



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 23 Issue 8

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org



Holiday Party

December 10, 2017

2pm - 4pm

La Rosa Taqueria

500 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa (On Courthouse Square)

Join us for a sparkling afternoon with League Friends. Enjoy Mexican fare, wine, cider, and fine company. No charge for members. Donations are appreciated.

RSVP by Sunday, December 3 at 707-546-5943

Sonoma County League Will Partner with the Library for “Together At The Table”



“Together at the Table” is a grant-funded program offered by the Sonoma County Library beginning in December and scheduled throughout the coming year. These

evening events will provide space for dialogue and reflection on specific topics of community interest. In Spring (date to be determined) the League will provide input on the topic of Women’s Rights.

Beginning in December, the following topics have been scheduled:

Immigration.

Monday, December 11, 6:30-8pm, Cloverdale Regional Library

Monday, December 18, 6:30-8pm, Santa Rosa Central Library

Climate Change

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 6-7:30pm, Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library

Monday, January 22, 7-8:30pm, Sonoma Valley Regional Library

Blackness in America

Wednesday, January 31, 7-8:30pm, Roseland Community Library

Wednesday, February 28, 7-8:30pm, Forum Room, Petaluma Regional Library.

Other topics that will be scheduled in 2018 are Women’s Rights, LGBTQI and Income Inequality.

For more information on the program go to the following websites:

Sonomalibrary.org/togetheratthetable
<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/7645183-181/sonoma-county-library-program-highlights?artslide=0>

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

Holiday Party,

Sunday, December 10, 2:00—4:00 pm.

La Rosa Taqueria, 500 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa
(See Page 1.)

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting:

1st Tuesday, 10-noon.

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

2nd Wednesday, 10:30-noon

Book Club:

3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

No Meeting in December

Voter Service Committee Meeting:

4th Thursday, 10-noon.

No Meeting in December.

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.



President's Message



From
Rebecca Jones
LWVSC President

The October fires changed our sense of normal, our lives, our community. Each of us has been impacted, some much more profoundly than others. Within the first days after October 9 some of us were wondering what we could do to help, others were in disbelief that this was happening, some were displaced and struggling to cope, some were coming to the realization that the life and home that they cherished was gone. In some cases, friends, neighbors or loved ones had perished. Slowly we are all working through our own recovery.

As we move forward, we as League members can begin to take a renewed look at what we can do for our community. We will always stand by our values and work to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. In the upcoming months, that participation will be crucial as many public policy questions will need to be debated and addressed in order to rebuild our community. Issues that existed prior to the fires have not gone away but, in fact have just been exacerbated: housing, climate change/environment, immigration, health care. Now is the time for our League members to be even more involved, more informed and more active in helping to address these issues and educate our citizens.

One example of meaningful involvement comes from one of our members, Debbie McKay, who earlier in the year began to put together a paper entitled Report on Affordable Housing and Homelessness in Sonoma County. In August 2017, a committee finalized the project which is a compilation of many recent studies and articles on this subject. The purpose of this project was to gather information into a concise document that could be utilized by the various local jurisdictions in their efforts to deal with this issue and to educate our citizens on the issue. Recommendations were made which were based on existing League positions.

Now we find ourselves in a post October 2017 world where the devastating fires have brought the housing issue to an even more urgent level. In the short time since the fires, the county and Santa Rosa have begun to take bold steps to expedite the rebuilding process. The League applauds these first steps. We encourage all towns and cities in Sonoma County to embrace bold steps, innovative ideas and a renewed sense of cooperation to not only replace what has been lost but to keep in mind the long term impacts of these decisions. The Report has been amended to reflect the most recent developments as a result of the fires and has been offered to a wide variety of government, media and community entities that may find the document useful. Hard copies have been distributed to local libraries and it has been posted to our website: <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/>

When we, as citizens, look back in five to ten years we want to be proud of the decisions that were made and the new communities that have been built.

