an active member of our community. This article was originally printed in the June 2014 Climate Protection Campaign newsletter and is reprinted with their permission.

by Nancy Burrington
Membership Chair

ARDATH LEE at 80 – STILL ENGAGED!

So...you retire, and get asked...well, what are you doing these days? I used to say, airily, oh a little of this, a little of that. But now I say that I volunteer for the Climate Protection Campaign, because then I can talk about CPC if the person shows any interest...(or not).

And why do I want to talk about CPC? Because it is the issue. I am very much aware of the issues of hunger, disease, and poverty. But if we don't keep the climate disaster from happening, the whole world will be hungry, sick, and poor.

I first became deeply aware of climate issues while team-teaching a course at SSU called “Challenge and Response in the Modern World.” That inspired me, a few years later, to design a 40-unit Degree Completion Program in which a 10-unit course is “Technology and the Environment,” and another 10-unit course that includes the economic effects of environmental degradation. That program is still going strong, and the students leave with a firm grasp of the issues we face. I also designed a Masters program, “Action for a Viable Future” which allowed students to concentrate on an environmental or social justice issue of their choice; that program had a run of several years.

But, once retired, I no longer had a “platform.” Volunteering at CPC helps fill that desire to “do something.” What do I do? Well, low-level computer entry, high-level envelope stuffing, odd jobs around the office. It’s easy, useful, frees up staff for other things, and I can do a lot of it at home at my convenience. But the real pay-off for me is being around CPC staff. They are upbeat, smart, focused, warm, and wonderful people who work very hard. Their work allows me to have some hope for the future.

Is there more? Yes. I am a Climate Sustainer, which means I make an automatic monthly donation. Painless! I invite you to join me as a Sustainer, at a level suitable for your budget, by the CPC donation page.

Ardath Lee
AB2145, passed by the State Assembly, is a bill to put almost impossible restrictions on the development on community power startups like Sonoma Clean Power (SCP). The bill has been put into "suspense" by the Senate Appropriations Committee--a good thing from our league's point of view. The Climate Protection Campaign will have an educational forum on SCP for Petaluma on Sept. 3.

The Santa Rosa Junior College District is overseen by a Board of Trustees elected from districts. Of the seven districts three are currently combined into a one at-large district with three trustees to represent it. This is a violation of the California Voters Rights Act and thus, at the committee's urging, your league is writing to the Trustees expressing the need for a change to separate out the three combined districts so that representation is in line with the Act and voters can elect each representative from their own smaller district.

The S.R. Plain Water Management Advisory Panel has approved of the groundwater management plan and has recommended its approval to the So. Co. Water Agency Board of Directors. The Committee discussed water fluoridation and is recommending an educational forum at some future time.

The Board of Supervisors is putting a 1/8% sales tax on the ballot for the county libraries, if the state lifts the cap on sales tax additions. The committee is recommending support of the tax by your local league board.

Other issues discussed: Juvenile Justice, and state bills SB 27, SB 52, ACA 4.

The next Advocacy Committee meeting will be at 10:30 am on Sept. 10th, 2014.
Gene Zingarelli. VP Advocacy action@lwvsonoma.org

SEPTEMBER BOOK CLUB READS

September 18th, the 3rd Thursday, 10:30 to noon:
The Signal and the Noise: Why So Many Predictions Fail — but Some Don't
by Nate Silver, 544 pages, 2012.
This discuss will be moderated by Mary Stuart.

Silver shows what happens when Big Data meets human nature. Baseball, weather forecasting, earthquake prediction, economics, and polling: In all of these areas, Silver finds predictions gone bad thanks to biases, vested interests, and overconfidence. But he also shows where sophisticated forecasters have gotten it right (and occasionally been ignored to boot). In today's metrics-saturated world, Silver's book is a timely and readable reminder that statistics are only as good as the people who wield them.
**VOTER SERVICE**

We are busy planning events for the Nov. 4 General Election. There is much to be done and we welcome your help. Plans are close to completion for 4 candidate forums listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Plans are underway for several additional forums. That's why we need your help! We will train you on the spot to be a greeter, timer, or question runner. We will also need trained moderators and question sorters. As plans are finalized, the forum dates and times will be posted on our website [http://www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org).

There are 6 measures on the state ballot and various propositions/bonds on your local ballot. We need members willing to learn and present nonpartisan explanations of these measures at what are called Pros & Cons Presentations. An experienced member will gladly help you get started.

**September 23 is National Register to Vote Day.**

More than 1,000 partners have signed on already to host voter registration events across the nation on this day of civic action. LWVUS is a founding partner. Let's do our part in Sonoma County. Interested? Contact me.

Susan Novak, Chair
susnovak3@gmail.com

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**ANNUAL THEATER PARTY**

League of Women Voters and Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy

What: Preview Performance of "The Rocky Horror Show"

When: Wednesday, October 23, 2014

7:00 Social Hour: Enjoy finger foods and wine. Socialize with League and Leadership Institute members and guests.

8:00 Play: The basis of the 1975 film, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, which has a worldwide cult following and the longest-running release in film history. This deliberately "kitschy" rock’n’roll gothic is more fun than ever.

Where: Studio Theater
6th St. Playhouse
52 West 6th Street, Santa Rosa

Cost: $40
Send checks payable to the LWVSC
555 Fifth Street, Suite 300 "O"
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Your check IS your "ticket". Guests are welcome!

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SmartVoter www.smartvoter.org

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!
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name__________________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________
City______________________________________ Zip__________________
Phone______________________ Email______________________________

Memberships Levels

☐ Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership  $60
☐ Student/ Limited Income Individual Membership  $40
☐ Amelia Bloomer Household Membership  $90
☐ Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership  $100
☐ Carrie Chapman Catt Membership  $200 or more

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.