



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

April 2015 Celebrating 50 Years of Voter Education in Santa Cruz County Volume 49, Number 8

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Calendar

Thursday, April 9, 2015, Noon to 2 p.m.
The Current and Future State of Water Supply in Santa Cruz
 Rosemary Menard, Director, City of Santa Cruz Water Department
 Santa Cruz Public Library Meeting Room
 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
 Bring your lunch; free and open to the public

Tuesday, April 14, 2015, 1-3 p.m.
 LWVSCC Board Meeting
 Santa Cruz County Bank
 720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Tuesday, May 5, 7-9 p.m.
A League-sponsored Public Forum: Drug and Alcohol Disorders in Our Community
 Harbor High School Little Theater
 300 La Fonda Avenue, Santa Cruz, 95062
 Free and open to the public

Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 1-3 p.m.
 LWVSCC Board Meeting
 Santa Cruz County Bank
 720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10 to 12
 LWVSCC Annual Meeting
 Featured Speaker: Robley Levy
 Seascape Golf Club
 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos 95003
 Hot breakfast buffet \$20 per person
 RSVP and prepayment required
 P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010

Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 1-3 p.m.
 LWVSCC Board Meeting
 Santa Cruz County Bank
 720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

LWVSCC invites you to attend

The Current and Future State of Water Supply in Santa Cruz

Featuring

Rosemary Menard
 Director, City of Santa Cruz
 Water Department



Thursday
April 9, 2015
Noon to 2 p.m.

Santa Cruz Public Library
Second Floor Meeting Room
224 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Bring your own lunch. Free and open to the public.

On Thursday, April 9 at noon, City of Santa Cruz Water Department Director Rosemary Menard will address League members and the public in the upstairs meeting room at the main branch of the Santa Cruz Public Library. Menard will update us on the current state of the City's water supply and the progress of the City Water Supply Advisory Committee, and review potential solutions to the City's water supply challenges.

Rosemary Menard developed her expertise in strategic management, organizational development, and problem solving during 32 years of public sector experience. Before joining the City of Santa Cruz as water director in January, 2014, Menard held executive-level water utility leadership roles with the cities of Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon, and for Washoe County in Nevada.

During her career, Menard played key roles in many projects, including consolidating four Washoe County departments into a single Community Services Department; working on staffing models for the Western Regional Water Commission; providing cost-effective, sustainable water service to Truckee Meadows through consolidation with Washoe County; and developing the Bull Run Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan in Portland to aid threatened Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Bring your bag lunch to this free public meeting at the downtown public library from noon to 2 on April 9, sponsored by the LWVSCC. For information, call (831) 426-VOTE (8683) or go to lwvsc.org.

President's Message

First, I would like to give condolences to Sue Becker, the Board's 2nd V.P. and Co-Voter Services Chair, regarding the passing of her twin sister and LWVSCC member, Nan Fitch. We are very saddened by Nan's passing and our thoughts and support are with Sue as she adjusts to this great loss in her life.

Second, Sandy Warren has once again hosted our local planning meeting in her pleasant scenic-view and artfully-laden home. Thank you, Sandy.

Sitting in my garden this warm, new spring day, I am surrounded by popping buds and new leaves topping all the plant stems. My dogs, Kenna and Sandy, eagerly sniff the new soil compost, while I recall all the March anniversaries and dates relating to women's history: the anniversary of the deaths of suffragist Susan B. Anthony and League founder Carrie Chapman Catt; the entry of the first woman, Jeannette Rankin, to the House of Representatives in 1917; the recent centenary of International Women's Day in March of 2011; and the US League's celebration of its 95th year. I am particularly appreciative of Women's History Month, initiated by the Women's History Project out of Santa Rosa, from whom I received so many exciting classroom materials during the 1970's and beyond. These biographies, posters, and lesson plans taught what was previously unknown and unsaid in our social studies textbooks, which, at the time, treated women as if we did not exist in history.



