



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER



Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / May 2018, Volume 90, Number 8

Saturday, May 12, 2018 LWVMC 91st Annual Meeting

RSVPs Are Really Important

Help us plan for enough coffee, light refreshments, room setup, and a quorum. Contact **Bev Kreps** by **Wednesday May 9th** at (831) 224-3192 or BKreps1017@gmail.com.

We Need a Quorum of Members

Per League by laws, we need a quorum in order to conduct League business, including election of officers and directors, budget, local program issues for emphasis, and updates to positions.

Read the Agenda and Bring it with You

Your copy of the **“Call to the Annual Meeting”** is the 6-page insert in the center of this Voter.

Workshop on Civility and Civil Discourse

Civility is a factor that has been lacking in both political and interpersonal communication in recent years. This fascinating two-hour presentation will be conducted by two highly experienced trainers from **LWV San Luis Obispo County, Sharon E. Kimball** and **Carol Courcy**. They will focus on:

acquiring a mindset, tools, and resources that can proactively contribute to a civil environment; trusting prior experience in dealing with incivility; expand choices and tools when experiencing incivility; and developing increased understanding of others' needs and approaches to incivility. They will discuss **ways to be respectful** (disagree without being disagreeable), **listen with an open mind** (recognizing opposing opinions), and **find common ground** (seek shared values), among other ways to cope with conflict by peaceful means.

Sharon E. Kimball is the first **Vice President and Director of Civil Discourse** for the LWV SLOC, of which she has been a member since 2011. Sharon has over 30 years of experience in business and education, with many "firsts," among them being one of the first women invited to join **Rotary International**. Her final report on **Civil Discourse Study** was accepted and published on the LWV

(continued on page 2)

Saturday, May 12: 91st Annual Meeting

Unitarian Universalist Church <http://uucmp.org>
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404

Registration and Coffee 10am

Annual Meeting 10:15 to 11am

(Vote on Board, Approve Budget, Yearly Business)

Presentation on Civil Discourse

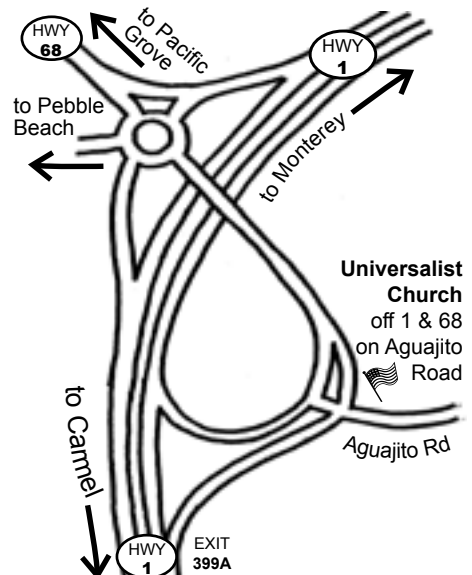
11am to 1pm (including Q&A session)

(See detailed agenda in

pull-out center pages of this issue)

To RSVP or for additional meeting information,

please contact Bev Kreps
BKreps1017@gmail.com



(continued from page 1)

Clearinghouse website in 2015.

Sharon and her Action Team not only promoted Civility and Civil Discourse to elected officials, their staff, and the public in SLO County, but also been encouraging other Leagues in California and across the US to adopt the League's Study and Position by concurrence, and promote Civility and Civil Discourse in their own cities, counties and states.

Carol C. Courcy is a **Master Certified Coach** (her profession's highest designation), author and international speaker. She has more than 7000 hours of professional coaching with individuals, non-profit and profit organizations.

Carol has also written a book to help overachievers titled **"Save Your Inner Tortoise: Learn How to Cross the Finish Line Joyful and Satisfied."**

With her LWV civility work, Carol says a common challenge is when people say *"more of the same is NOT an option."* She recognizes that the simplicity of what we "know" needs to change, and that the "how" to change is NOT easy.

Bev Kreps BKreps1017@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL ★MESSAGE 2018★

It's been a honor to serve as President of the LWVMC. I wish you all the best in fulfilling the League's mission and continuing to provide voters balanced reviews of important issues, particularly in the current contentious political atmosphere. Perhaps with some encouragement from the guest speakers at our upcoming Annual Meeting, who will discuss pathways to civil discourse, we can better engage with and convince others to support the League's various goals.



I also hope our local League finds options that encourage day as well as evening meetings to broadcast our messages, increase active member participation, and recruit new members.

To all who gave me much needed support in the past year, thanks a million and I'm sure we'll meet soon at some League meeting or another. Happy Trails to All!

Judi

jlehman@redshift.com

WHERE THE ACTION IS

Honorable Congressman Leon Panetta

100 W Alisal Street, Salinas CA 93901
(831) 424-2229

April 1, 2018

SUBJECT: **Question on Citizenship in 2020 Census**

Dear Congressman Panetta:

The Commerce Department has made the decision to include a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census. **Make no mistake: this decision isn't about improving demographic data on citizenship. It's designed to frighten immigrants—citizens and noncitizens alike—so they won't participate in the Census.** It's a blatant political maneuver meant to disenfranchise these groups and deny them equal representation.

Including this question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy.

For more than 200 years, the Census has collected information about the geographic distribution of our population so we can provide representation and invest in our communities equitably.

Without a complete count of our nation's people, businesses will not have the tools to make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

The United States Constitution mandates an accurate count of all people living in the United States – not all citizens.

