



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

June 2015 *Celebrating 50 Years of Voter Education in Santa Cruz County* Volume 49, Number 10

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Calendar

Saturday

June 6, 2015

10 a.m. to noon

LWVSCC Annual Meeting

Featured Speaker: Robley Levy

Seascope Golf Club

610 Clubhouse Drive

Aptos 95003

Hot breakfast buffet:

\$20 per person

RSVP and prepay in advance

LWVSCC

P.O. Box 1745,

Capitola, CA 95010

Tuesday, June 9, 2015

10-12 a.m. (Note new time)

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street

Santa Cruz 95060

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.

*The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County
invites you to attend our*

FIFTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

Featuring

Robley Levy

LWVSCC Founding President and
Former Second District Supervisor

How Our League Began

Saturday June 6, 2015

Seascope Golf Club

610 Clubhouse Drive Aptos 95003

\$20 per person: includes admission and hot breakfast buffet

To RSVP: send a check payable to LWVSCC

P.O. Box 1745 Capitola, CA 95010-1745

The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County invites its members and the public to attend its Fiftieth Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 6, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to noon at Seascope Golf Clubhouse, 610 Clubhouse Drive, Aptos. To celebrate 50 years of educating voters in Santa Cruz County, the LWVSCC presents featured speaker Robley Levy, our founding president and former Second District Santa Cruz County Supervisor.

Robley Levy began her association with the League as a young mother in Palo Alto while her husband was attending graduate school at Stanford. When the young family moved to Santa Cruz County, Robley became involved with the formation of a local LWV. She was named acting president of the League for its provisional year and then elected president for the following two years. During the years she was active in the League, Robley held many positions on the board and was involved in many related civic activities. Eventually, her experience with the League led to her election to the county board of supervisors, where she represented the second district (including Aptos, La Selva Beach, Corralitos, Freedom, and portions of both Capitola and Watsonville) from 1981 to 1992. Levy will speak about the early days of the League and how her League work led her to represent her community in county government.

Members will be voting to adopt a new budget, adopt our local program, and elect next year's officers, directors, and nominating committee. Be sure to review the information in our [annual meeting kit](#) so you are prepared to vote at the meeting. We ask that you download the annual meeting kit and bring it with you (we will have a few extra copies at the meeting for those who can't print them). More information at <http://lwvsc.org/calendar.html> or call 831-426-VOTE(8683).

Membership Report

During the past year, the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County has continued to increase its membership. Welcomes have been extended to all new members by telephone and email, with roster updates being sent out by Laura Grossman to new members and our board. A series of profiles have appeared in the VOTER of our new and transfer members, as well as most of our current board of directors.

I want to thank all members who helped with recruitment and communications, especially those members who told their friends about the League and encouraged them to join. Special thanks go to Laura Grossman, for working on the roster updates, and Joyce Anderson for hosting another membership coffee on May 22.

"Membership coffees," small, informal gatherings where new members can meet LWVSCC board members, have proved an effective way to welcome newcomers to our League. In the future, the possibility of such a membership event happening on the weekend or at a different time of day has been suggested, so as to accommodate those who work during the week. I would appreciate knowing who would be interested in a weekend or evening coffee.

One of our most active members, Joyce Aoyagi, recently moved to New Mexico. She has served as secretary several times and was an able presenter at meetings, as well as a friend. In order to keep in touch with her Santa Cruz friends, she asked me to share her new address with our members in this report. Honoring this request, the new address is: Joyce Aoyagi, 500 Rodeo Road, #810, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Membership renewal letters have already been mailed to members; if you haven't already received yours, please let us know. We strongly encourage you to continue your support for the work of the League of Women Voters, nationally, at the state level, and locally, by renewing promptly and updating your contact information as needed. Those who plan to attend our June 6 Annual Meeting (see page 1) can save postage by turning in their dues at the meeting.

—Barbara Lewis, 1st Vice President/Membership
membership@lwvsc.org
or (831)426-VOTE(8683)

President's Message

This will be my last President's Message. My two years as president with this highly efficient, effective, and dedicated board will end during our Annual Meeting at Seascap Golf Club on June 6. When new officers are elected, I will be exchanging jobs with Barbara Lewis (who is nominated for her second term as president), and take on her position as Membership Chair.

To give you a view of how the board has been working for you, I would like to recap our local program for the past two years and acknowledge the many educational events and knowledgeable speakers we have presented.

The 2013-14 year highlights include Gary Patton sharing his views regarding UCSC and desalinization in June. In September, we kicked off the season with Deputy Police Chief Steve Clark and Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Hart, who educated us about community safety and prison realignment. In November, Fifth District Supervisor Bruce McPherson and Santa Cruz Public Library Director Teresa Landers spoke about the future of our libraries.

In February 2014, George Dondero and Cory Caletti updated us on plans for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail and the rail system. That spring we heard from Kim Adamson of the Soquel Creek Water District about water supply problems and salt-water intrusion. Monica Martinez gave us a new vision of how to address the problems of our community's most vulnerable and at-risk homeless members. In May, Jackie Jacobberger, our State League's Management Training Advisor, gave a Voter Services Training. The League finished its year with a talk about the inner workings of the state league by then LWVC Vice President Helen Hutchison, who is now LWVC president.

LWVSCC opened its fiftieth year by learning about preventing and treating drug and alcohol disorders from Dr. Bill Manov and Brenda Armstrong. In November we discussed the county Health Service Agency's Draft Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention Services. At our fiftieth anniversary luncheon in February 2015, Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird drew a large crowd with his talk on the water situation in our state. In April, Rosemary Menard, Santa Cruz city's water director, provided an update on the current water supply for Santa Cruz.

We also held annual program planning meetings to discuss state, national, and local programs. Our voter service team was also very active (see page 5). In May 2014, the League education fund sponsored a forum for three county sheriff's candidates with moderator Jan Karwin. In May 2015 we held an educational public forum on drug and alcohol disorders (see page 5).

Enjoy the summer months everyone, and let's hope the weather will not be too extreme.

—Peggy Walker Marketello, President LWVSCC

Editor's Note: You can read reports about all of the above meetings and events online in our [VOTER archives](http://lwvsc.org/voter.html) at <http://lwvsc.org/voter.html>.



LWV Interviews State Senator Monning

On March 27, members of the League of Women Voters interviewed State Senate Majority Leader William Monning at his office in Monterey. Monning represents the 17th Senate District, which includes all of San Luis Obispo and Santa Cruz Counties, and portions of Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. Present at the interview with Monning were Nicole Charles, Monning's district director, Marcia Minnihan representing LWVSCC, and Judy Chamberlin and Connie Hunter representing LWV-San Jose/Santa Clara.

Asked about money in politics, Monning expressed his commitment to reforming campaign finance reporting and his support of transparency. He recognizes that Cal-Access, the antiquated database and website for online reporting of political spending, needs funding for improvement, but he cannot commit to any budget change proposal without first examining it. He sees the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision as a "big hit on democracy", but recognizes the difficulty in passing a constitutional amendment to change it.

Responding to a question on early childhood education, Monning emphasized his support for universal pre-school, saying it's better to invest in kids than to construct more prisons. He suggested three possibilities for implementation: introducing pre-school classes at public schools, upgrading daycare centers, and giving tax incentives to corporations that provide preschool.

Questioners also brought up concerns about caps on local school district reserves. Monning feels that safeguards make it unlikely that the cap would be triggered, and that superintendents can waive the cap in case of a compelling reason. Monning would not want to commit to a vote on repeal of the cap without seeing the wording of such a bill.

Regarding the water bond passed last November, Monning said he supports Senator Pavley's legislation to monitor use of groundwater and make allocations for long-term planning. He looks on water as a public resource to be regulated in a fair, open manner rather than a private resource. With agriculture being the greatest user of water, land use policies are critical to solutions. He suggested exploring tax incentives for water capture systems and other creative strategies. Senator Monning suggested that the LWV conduct educational events on linking water to land use decisions and on the feasibility of offering tax incentives for gray water capture systems.

On the proposed Senate Bill 128, the End-of-Life Option act, Monning commented that he Co-introduced the bill with Senator Lois Wolk (Democrat, 3rd district). The bill's principal coauthor is State Assembly Member Susan Eggman (Democrat, 13th district). The bill has passed the Senate Health and Judiciary Committees and is now in Appropriations.

In addition to the end-of-life legislation and eliminating poverty, Senator Monning's current priority is SB 203, which requires a consumer-warning label be placed on sugar-sweetened beverages sold in California containing 75 calories or more per 12 ounces. In wrapping up, Senator Monning expressed great satisfaction at seeing the success of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord, which required collaboration with many agencies and the federal government.

—*Marcia Minnihan, LWVSCC Treasurer*



L to R: Judy Chambers and Connie Hunter of LWV Santa Clara/San Jose, State Senator Bill Monning, and Marcia Minnihan of LWVSCC

LWVC Convention Recap

The LWV of California held its biennial convention in San Diego from May 15 to 17; I attended to represent our local Santa Cruz County League, and returned invigorated and brimming with ideas and information. At Lunch on Friday, I took a very wet walking tour of the Gaslamp Quarter, but the rain had mostly cleared by Saturday. Much humor was made of the disparity between the convention theme of “Let the Sun Shine In” and the actual weather during the convention.



LWVC President Helen Hutchison accepts a motion to approve the proposed budget.

The main work of the conference consisted of updating the bylaws, approving the budget, and approving the program. Voting can happen by three methods. First, a voice vote is done. If the results of the voice vote are too close, a stand-up vote is called (standing up to vote). If that is too close, paper ballots are cast. No one is allowed in or out of the room during a vote. Through the many votes taken during the convention, only two votes went to a stand-up vote, and only once was a paper ballot required. (Detailed information about all motions and votes can be found at lwv.org.)

All proposed motions to amend the [bylaws](#) were adopted. Bylaws clarifications included how board vacancies are filled, how to determine board quorums, and how to define a quorum at LWVC conventions. Instructions for the Advancement Committee (fundraising) and the Budget Committee were removed from the bylaws and placed in policies and procedures. Other changes include allowing for co-presidents, adopting a two-year budget, and making it optional whether or not to hold a biennial Council (a meeting of League members, in the years between conventions, to approve a budget and conduct other business). With the adoption of the two-year budget, the Council is no longer necessary.

The two-year [budget](#) was approved as recommended, with \$2.50 per member payment (PMP) increases in each fiscal year (\$5.00 total over two years). Many smaller Leagues were concerned about the effect of the increase on membership, but the LWVC promised to work with any Leagues that were struggling with their PMP. A smaller increase was proposed, but defeated.

All current positions were retained, with an update to the Agricultural position by concurrence, and the four recommended issues for education and advocacy: money in politics, protecting California’s environment, election reform and voting rights, and minimum/living wage. Read more about the agriculture update and the issues for education and advocacy in the [Proposed Program](#) at lwvc.org.

Two non-recommended studies were considered and hotly debated at the convention, but both were defeated. The end-of-life choices study barely won the right to be considered by paper ballot (the voice vote and the stand-up vote were both too close to call), but its adoption was defeated by voice vote on Sunday. Many members spoke emotionally of family members who were affected by this issue. Others felt this was not an issue that should be addressed by the League, and that other organizations were better equipped to deal with it.

Sacramento member Paula Lee championed a study to examine current voting systems and their alternatives, as well as the top-two primary. This study was proposed by a motion on the floor. In debate, many members felt the study was too complex to deal with, citing problems with an earlier study; others felt this was a key issue for the LWV that should be addressed in order to protect democracy. The first voice vote was too close to call, so a stand-up vote was needed, but the motion did not receive the three-fifths vote required to adopt a non-recommended study.

Attending the convention was a rewarding experience, and I hope that other members will consider attending future conventions to better understand the way the League works. The convention closed with the announcement of the 2017 LWVC convention to be held in Sacramento.

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

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 _____

Drug and Alcohol Forum Report

Responding to Drug and Alcohol Disorders in Our Community, an informational community forum, was held on Tuesday, May 5 in Santa Cruz. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County, this moderated panel discussion was free and open to the public.

Moderator Ashley B. Wheelock led panelists through a discussion about the nature of drug and alcohol disorders, how they affect our community, and how the community should respond. Panelists answered questions from the League as well as from the audience.

Look for a more comprehensive report on the content in our next VOTER. A [video](#) of the event is available at the League's website at lwvsc.org.

Voter Service Report

In keeping with the League's main mission of educating voters, our Voter Service team had a productive fall election season in 2014, building an active voter service team that involved many of our members.

In preparation for National Voter Registration Day last September, League members trained for voter registration at the County Elections Department, then registered voters at three locations throughout Santa Cruz County. In October, League members spoke to three senior history classes at Harbor High School, emphasizing the importance of being an informed voter; they registered eight new voters. Overall, the team of volunteers registered 27 voters, while promoting responsible voting.

In September 2014, The League and the Valley Women's Club co-sponsored candidate forums for the San Lorenzo Valley Water District and the 29th State Assembly District. In October the League, along with the Lompico Community Center and the Lompico-Zayante Women's Social Club, co-sponsored the Lompico Water District forum. League members served as moderators, prompters, timekeepers, question sorters, and ushers. The forums were successful and informative due to all the League members who volunteered as part of this team.

The Voter Service team presented pros and cons for November's ballot issues at LWVSCC's October meeting and to three other groups: the Methodist Women's Group, the American Association of University Women, and the Philanthropic Educational Organization.

Many thanks to the following League members who participated in this past year's voter service activities: Sue Becker, Kathy Donovan, Dottie Fry, Laura Grossman, Wendy Harris, Joan Hebert, Jan Karwin, Dorrie Kennedy, Connie Leas, Eve Roberson, Celia Scott, Karen Smith, Dottie Speidel, Dee Takemoto, Erik Thomassen, and Ashley Wheelock.

The Voter Service team is proud to have provided information for voters to make informed decisions on Election Day.

—*Sue Becker and Dottie Fry, Voter Service co-chairs*

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

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