



# Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

March 2017

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## Calendar

**Thursday, March 2, 2017**  
1-3 p.m.

Local Program Planning  
Home of Sandy Warren  
150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Tuesday, March 14, 2017**  
10 a.m.-Noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting  
Santa Cruz County Bank  
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Saturday, March 18, 2017**  
Time 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History  
Auditorium  
705 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Speaker: Ross Clark  
Living on a changing coastline  
Doors open at 1:00 p.m.  
Free and open to the public

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Lunch at 11:30; presentation starts at noon  
Understanding Substance Use Disorders  
Encompass Community Services  
380 Encinal Street, #200,  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Free and open to the public  
Bring your own lunch

**Saturday, June 10, 2017**  
10 a.m. to noon

LWVSCC Annual Meeting  
Seascape Golf Club  
610 Clubhouse Drive  
Aptos 95003  
Speaker: Susan Nemitz, SCPL Director  
SC Public Libraries in the 21st Century  
Save the date; more details to come.

## Local Program Planning

Thursday, March 2, 2017 | 1-3 p.m.

Home of Sandy Warren | 150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz

At our March 2 meeting, League members are invited to come and share their thoughts about what key issues our local League should focus on during the coming year. Do you have a topic of interest you feel other members would like to know about? Is there a new position the League should study, or an existing position that needs updating? View our current positions at [lwvscc.org/positions](http://lwvscc.org/positions).

We want to hear about what you want to learn about. Lend your ideas to the mix on Thursday, March 2, 2017 from 1–3 p.m. at the home of Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic St., Santa Cruz 95060. Can't attend? Submit suggestions in advance of the meeting to [league@lwvscc.org](mailto:league@lwvscc.org), or call the League at 831-325-4140.

Directions to meeting: From northbound Highway 1/Mission Street, turn right onto Bay Street. Continue on Bay 0.7 of a mile, turn left onto Escalona Drive (past Kenneth Street), then make an immediate right onto Bayona Drive heading uphill. Take the first left onto Scenic Street; 150 is the last house on the left at the end of the cul-de-sac.

## Living on a changing coastline

*Adapting to predicted sea level rise in Santa Cruz County*

Featuring Ross Clark

Director of the Central Coast Wetlands Group

*Saturday, March 18, 2017 | 1:30 to 3 p.m.*

*Santa Cruz Museum of  
Art and History Auditorium  
705 Front Street*

*Santa Cruz, CA 95060*

*Doors open at 1:00 p.m.*

*Free and open to members  
and the public*



Sea levels will rise in the coming decades: we can debate how much and how fast, we can and should take steps to try to slow it down, but we cannot stop it. Cliff retreat and inundation of low-lying areas will change our coastline dramatically, affecting everything from groundwater supplies to sewage disposal.

Knowing this now, decades before vital infrastructure is critically impacted, gives us the opportunity to plan and prepare.

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On March 18, Ross Clark, Climate Action Coordinator for the City of Santa Cruz and Director of the Central Coast Wetlands Group, will discuss adaptation to climate change, particularly with regard to sea level rise, in order to understand how our community should best prepare and respond. Clark has helped develop plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and identify key threats from, and appropriate responses to, climate change and sea level rise for the County and City of Santa Cruz. He also serves on the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment, which advises the County Board of Supervisors on environmental matters.

This program will conclude our mini-study to consider which of our positions may need to be updated or revised to reflect the effects of climate change and adapting to sea level rise. After Ross Clark's presentation, LWVSCC members will have an opportunity to discuss, and reach consensus on, whether or not we should add the following statement to our Land Use Position:

The League supports local government efforts to adapt to climate change and sea level rise.

As rising sea levels and more intense ocean waves press our coastline inland, threatening homes, roads, businesses, infrastructure, and our beloved beaches, county citizens will have many difficult choices to make. Santa Cruz County and some of our local municipalities have already developed climate action plans that address both reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and planning for adaptation to sea level rise.



Photo credits: Bryce Newbury

Having a position on climate change and sea level rise will allow our League to weigh in on future plans for climate change adaptation and take positions on any future proposed laws and regulations.

The current [Santa Cruz City Adaptation Plan, 2012-2017 update \(cityofsantacruz.com/home](#): search climate adaptation plan), states, "Santa Cruz is a 'built out' community so we do not have the luxury of declaring that no development will exist within the areas that are threatened by flood or sea level rise. The core of our downtown and visitor serving areas are in a flood plain and adjacent to the sea. While we may not be able to fully retreat to a location that is not threatened by the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, we can incorporate current climate science to build resilience into development decisions that may impact us now and in the future." (Page 12.)

Santa Cruz County's [Climate Action Strategy](#) (on line at [sccoplanning.com](#)) identifies the vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change that the Santa Cruz unincorporated areas are expected to face by the year 2100 (Section 5.0). Section 6.0 provides a risk assessment to assist in developing and prioritizing strategies to eliminate or reduce the effects of climate change within the unincorporated areas. Section 7.0 outlines the goals and strategies to assist in reducing the significant effects of climate change on the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz by the year 2100.

Other resources members may find useful in preparing for the meeting are the LWVUS [Climate Change Task Force's](#) Toolkit for Climate Change. The most useful section for our purpose is "[Adapting to Climate Change](#)".