Non-citizens are an integral part of our economy and need to be included in the 2020 Census to paint a complete picture of our great country.

The clock is ticking toward 2020.

We urge the House of Representatives to act to address this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Judi Lehman,
President, LWV of Monterey County



DIVEST FROM ILLEGAL WEAPON INVESTMENTS

Last month the **LWV of California** went before the **California Public Employees' Retirement System** (CalPERS) Investment Board to support **California State Treasurer John Chiang's** proposal to divest from companies that deal in weapons that are illegal to own or sell in California.

The weapons used in many mass shootings are military-style assault rifles, like AR-15s. California banned their sale or possession, deeming them a public health threat, yet its pension funds are still putting taxpayer and member dollars into their mass proliferation, a fact of which most Californians are unaware.

What is the Problem?

- 346 mass shootings in the US in 2017 (*Gun Violence Archive*)
- 57 Mass Shootings in 2018 (*as of April 2, 2018; Gun Violence Archive*)
- 346 mass shootings in the US in 2017 (*Gun Violence Archive*)
- 7 out of 10 shootings happen at schools and businesses (*FBI*)
- 35% of U.S. stock funds include investments in a maker or retailer of guns and ammunition (*Goodbye Gun Stocks/CBS News*)

What are Solutions?

If Congress and statehouses are unwilling or unable to deliver real gun safety policy, the fight needs to go where the money is. Our State Treasurer has called on the nation's largest institutional investors (e.g., BlackRock, Fidelity, Vanguard, Allstate, PIMCO, Bank of America), and the nation's two largest pension funds (CalPERS and CalSTRS), to use the power of their purse strings and divest from wholesale and retail sellers of banned military-style assault weapons.

(continued on page 4)

What is Divestment?

Divestment is when investors sell shares of stock, or stop investing, in a given company that has been identified as violating their principles.

How Does Divestment Work?

If many investors agree at the same time to sell a company's stock, that company faces immense pressure. Over time, a low stock price can make it harder for a company to get loans, finance sales, or expand its business. If the pressure becomes high enough, an entire industry or national government may change how they do business. Divestment campaigns were essential components in some of the most successful changes in public policy of the last 30 years, including US tobacco policy and the end apartheid in South Africa.

What Can You Do?

Check your personal investments, including your 401(k), to see if you are investing in the manufacturers or sellers of banned military-style assault weapons. Show your support for divestment by using **#DivestForOurLives** on social media and contacting CalPERS and CalSTRS.

For the complete article and a "Gun Divestment Fact Sheet," go to: <https://lwvc.org/news/league-calls-calpers-divest-illegal-weapons-companies>

League of Women Voters California lwvc.org

VACANT POSITION: VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR, SALINAS VALLEY



We need someone to cover Voter Service for the Salinas Valley area! It's a part time but crucial position especially as we ramp up for June & November elections. The job entails organizing candidates' forums, Pros & Cons presentations, and other duties related to encouraging Salinas citizens to vote.

Contact **Jeanne Turner, Voter Service Director Monterey Peninsula**
jturner215@comcast.net.



Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!

Renew Your LWVMC Membership.

If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

*Renewal letter and form gone astray?
Uncertain of your membership due date?
Wish to make a donation?
Want to become a new member?*

Use the form below or contact:
Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director
LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to LWVMC
Mail to LWVMC PO Box 1995
Monterey, CA 93942

Membership Levels

- \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 65 Single membership

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons
- Scholarship requested

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership Renewal Coming in July!

During the Summer Break in June/July/August, we'll send membership renewal letters out to all members---our fiscal year starts July 1st.

We highly appreciate rapid responses. Send address, phone or e-mail updates with your annual dues as soon as you get your notice.

Or use the form on the opposite page to renew before then---we LOVE early responders!

Being prompt saves us the additional work and expense to keep pestering you to rejoin.

Donations Always Appreciated

Kindly consider sending an additional sum along with your dues as a gift to **LWVMC** or to the **Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund** (not tax deductible), or to the **LWV California Education Fund** (tax deductible).

Scholarships Available

If you need financial assistance to pay your dues, contact me about a partial or full scholarship. All requests are confidential.

Have a Happy Summer!

Lisa Hoivik, 375-7665, LHoivik@comcast.net

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

Office / Board Meetings Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

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LWVMC The VOTER

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LWVMC 2018 Calendar



MAY

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 10 May, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey
contact George Riley
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

LWVMC 91st Annual Meeting
Saturday, 12 May, 10am to 1pm
Special Workshop on Civil Discourse
Unitarian Universalist Church
(details on page 1 and Agenda in this issue)

JUNE / JULY / AUGUST

SUMMER BREAK
*No Regular Board, Lunch & Learn,
or Committee Meetings*

SEPTEMBER

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 10 September, 5:00 pm
DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

LWV California Convention
Sacramento, 2-4 June
Judi Lehman, Bev Kreps & Nancy Selfridge
to represent LWVMC
<https://lwvc.org/events/lwvc-convention>

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 12 September, 12 noon
Topic and Speaker to be Announced
JanetB@montereybay.com

Annual Joint Board Meeting & Potluck Lunch
Monday, 11 June, 11am to 12 noon
at the home of Janet Brennan
Invitations and Details to be Announced
JanetB@montereybay.com

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 13 September, 12 noon
GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

Special Events Committee Meeting
Date & Time to be Announced
Kemay.Eoyang@gmail.com

LWVUS Convention, Chicago 28 June 28-1 July
Kalah Bumba and Robin Tokmakian
to represent LWVMC