



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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LWVC President Helen Hutchison welcomes the incoming board at the 2017 convention. Read more about the convention on page 4.

Calendar

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

10 a.m.—noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

10 a.m.—noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Home of Sue Becker

1842 47th Avenue, Capitola

Saturday, October 7, 2017

2—5 p.m.

Modern-day Slavery

Santa Cruz Police Department
Community Room

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

Human Trafficking in Our Backyard

Saturday, October 7

2—5 p.m.

Santa Cruz Police Department

Community Room

155 Center Street

Santa Cruz

Free and open to the public

Every year thousands of children, women, and men end up in the hands of traffickers who exploit them for forced labor or sexual slavery. Learn more about human trafficking at a forum called Modern-day Slavery on Saturday, October 7, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the community room at the Santa Cruz Police station, 155 Center Street, Santa Cruz.

Deborah Pembroke, a trafficking survivor, will give an overview of the topic, including her own experiences. The panel will also include speakers from the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's office and the Santa Cruz police department. The panel will address key points including legal issues, enforcement, and safe harbor; following the presentation, the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions.

There will be light refreshments and a silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction will go for forum expenses and to [Monarch Services](#), a local organization that provides shelter and services for victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. This free public event is co-sponsored by the Santa Cruz Branch of the [American Association of University Women](#) and the LWVSCC.

President's Message



Our June 10 Annual Meeting featured an engaging and forward-looking talk by Susan Nemitz, Director of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, on Santa Cruz Public Libraries in the 21st Century. If you were unable to be with us at Seascape Golf Club that day, I recommend you view the [video of this event](#) at

lwvsc.org/videos. You can also read about it this issue of the VOTER (following column on this page). If you were there, you may want to hear the talk again on our local web site. While there, you will also notice that you can view other programs from the past two years that have been video-recorded by Pam Newbury.

I encourage you to spend some time this summer visiting the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County at lwvsc.org. The website, currently updated and maintained by Jan Karwin, contains a wealth of information: you can read past VOTER newsletters, learn about League positions and how our League works, find information about voting and elected officials, and much more.

Our 2017-18 board of directors has already met twice--on June 13 and July 11--and produced a program calendar for the coming year. We used the informal votes on proposed topics taken at the Annual Meeting, which were counted by Susan Kettmann and recorded by Kathy Van Horn, as a guide for planning the 2017-18 program. In addition to completing the program calendar on June 13, our board of directors voted to add Lydia Nogales Parker as membership chair. The other new addition to our board of directors, Karen Smith, was voted in as a director at the Annual Meeting; she will be our program chair. Discussion at our most recent meetings has focused on building coalitions with other nonpartisan groups, locations for meetings, and how best to approach different topics. For more information on upcoming programs and membership, see the VOTER Calendar and VOTER articles in the current and future issues.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

A Library Renaissance Unfolds

At our 52nd annual meeting in June, our speaker, Santa Cruz Public Library Director Susan Nemitz, gave us an overview of what changes to expect at our public libraries in the future. She pointed out that if you think of libraries as depositories of books, then we're changing a lot, but "if you think of the library as a learning place where people go to get their questions answered and to figure out their information needs, then libraries aren't actually changing much." The tools are changing: in the 1950s, books were the focus because it was a cheap technology that could serve a lot of people. Now the cheap technology is digital. Today's libraries are shifting their focus from just being providers of books to serving the community in a variety of ways.

Nemitz predicts a renaissance of our public library system as a result of [Measure S](#), which provides 68 million dollars to develop the infrastructure of all ten Santa Cruz Public Library (SCPL) branches in the next eight years. In the 90's, when the internet started to become widely available, everyone predicted the death of the public library, but instead it's creating greater but different needs. She pointed out that the library serves many who have given up their home computers and printers to rely on their cell phones, "There are things that cell phones can't do. One of the things you see is college students trying to write a paper on a cell phone." Filling out government forms for financial aid, immigration, and Medicare can require lengthy computer sessions. She expressed her surprise that in Minnesota, where she rebuilt or remodeled the seven public libraries in the St. Paul area, they have more computers in one library than there are in all of the Santa Cruz public libraries. Because of the great demand, we must ration computer time to one hour if others are waiting to use them.

Nemitz announced the great news that the joint powers board of the library has provided a grant to replace all of the library's desktop computers. A survey of computer users showed that printing is a huge issue for our community as people have moved away from home desktop computers.

Last fall, a community survey indicated that the number one request of library patrons was more hours at the branches. As of June first, SCPL has expanded public service hours across its 10 branches by 66 hours a week. Opening up Sunday and Saturday hours at some branches allows library access to adults who are working full-time on a Monday through Friday schedule.

Investments in digital resources include digital books, audio books, digital magazines, and databases. “The great thing about a library,” says Nimitz, “is we can work together to purchase things that are really expensive that then the community can share.”