However, in stark juxtaposition to the vibrant spring blooms around me, my thoughts have been clouded with a growing unease coming for some time now, aggravated by reading the depressing but thought provoking *Superclass: The Global Power Elite and the World They Are Making* by David Rothkopf, who defined the wealthy elites all over the world as a people with a common bond with common goals! This renewal of agitation is brought on by a recent study coming out of Princeton, by Professors Martin Gilens and Benjamin Page, about America moving away from a Democracy that no longer exists as it once did, and becoming an oligarchy. Since the 1980s, well-connected wealthy and powerful elites on the political scene have steered the direction of our country, irrespective of the will of the majority. "The central point that emerges from our research is that economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy," they write, "while mass-based interest groups and average citizens have little or no independent influence." After reading this study, a reporter remarked, "We might as well sit back, give it up, and become like Britain with its House of Lords and House of Commons."

Not willing to give it all up yet, one way of becoming more effective in fighting the power struggle might rest with the League's emphasis in this coming year on money in politics. When you know what the power elite stand for and which political ads they have bought, it becomes easier to read between the lines. The power elite have defeated many bills to reduce the influence of money in politics by sowing fear among voters with exaggerated and false claims. Keep abreast of what is happening on this issue, and support the League and other groups trying to level the playing field. Stay active and involved with the League as we bring our members and the community more information about money in politics.

Hope I haven't been too dreary for you. Back to the birthing of spring, in my garden repose, breathing in the fresh spring air with Kenna and Sandy, and reading something lighter.

—Peggy Walker Marketello, President LWVSCC

Membership Report

Continuing our series of LWVSCC board member profiles for 2015, this month's subject is Dee Takemoto, who has assisted with publicity this past year. Her interest in LWV came from her long-standing interest in women and minorities. She is a professor emeritus of biochemistry at Kansas State University, where she served for 32 years before her retirement in 2011 to live in Aptos.

When her family moved from California to the Midwest during a recession, Dee Takemoto abandoned plans to be an oceanographer and attended Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, receiving a BS in Biology in 1971. She learned skiing, backpacking, microbiology and chemistry while completing a Master of Science degree in 1973 at Colorado State University. Then California called her home; she writes, "We Californians are not unlike salmon." She attended the University of Southern California, leaving with a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology in 1979.

After the birth of her first daughter, it became apparent that a small town would be easier for a two career family, so Takemoto and her husband (also a scientist), both accepted job offers back in the Midwest again. They added another daughter, were tenured, were published, and brought in grant money. Then, in 2011 they both retired and returned to California, kissing the ground upon driving over the state line. Takemoto writes fiction, does freelance science editing for three different firms, and does cutting edge research on her computer, writing novels set in the global warming future.

Welcome to new members Jennifer Balboni and Gail Pellerin. Jennifer Balboni was encouraged to join by our League's founding President, Robley Levy. In addition to being an owner and instructor at the Joy of Movement Pilates and Gyrotonic Studio, Balboni currently holds a position as secretary of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. She works on publicity on the board of directors for Osher Life Long Learning Institute, and leads an interest group called How It Works, which has speakers from government agencies, such as transportation and water. She is also a member of Breaking the Glass Ballot.

Our other new member, Gail Pellerin, Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, has been a past speaker for a local League program, sharing her experiences as Santa Cruz County Chief Elections Official. We are delighted that she has now decided to become a member.

Pellerin's candidate's statement for the June 3, 2014 election for County Clerk/Registrar of Voters position lists 21 years as Chief Elections Official and says, "I will continue my commitment to provide accurate, secure, transparent, and accessible elections, as well as excellent customer-focused services. I am an advocate for marriage equality and enthusiastically implemented same sex marriages when they became legal again in California in July 2013. ...I am past President of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and have written several guidebooks on election processes that are used throughout the state."

—*Barbara Lewis, First Vice President, Membership*

LWVSCC thanks the following folks who made donations to the League in February:

Jan Beautz
Judge Rebecca Connolly
Paul Fleishman
Eloise Graham
Laura Grossman
Sue Holt
Yamindira Kanagasundaram
Carolyn Lewis
City Councilmember Richelle Noroyan
Judy & Mike Orbach
Ardith Porter

LWV Interviews Assemblymember Mark Stone

On February 20, 2015, LWVSCC member Marcia Minnehan and LWV San Jose/Santa Clara members Judy Chamberlin and Sharon Sweeney interviewed Assemblymember Mark Stone (Democrat, Monterey Bay) at his office in Santa Cruz. Also present was 29th district field representative Kieran Kelly. What follows is a summary of that interview.

They began with a question regarding money in politics, asking if Stone would support funding for rebuilding Cal Access, the online database for reporting political financial activity. Stone responded that he absolutely supports upgrading Cal-Access using funding from the budget surplus. Additionally, he supports electronic filing of local disclosure reports through a county system, as Santa Cruz does, or through Cal-Access. He believes voters and media need the ability to understand where funding is coming from for both candidates and ballot measures, and that we need to improve the rules regarding disclosure and the depth of reporting.

On the topic of early childhood education, Stone expressed his support for universal access, although he sees more lip service than action in the legislature. Benefits include closure of the gap in education, breaking the school-to-prison pipeline, and reducing the cycle of poverty. Children in poverty need developmental opportunities. Practically, we may have to step backwards, starting with offering opportunities to 4-year-olds, then expanding programs to younger ages. Keeping in mind the importance of the years from birth to 3, Stone is working on a state mandate to screen children of that age for educational and developmental problems.

As part of the 2014-15 state budget, the legislature put in place a cap to prevent school district reserves from becoming so large that they would be a detriment to the classrooms. Assemblymember Stone has no problem repealing the cap, even though he thinks it would rarely kick in due to the specificity of conditions needed to trigger the cap. He feels the cap to be an interesting double message of giving more local authority, then trying to control local reserves.

Interviewers moved the discussion on to the Proposition 1 water bond and groundwater legislation. Stone, who supports the bond and groundwater policy, noted that our county is ahead of the curve in addressing salt water intrusion and pumping issues, and in moving toward sustainability. His concern is that farmers in the Central Valley fear legislation, even if it is intended to help them.

When asked about climate change, Assemblymember Stone, who chairs the Coastal Protection and the Access to California's Natural Resources committees, says the conversation needs to start with raising awareness of climate change and its effects, such as how sea level rise affects estuaries and lowlands and how a diminished snowpack reduces water supply. The legislature is working to increase renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gases, protect watershed, sequester carbon, and put transportation fuels in cap and trade. Also important is helping local jurisdictions plan land use to avoid low lying areas and protect natural estuary systems.

On the topic of federal support for community colleges, Stone supports this because it will help provide business with skilled technical resources.

Stone's other legislative priorities include instituting the Earned Income Tax Credit in California to stimulate the economy and help bring down California's poverty rate, which is the highest in the U.S. He also wants to move foster children out of group homes and into permanent family placements.

Next month we will report on the interview with State Senator Bill Moning, which took place in March.

—Marcia Minnehan, Treasurer



Assemblymember Mark Stone (center left) Marcia Minnehan (center right) with Sharon Sweeney and Judy Chambers (far left and right) of LWV of San Jose/Santa Clara.

A Busy Young League

This article continues our retrospective on the beginnings of our League in celebration of our 50th year with a look at the accomplishments of the League as it began.

The topic of the October 1965 meeting featured an assistant professor of government from UCSC and a social science instructor from Cabrillo discussing reapportionment. One early study looked at foreign economic policy: "League commitment to world economic development is implanted in the reality that the few rich nations cannot continue to prosper unless the purchasing power of the many poor nations is increased and broadened. League support of foreign economic aid began in the early 1940 with a concern for the war-torn nations of Europe." The January 1966 general meeting looked at "Poverty Programs: Conflicts and Cures" with "Mr. Ignacio Galindo, Executive Director, Economic Opportunity Commission."

The long-standing tradition of legislative interviews, which continues today (see interview with Assemblymember Mark Stone in this issue), started in our League with representatives of the Monterey Peninsula, Salinas, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz Leagues having lunch with Congressman Burt Talcott. They reported that he "would like to see the League concern itself with election reform." Talcott spoke about his federal aid to education bill: control of education should be local but local communities do not have the revenue to finance it. His bill proposes that a percentage of the federal income tax, ramping up to 5% over several years, be returned to the states to support public education.