Also this month, League member Susan Rouser and I attended an event in Berkeley entitled Community Discussion on Impacts of the Recent Wildfires sponsored by the Bay Area Open Space Council. We were very impressed by the cooperative and knowledgeable panelists which included Cal Fire Planning and Risk Analysis

manager, Audubon Canyon Ranch fire behavior ecologist, Sonoma County Agriculture and Open Space District manager, Sonoma County Parks director and California State Parks director and others. One of the many takeaways was that our parks actually helped prevent the fires from being even more destructive than they were...and the rejuvenation within the parks is already being seen. It is obvious that there are a multitude of very skilled, committed people working on the intertwining issues of climate change, environment, housing and recovery. I encourage our League members to attend these types of events hosted by other organizations, get educated on the issues, and bring your knowledge back to the League. The League will be closely monitoring the policy discussions within the county so educating ourselves on the issues will be essential.

As we move into the holiday season, we will be holding a special place in our hearts for our League members and all members of the community who have lost so much. The Board authorized a \$1000 donation to the Redwood Credit Union Fire Relief Fund as a first step start to help with the recovery efforts

Please attend the holiday party on December 10. It will be the perfect time to celebrate the season among League friends, get to know new members, share ideas for the new year and provide warm support to everyone.

**Welcome New
Members!**

**Leona Judson
Suzy Marzalek**

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

Membership Notes

The new member orientation scheduled for October 12th was canceled. We will schedule one after the new year. Meanwhile, we encourage all members to consider bringing prospective members to the Holiday Party on December 10th, giving them the opportunity to meet members.

Advocacy Notes

Our guest speaker from Immigration Services of Catholic Charities filled us in on services post-fire, and it citizenship classes which help in passing the naturalization exam in San Francisco. The group thinks that Santa Rosa should be the northern exam site as there are many immigrants here and further north. This would make it easier for applicants, and thus future voters. We also reviewed the final stages of the our local League's extensive Housing Report for Sonoma County., now available on the League's website. If you are interested in the Sonoma County Transportation Authority's recent meeting on Hi Way 37, here is the link: http://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SR-37-Policy-Complete-Packet_11-02-17.pdf

Finally, the topics of Santa Rosa City Council districting, and a coming together of 25 local groups for Climate Change issues were touched on. Feel welcome to join us at our meetings.

Next meeting on Dec 13 at 10:30.

Gene Zingarelli
Advocacy Committee Chair
action@lwvsonoma.org

Board Briefs

November, 2017

- October-Few expenses and few donations as a result of fires—balance sheet has remained largely the same.
- Audit: Susan Likins performed an audit of the last 3 years of financial records and submitted a letter noting that they were in order.
- LVWSC moved to donate \$1,000 to the RCU Fire Relief Fund.
- ROV Logic & Accuracy Board- Paula Hawkes has agreed to sit on the ROV L&A Board for upcoming elections.
- President Jones to wrote a Letter to the Editor recognizing the efforts of our officials. Late note: this was combined with a Close to Home article on the Housing Report.
- SC Library Together at the Table—Community Engagement Events at the Central Library are covering topics of interest to the LVW. Nancy Burrington to maintain contact with director of these events and we agree to be a sponsor of the events and provide panelists for the Women's Rights event in March or April.
- Holiday party—Will be at La Rosa for Sunday December 10th from 2-5pm.
- Debbie McKay presented and discussed Housing and Homelessness in Sonoma County Executive Summary. This report will be widely disseminated to stakeholders and legislators in our area.
- Media Outreach—Job openings: Voters' Edge, Web maintenance positions may be advertised in the PD

Happy Holidays,
Victoria Fleming, Secretary

Equality Wines Supports LWV



On Saturday, November 18th, Rebecca Jones, Anita Lytle, and Gayle McKinney Peterson joined Chris Carson, National President of the League along with Chief Development Director, Kate Kennedy, at Equality Vines in Guerneville to celebrate the release of the 2015 19th Amendment Chardonnay from Terrier Vineyard and made by California's first female winemaker, Allison Green-Doran.