Libraries also fill a need for collective spaces for those working contract jobs and students who are moving to online learning for university work. “They get lonely; they don’t like being home alone all the time,” commented Nimitz, “One of the things we’re seeing in the library is people who come in and do their work, just at a desk in the library, because it gives them a feeling of comradery.”

One of the goals for the library rebuilds is to provide space for community-led programs where people can gather and learn together. SCPL is collaborating with school districts to prevent summer learning losses. Story times and literacy activities in the children’s areas make sure that early literacy is a strong message in our community. For older kids (and adults too), the trend is towards hands-on, tech-based learning, such as 3-D printing.

Nimitz reported that Measure S improvements are moving forward, “Capitola and Felton are through their design phase and moving on to the construction document phase. My estimate is that they will both break ground in the spring of next year.”

To keep up with changing technology and changing needs, new library buildings will be designed to be “square shells that have internal pieces that are flexible,” rather than building full walls. Electrical wiring, data systems, and heating and ventilation components will be underneath the building or on the outside walls, so that they can be more easily rearranged. “What we’re trying to do is a form of architecture that creates more flexibility for change.”

The [downtown branch](#) is starting a community process to come to consensus about the direction it should go. Nimitz wants the community to weigh-in before deciding what she wants the downtown library to be. One concern she has heard from the community is how the library serves the homeless population, and whether access should be restricted, which would not

be legal. Nimitz explained the city’s proposal to put the library on the bottom of a new parking garage proposed for downtown as a way to subsidize the cost so they can have a bigger, better facility, “the 23 million dollars that are allocated to create the downtown library is inadequate.” A committee of 10 people has been selected to start processing these issues; their meetings are open to the public, and there will be a [series of public meetings](#) as well. The goal is for the committee to come up with a proposal to present to the city council in November.



SCLP Director Susan Nimitz addresses LWVSCC

Members asked Nimitz questions about a wide range of library topics. One audience member showed a “Playaway” device that can be checked out with an audio book already loaded on it (an easy-to-use device for those not technologically inclined).

Asked about bookmobiles, Nimitz said they have a brand new, state-of-the-art bookmobile for areas that are underserved, such as senior living centers and rural areas. For those who want to get more involved, Nimitz recommended [Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries](#), who raise money for the library.

Nimitz mentioned that a \$300,000 grant would be used to enhance library materials, with the majority going to digital because of the big waiting lists, but that she would pass on a request for more book club offerings.

As we invest in our libraries to modernize them, usage will increase. Nimitz encouraged everyone to check out some of the newer libraries, such as Scotts Valley and Live Oak, to see how they are fundamentally different. “I encourage you to come and visit us. We have a lot we’d love to show you.”

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

View a [video of this event](https://lwwscc.org/videos) at lwwscc.org/videos.

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.
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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.



During the convention, LWVSCC delegates toured our beautiful state capitol. See this photo of the rotunda dome and more [photos from the convention](#) online.

LWVC Convention 2017 Report

The LWV of California held its biennial convention in Sacramento this June. Our League sent two delegates, Dottie Fry and Pam Newbury. Over the next few issues of the VOTER, we'll be reporting on some of the highlights of the many speeches, caucuses, and workshops they attended.

The main business of the convention was to elect officers and directors, approve the budget, and determine the program for 2017-2019. In addition, members approved a major bylaws revision.

The revised LWVC bylaws, recommended by the LWVC board and approved by members in June, retain the timeless elements that reflect our basic, guiding principles and protect our grassroots nature; more detailed content that requires frequent updating and flexibility has been moved into LWVC policies and procedures.

All nominated officers and directors were voted in. Helen Hutchison of Oakland was reelected as LWVC president for a second term. Other officers include Gloria Chun Hoo (San Jose/Santa Clara), first vice president; Joanne Leavitt, (Santa Monica), second vice president for advocacy/program; Caroline De Llamas (East San Gabriel Valley), secretary; and Jacquie Canfield (Fresno), treasurer.

The 2017-2019 budget maintains the current per-member payment of \$28. The LWVC has reduced costs by moving to a new location in Sacramento. They plan to build a six-month operational reserve over the next three years for both the LWVC and the LWVC Education Fund. This will be used to offset any unanticipated increases in expenses or loss of ongoing funding.

Members voted to retain all current positions (read more about our positions at lwvc.org/our-work), including our newest position on [Public Higher Education in California](#) and the new [Climate Change Action Policy](#) approved by the LWVC board this March. While no new studies were adopted, members approved three LWVC Board-recommended issues to emphasize in our education and advocacy efforts for 2017-19: making democracy work; natural resources, including climate change, water, and land use; and response to changing federal policies and budget actions that have an impact on California, such as health care, immigration, the environment, and tax reform.

The [convention workbook](#), which contains details about everything that was done at the convention, may be [viewed online](#). At that link, you can also find information from many of the caucuses and workshops. Browsing through the materials gives a flavor for what happens at the convention.

The exact location for the 2019 LWVC Convention has not yet been announced, but it will be in southern California.

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor