



THE VOTER

League Of Women Voters
Of Sonoma County

Volume 24, Issue 6

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

Highlights of the LWVSC Annual Meeting of June 2, 2018

- ✓ Rebecca Jones Presided and shared activities and accomplishments from the year
- ✓ Terry Wall presented the financial report and the projected budget for 2018-2019. **It was approved by vote to accept the proposed budget (for details see Annual Meeting Kit on website)**
- ✓ Gene Zingarelli reported on the activities of the Advocacy Committee and those members who were following specific issues including Homelessness/Housing, Bail Reform, The Schools and Communities First Petition (Prop 13 reform), Immigration, Voter Registration, Citizenship Classes, Climate Issues, and Transportation.
- ✓ Anita Lytle confirmed that our contract with the County for distribution of Voter Registration Cards would potentially be renewed (\$5500 a year).
- ✓ Rebecca reported that Member Outreach was focusing on tabling events and voter registration efforts to reach young and Latino voters.
- ✓ Rebecca led a discussion on issues to be emphasized in our local program for 2018-19. Issues proposed were: Support of Making Democracy Work (Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, Redistricting), Affordable Housing/Homelessness, and Healthcare (including mental health). **Discussion confirmed that housing and health care should be prioritized.** The program as presented was approved by vote.
- ✓ Susan Novak, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers/directors for 2018-19, which was approved by vote as follows:
 - ✓

▪ President:	Rebecca Jones
▪ VP Admin	Anita Lytle
▪ VP Advocacy	Gene Zingarelli
▪ Secretary	Nancy Burrington
▪ Treasurer	Suzy Marzalek
▪ Voter Editor	Juanita Roland
▪ Outreach	Judy Levy
▪ Membership	Gayle McKinney Peterson
▪ Program	Mary Virdeh
▪ Voter Service	Donna Roper
▪ At Large	Susan Rouder
- ✓ The efforts of two retiring Board members, Chlele Gummer (Media) and Terry Wall (Treasurer) were acknowledged with presents and applause.
- ✓ A very informative talk was given by Sheriff Rob Giordano.

2018-2020 National League Convention

The 2018-2020 National League Convention was held in Chicago for four days at the end of June. Over 1700 members from 49 states attended. This was an impressive, dedicated and passionate group of activists.

The primary message that I took from the convention was that the national program “Making Democracy Work” is now, more than ever, a critical mission in the defense of so many of our rights as Americans. The focus areas of Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Money in Politics/Campaign Finance, and Redistricting are a solid guide for the work of every league in the country.

The guest speakers were an inspiration. For instance, Thomas Hicks who was appointed by President Obama to head the Election Assistance Commission spoke of the challenges in ensuring fair elections. Andy Kang with the Chicago Advancing Justice warned against possible botched or intentional election problems in the 2020 elections. Both emphasized the importance of poll workers showing their presence at the polls and observing the processes. Voting should be a positive experience without threat or intimidation. Virginia Case our new LWVUS CEO, told the story of her Puerto Rican mother who, as a citizen and registered voter for years was forced to go home and provide proof of her status before she could vote. Rosie Rios, a truly inspirational Latina woman, was the first woman US Treasurer under President Obama, worked on the Transition Team during the 2008 financial crisis. She is currently focusing on empowering women and girls through projects such as Teachers Righting History, a project to change curriculums and recognizing women in history. These and several other speakers, most of whom have immigrant parents, demonstrated the

incredible accomplishments and dedication that comes from a diverse population.