Equality Vines is a proud supporter of the League of Women Voters. "We are proud to be a benefactor to such a historically significant and compelling cause as the League of Women Voters. Equality Vines are donating \$2 for every bottle sold of our Suffrage series bottling." Those wines, available at the the tasting room in Guerneville, include the 19th Amendment Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Noir.



Local Issues Forum California Senator Mike McGuire Speaks at SLV



Approximately 150 residents and Sonoma League members attended the fifth and final Spring Lake Village Local Issues Forum scheduled for 2017. The audience listened attentively as our State Senator discussed important issues of concern to Sonoma County residents and voters.

Senator McGuire described the historic nature of the wildfire and the magnitude of the response effort. He also pointed out the unprecedented rebuilding challenges our community will face in the years ahead. He acknowledged that, although about 5000 jobs were lost due to the wildfires, the region is strong economically, and will be stronger still with a surge in employment when rebuilding begins. Federal, state, and local aid is available, and every effort is being made to assist residents with the complex process of applying for and receiving assistance.

The Senator pointed out that the funds authorized by the state legislature for affordable housing in 2017 will be even more

vital to our community in the post fire recovery. Among the 15 housing bills is a new recording fee on property transactions that will generate hundreds of millions of dollars each year for affordable housing and emergency shelters. In addition, in 2018, state voters will be asked to approve a \$4 billion housing bond measure, with \$1 billion designated to assist veterans with housing.

Next the Senator spoke in some detail about the economic strength of this county and the San Francisco Bay Area. The state's GDP is now among the strongest in the world. That economic might is allowing us to strengthen state programs, such as public education. Only a few years ago California spent the least of all 50 states on public education. Due to the increased state economic vitality schools will now receive \$11,058 per student, the highest amount in California history.

The Senator then moved on to transportation issues. The recently passed increase in the state gas tax will provide \$3 billion for much needed road and infrastructure repair, which are critical needs in Sonoma County. The tax will also provide additional funds to the Smart Train which may allow expansion of the line to Larkspur to the south and Windsor to the north.

Senator McGuire answered several questions from the audience before he had to leave for his next meeting. The Forum was a strong, positive end to a difficult year.





On the World Wide Web

The recent tax reform bill is of concern to many Californians.

How did your Congressman vote on the tax reform bill? Find out here.

https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/11/17/how-your-member-of-congress-voted-on-the-house-gop-tax-bill/?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20171117NewsDaily&mc_key=003i000000WG2RjAAL

How do we take care of the recently homeless and the long-term homeless with our lack of affordable housing just made worse by the recent wild fires?

The recent fires affected both the homed and the homeless. We are Sonoma strong and will rebuild.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/7645762-181/santa-rosas-coffey-park-neighbors?artslide=0>

But for those who did not have homes to lose because they did not have homes are still having a difficult time.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/7654296-181/santa-rosa-cleans-up-downtown?artslide=0>

Book Club Reads

No meeting in December. The 2018 Reading list is online at

<http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2018.pdf>

January 18: Moderated by Mary Fricker

Astrophysics For People in a Hurry, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, 224 pages, 2017.

America's most approachable astrophysicist distills the past, present, and (theoretical) future of the cosmos into a quick and thoroughly enjoyable read for a general audience.

Please join us.

LWVSC Board of Directors

Rebecca Jones, **President**

Anita Lytle, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

Victoria Fleming, **Secretary**

Terry Wall, **Treasurer**

Gayle McKinney Peterson,

Membership Chair

Chlele Gummer, **Media Outreach**

Donna Roper, **Voter Service**

Mary Virdeh, **Program**

Nancy Burrington, **Member-at-large**

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>

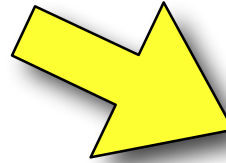
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

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 (\$65), Student/ Limited Income Individual Membership (\$40), Amelia Bloomer Household Membership (\$100), 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.

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.