Members may also want to review the presentation from January 2016, sponsored by LWVSCC and the Seymour Marine Discovery Center: "Our Changing Climate and the California Coast", by Dr. Gary Griggs and Dr. Michael Orbach, which emphasized the need to prepare for inevitable sea level rise from a minimum of three feet up to as much as nine feet by the end of the century (members may read a report on the presentation in our [February 2016 VOTER](#), on page 3, or view [a video](#) of the presentation at [lwvsc.org/videos](#)).

## Membership Report

Welcome to all our new and returning members who have joined the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County this past year. New household members are: Robert Engler & Carol Nilles, Elizabeth & Marq Lipton, Susan Martinez & Fred Geiger, plus Susan & James Slinger. New and returning individual members are: Elena Cohen, Wendy Core, Marian Disperati, Mary Jo Dunn-Ruiz, Susan Kettmann, Denise Lucy, Betty Mello, Lydia Nogales Parker, Kate Pohl, and Karena Pushnik. We appreciate the support of so many new members!

—Barbara Lewis, *President LWVSCC*

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## Talking About Substance Use Disorders

In 2016, a coalition of public and private agencies worked together to produce the *Talk About It* campaign to foster an informed and compassionate countywide response to substance use disorders (“SUD”) and co-occurring mental health disorders. The term “substance use disorders” describes a broad spectrum of disorders that all involve the overuse of a psychoactive substance resulting in adverse consequences, often accompanied by co-occurring mental health problems. To learn more about SUD and how treating individuals with SUD can improve all of our lives, join the League on Thursday, April 20 at Encompass Community Services, 380 Encinal Street #200, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Bring your own lunch; doors open at 11:30 a.m.; the presentation will be from noon to 1 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. Spoiler alert: treatment works; recovery happens.

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## Budget Committee Forming

Local League members are invited to participate on the Budget Committee to help develop our League’s proposed budget for our next fiscal year. Please contact Jan Karwin, Treasurer (e-mail jankarwin@yahoo.com or call 831-460-1714) if you are interested in serving on the Budget Committee.

## President’s Message



Halfway through serving my fourth term as president of our Santa Cruz County League, I am still amazed at the opportunities for learning, and the need for further program study and action on the local, state, and national levels.

During the past month, I coordinated the legislative interviews with state assembly member Mark Stone and, in partnership with Judy Chamberlin of the San Jose/Santa Clara League, state Senator Bill Monning. Three members from each participating League asked questions on funding elections, higher education, water resources, affordable housing (the local question), and legislative and personal priorities. I participated by asking a question and serving as recorder at Mark Stone’s interview, and have submitted the responses online to the League of Women Voters of California. Mark Stone’s comments can be read in this edition of the VOTER. Senator Monning’s comments will be published in the April VOTER.

Our local State Program Planning meeting took place at the home of Sandy and John Warren on January 31. I led the lively discussion, and Secretary Nancy Litvak took notes. The results will be submitted online after approval by our board of directors at our February meeting.

The sea level rise local mini-study committee met a number of times at the home of Jan Karwin. Committee chair Pam Newbury and members Kathy Van Horn, Sue Becker, Eve Roberson, Jan Karwin, and I reviewed local plans to adapt to climate change and sea level rise provided by Gary Griggs and Ross Clark. I look forward to hearing from Ross Clark about how those plans are being updated at our March 18 meeting at the Museum of Art and History in Santa Cruz (see article on page 1). After Clark’s presentation, members will have an opportunity to discuss the consensus question to update our local land use position.

—Barbara Lewis, *President LWVSCC*

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages.

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.

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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.

## Legislative Interview: Assembly Member Mark Stone

On February 2, 2017, six League members interviewed state assembly member Mark Stone: Marcia Minnihan, Sue Becker, and Barbara Lewis from our League, and Leslie Hallenbeck, Sandy Mory, and Marie Arnold from the San Jose/Santa Clara League. Stone answered three questions posed by the LWV of California and one question posed by the SJSC League.

Stone's recommendations to ensure adequate and stable funding of elections in California include consolidation (fewer off-year and special elections) and updating electronic voting systems with new equipment. He considers unfunded mandates a problem.

On higher education, Stone looks to continue the 2016/17 budget year's success in funding higher education at a higher level than prisons, a reversal from previous years. He supports focusing on under-served communities with Pell grants and other aid. Stone feels there are not enough slots for California students in the mix. Propositions 13 (limiting property tax revenues) and 98 (a 1988 proposition that requires the legislature to spend a certain percentage on Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but does not cover higher education) contribute to the budget problems.

Asked about providing adequate, good quality water for a variety of uses, Stone stressed the link between energy use and water resources. Doing a better job of moving water around would produce energy savings. Stone pointed out that we are the last western state to manage groundwater; most surface water is caught up in overallocation of water rights. The Environmental Safety and Water, Parks, and Wildlife committees are doing important work on managing water resources. Mark Stone supports using storm water as a supply source, recharging aquifers, long term storage, recovering dam capacities, holding water from snow packs, improved battery systems for water and solar, and using cap and trade money.

The San Jose/Santa Clara League asked about affordable housing. Since the passage of Proposition 13, Stone pointed out, home owners have paid the bulk of property taxes, while commercial properties can change hands many times without a property tax increase. Correcting this imbalance in the tax structure could help fund what is needed.

Stone's legislative priorities include the health care system, resisting the federal push-back on immigration, and environmental protection. The legislature also needs to address transportation infrastructure and water. Stone's personal priorities are reforming the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system, prison reform, and climate change adaptation.

—*Barbara Lewis, LWVSCC President*