The other major topic was the League Transformation Roadmap. You will be hearing more about this in the future but there are big changes coming to the League in the following areas: Advancing a clear strategic focus, building a more inclusive culture, building a healthier League network, and increasing capacity at all levels. Some of the specifics behind these categories include allowing members to join at all levels, meaning that members can join once and be a part of a country wide network. Related to this are plans for a consolidated League-wide database where membership information is centrally managed and local leagues can access and share and collaborate plans and information. There will be increased investment in paid staff to relieve local leagues from the many administrative burdens in our current structure. There will also be a strong commitment to improving our diversity, equity and inclusion within our membership. All of this is a long term strategic vision to improve the League and enhance its influence and reputation. We should begin to see the first steps in the next few months. Please read the Executive Summary by clicking

: <http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=uyzxoqaQrHWdSMwyZW6wvJv%2FgdfPILWe>

and also the full 41 page report at: <http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=9WVQdag3j72QNHbcPbdEnJv%2FgdfPILWe>

The convention is a reminder that our work on the local level is a part of a much wider reach and we all share the incredibly critical goal of protecting our democracy.

Submitted by Rebecca Jones

President's Message



From
Rebecca Jones
LWVSC President

Hello members,

Due to some personal plans with unexpected timing, I am having to resign as President of our League since my husband and I are moving from Sonoma County. Our board met on July 3 and named an Executive Committee and discussed how to move forward. Further work will be done at a transition meeting in August to name and assign the duties of the President for this upcoming year as well as discuss the plans for this fall and beyond. It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as your president. I have been so impressed with our members who consistently show the passion and dedication that is needed in these times to protect our democracy. I encourage everyone to step up and serve in whatever capacity you can. Please contact any of our board members if you would like to know how to get more involved especially during this upcoming election season.

I will be staying connected with the Sonoma County League and fully plan on getting involved with another League as well. Again, thank you for your involvement and support of the League!

Rebecca Jones

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

Voting Rocks Party: Sunday, July 22, 1:00 pm. Debbie Mc Kay's home. See page 4.

SLV Forum with Paul Gullixson, Monday, July 16, 2:30 pm. SLV Montgomery Center Auditorium, 5555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. See page 4.

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 10-noon. Next regular meeting in September

Advocacy Committee Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 10:30-noon. No July Meeting

Outreach Committee Meeting: 2nd Thursday, 10:00-noon.

Book Club: 3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

Voter Service Committee Meeting: 4th Thursday, 10-noon. No July Meeting.

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 to all.

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



**SONOMA LWV
INVITED TO HEAR
PAUL GULLIXSON SPEAK AT
SPRING LAKE VILLAGE**

The Spring Lake Village Local Issues Planning group has announced that Paul Gullixson will be its July 16th Forum speaker. Mr Gullixson is the recently retired Editorial Director of the Press Democrat. The program will begin at 2:30. It will take place In the Montgomery Center Auditorium, 5555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Please carpool because of limited parking.

The Sonoma LWV cooperates with SLV in the planning and presentation of these Forums.

Among the issues Mr. Gullixson will address are the influence and importance of the local press as it covers local elections as well as its obligation to cover issues fairly. How does the PD decide on editorial endorsements of both candidates and ballot measures? How does it select election-related letters to the editor? And, how does it decide on the timing and placement of major election-related articles?

Mr. Gullixson retired recently after 20 years with the Press Democrat, a recipient of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for its outstanding coverage of the October 2017 Firestorm. He is now an Associate Vice President at Sonoma State University, responsible for Strategic Communication.

As he answers our questions, he might share his feelings about leaving what has become one of the most highly respected local newspapers in the country.

Members Corner Another Opportunity

Help with Our League Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Campaign

Registering voters is a big part of our League's mission. That is step one. Step two is getting people to actually vote! This fall our local League will be putting a big emphasis on GOTV. You can help.

The first opportunity will be July 22nd at 1:00 pm. We will be holding a Voting Rocks party at Debbie Mc Kay's house to paint rocks with non-partisan voting slogans like "Your Vote = Your Voice", "Just do it - VOTE", "Be the Change – VOTE!", etc.

All art supplies, rocks, and sample slogans will be provided. Bring your own slogans too. Sign up to attend the party at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-july> Then stay tuned for what we will be doing with the Voting Rocks.

Questions? Contact Debbie McKay: membership@lwvsonoma.org or 707-546-5943

Renew your Annual Membership by July 31st To be listed in our League Roster!

Our new renewal process using Mail Chimp with a link to your Membership Interest Survey is off to a great start. We are streamlining the process and saving money!

Thank you to the many members who have already sent in your renewal checks. You can find the renewal form at

http://lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/sonco-members/files/2018_membership_renewal_letter.pdf

If you have not already done so, please print it out, fill it in, and mail it in along with your renewal check.

Remember your membership dues makes it possible for us to:

- ◆ Hold Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons presentations
- ◆ Fund and promote get out the vote efforts through tabling and community engagement
- ◆ Register voters throughout the county
- ◆ Continue our advocacy support for affordable housing, immigration reform, health and climate change and transportation
- ◆ Present at citizenship classes and local schools



What Is the Voter Registration Outreach Committee (VRO)?

This is the very active group of 16 persons (see below) who distribute and maintain the supply of voter registration forms in boxes at 115 sites throughout Sonoma County. These sites include post offices, libraries, schools and other establishments. Before the Primary Election this year, we distributed about 3200 forms in the county.

We do this service as per our contract with the Registrar of Voters of Sonoma County. This contract provides a double benefit for our League: it supports our mission of encouraging voter registration and voting; secondly it pays a significant amount of money into our budget.

A shout-out of thanks to these generous hard-working colleagues:
Sukey Robb-Wilder, Donna Roper, Leona Judson, Janis Oatham, Kati Quibel, Anita Lytle, Pat Anton, Dianne Graner, Linda Trodden-Karrow, Linda Robinett, Lynda Hungerford, Claudia Robbins, Linda Garcia, Lynn Camhi, Susan Richter.

Welcome New Members!

*Vivian Hercules
Carol Orme*

We're so glad you're here!

**Voting Information for Those
Displaced by the Fires**

The following site provides extensive information on how to register and vote for those displaced by the October 2017 wild fire. Please share with anyone you know who may need this. .

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/News/Voters-Displaced-By-The-October-2017-Wildfires/>

Book Club Reads

July 19: Moderated by Juanita Roland

Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations, Thomas L. Friedman, 497 pages, 2016.

A work of contemporary history that serves as a field manual for how to write and think about this era of accelerations. It's also an argument for "being late"—for pausing to appreciate this amazing historical epoch we're passing through and to reflect on its possibilities and dangers. To amplify this point, Friedman revisits his Minnesota hometown in his moving concluding chapters; there, he explores how communities can create a "topsoil of trust" to anchor their increasingly diverse and digital populations.

August 16: Moderated by Carrie Anabo

Dark Money, Jane Mayer, 380 pages, 2016.

Jane Mayer shows in this meticulously reported history how a network of exceedingly wealthy people with extreme libertarian views bankrolled a systematic, step by step plan to fundamentally alter the American political system. The Koch brothers and some of the richest people on the planet formed a network whose core belief....that taxes are a form of tyranny; that government oversight of business is an assault on freedom...are sincerely held. But these beliefs also advance their personal and corporate interests.

The 2018 Reading list is online at <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2018.pdf>

Please join us.

LWVSC

Board of Directors

TBD, **President**

Anita Lytle, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

Nancy Burrington, **Secretary**

Suzy Marzelek, **Treasurer**

Gayle McKinney Peterson,

Membership Chair

Judy Levy, **Outreach**

Donna Roper, **Voter Service**

Mary Virdeh, **Program**

Juanita Roland, **Editor**

Susan Rouder, **Member at Large**

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>

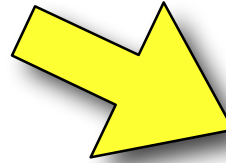
Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

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

<i>Susan B. Anthony</i> Individual Membership	\$65
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$100
<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**

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Voter Registration | Candidate Forums | Transportation |
| Housing/Homelessness | Climate Change | Immigration |
| Newsletter | Website Management | Local Governance |

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.