In a spring voter registration drive, 30 energetic League registrars registered 1,503 citizens. In May League members met candidates for contested county offices and state assembly and senate at the Cabrillo College Theater. In her president's message, Robin (Robley) Levy encouraged members, "The time and energy that League Members devote to League work seems to me to be more than matched by the satisfaction and knowledge they gain from it."

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LWV Sponsors Addiction Disorders Forum

Santa Cruz County has a drug and alcohol problem. With high rates of addiction, the county's ability to treat those suffering from these conditions lags far behind the need for services. Addiction is a treatable disorder, but only if the right kind of treatment is available, and only if those who need it can access it in a timely manner.

Last December the County Board of Supervisors approved the Health Services Agency's *Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Intervention Services*, the first step on a long road to reducing the impact of these disorders on individuals and our community. Along with the approval, the county BOS approved \$1.4 million in increased funding, most of which comes from MediCal as a result of the Affordable Care Act, and none of which increases the county budget. While most of the funding goes to treatment, with a small amount for prevention, the increases will serve only 272 additional clients. None of the funding comes from Measure K, the county's 7% tax on medical marijuana.

To put this into perspective, this would increase by 1.2% our county's ability to treat its estimated population suffering from addiction disorders, an improvement, but only a modest one. Only about 15% of those with addiction disorders seek treatment; this increase means the county will now be able to offer treatment to slightly less than half of those seeking it. Surely we can do better.

What if more of those who are jailed as punishment for drug- and alcohol-related offenses were ordered by a court to be treated for their addiction rather than jailed? When a person with an addiction disorder is jailed, the costs are high, and the end result when they are released is that an addicted person will be back on the street, continuing to cost the community in many ways: health care, criminal justice, motor vehicle accidents, property damage. If the money used to incarcerate non-violent offenders were used instead to provide treatment, the end result would be a productive member of society, a safer community, and economic benefits to county citizens.

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Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

- ___ \$65 Individual annual membership
- ___ \$100.00 Two members in a household
- ___ \$30.00 Student membership
- ___ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

*League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County
PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010
(831)426-VOTE(8683)
Editor: Pam Newbury
newsletter@lwvsc.org
President: Peggy Marketello
president@lwvsc.org
Membership: Barbara Lewis
membership@lwvsc.org
league@lwvsc.org | <http://lwvsc.org>*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Found: a pair of black-rimmed glasses was left behind at our February Luncheon. To claim them, contact us at league@lwvsc.org or call 831-426-VOTE (8683).

In the fall of 1966, members were busy presenting pros and cons to the PTA, church groups, the social workers association, the AAUW, and farm bureau women. Members were called to vote “yes” on Proposition 1, which “revises about one-third of the constitution and cuts 20% by removing obsolete material, excess verbiage, and transferring many matters to statutory law where they properly belong. It modernizes the legislative, executive and judicial sections. It’s a good start toward a modern constitution and deserves our active support.”

All in all, a busy start for a young League. Then-President Robin Levy stated, “Santa Cruz is a real League—our ambitions, our plans, and our problems are much the same as those of other Leagues of the same size and situation.”

—Pam Newbury, *VOTER Editor*

LWV Sponsors Addiction Disorders Forum

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On May 5 in *Responding to Drug and Alcohol Disorders in Our Community*, a public forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, we will explore these questions and many more with a panel of experts from the county and treatment community. Moderated in an open discussion format by LWVSCC member Ashley B. Wheelock, Attorney-at-Law of The Law Office of Ashley Wheelock, our panel will be comprised of five speakers: from the County’s Health Services agency, Behavioral Health Director of SCC County Mental Health Services Erik Riera; representing county law enforcement, Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner Jim Hart; from the treatment community, Janus Executive Director Rod Libbey; looking at medical aspects of addiction, we have the Medical Director of Santa Cruz County’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Vanessa De La Cruz, M.D.; and Jessica Stone of Janus will provide the viewpoint from the recovery community.

Join the League to start the conversation about addiction disorders in Santa Cruz County. The forum will be held on Tuesday, May 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Harbor High School Theater, 300 La Fonda Avenue, Santa Cruz. This forum is free and open to the public.

—Pam Newbury, *VOTER Editor*