

League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County – Annual Meeting

June 6 2026, Dave Wong's Restaurant

Minutes

Members present: Lilia Becerra-Quintor, Maureen Abaray-Becker, Mary Avanti, Abby Avila Hernandez, Noreen Bastian, Mary Bava, Donna Brown, Mary Ann Cox-Martin, Suzy Daveluy, Christeen Ferree, Colleen Foster, Carrie Gallegos, Kathy Hart, Mary Kenefick, Barbara Lea, Bea Lingenfelter, Terri Mercer, Margo Praus, Barbara St. Urbain, Daphne Shaw, Van Ha To-Cowell, Chris Varela, Patricia Voss, Jane Wagner-Tyack, Cate White

Guest: Teri Serface

President Suzy Daveluy welcomed those in the audience at 11:15. She introduced a discussion of how the League can maintain its nonpartisan stance and reputation in very partisan times. She posed three questions to start the discussion:

- How do we remain nonpartisan in the current political environment? (She emphasized that issues are not partisan and that the League only speaks on issues it has taken a position on after study and consensus.)
- How do we respond to our neighbors who are afraid to register to vote?
- How can our League respond to efforts at voter suppression in our county?

DISCUSSION

Members offered many comments, observations, and concerns. It was pointed out that *partisan* refers to *candidates*. The difficulty in getting candidate contact information as well as getting candidates to respond to invitations to candidate forums or the VOTE 411 opportunity was a chief concern. One suggestion was to try to locate people in a candidate's district who might urge a candidate to make their information known broadly through League voter service activities. How to get schools to opt into the Civic Seal of Engagement as a way to encourage interest among young and soon-to-be voters was another concern. Inviting members of the SUSD and other local school boards to speak to the League on civic engagement issues was also suggested. For candidates who don't wish to share their personal contact information (e.g., phone number or email), we could suggest they establish separate contact information specifically for their campaigns.

Suggestions were made addressing two League voter service issues:

1. Lobby LWVC/LWVUS to change the prohibition against "empty chair" candidate forums as a way to include more candidates running for office;
2. LWVSJC members need to increase our active participation in tasks that enable successful local candidate forums.

The business meeting followed lunch.

BUSINESS MEETING

There was a quorum for the meeting. Colleen Foster was announced as parliamentarian.

By acclamation, the Rules of the Day and Order of Business were adopted as printed in the Annual Meeting Kit.

Abby Avila, Suzy Daveluy, and Mary Kenefick were appointed as the Committee to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes.

President's Report

President Suzy Daveluy said that this had been a challenging but active and effective year.

- We had an active voter registration effort by having tables to register voters at several community events.
- We had two GOTV postcarding events: one for Proposition 50 and one for the Primary Election. We sent out a total of 1500 postcards to local voters, urging them to vote.
- League members are monitoring the agendas of the Board of Supervisors and some city councils for items of interest to the League.
- We had successful programs on Immigration issues and the current status of women in America.
- The Lunch and Learns offered League members a way to meet and be informed. Fluctuating attendance indicates a need to analyze best ways to make this valuable to our League members.
- The candidate forums held in Stockton at Delta College were well attended and offered good information on candidates for local office. We pursued candidate information to post on the Vote 411 web site and we did Pros and Cons for Proposition 50.
- Suzy thanked Yvette Remlinger for managing the LWV transformation process throughout this first transition year. And she thanked Colleen Foster for editing the *Voter*.
- And, many new members joined our League this year.

Treasurer's Report

Former Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair Jane Wagner-Tyack gave the treasurer's report for Treasurer Yvette Remlinger who was unable to attend. She reported that at the end of last fiscal year, the General Fund had approximately \$13,000. At the end of this fiscal year, there is approximately \$10,000 in the General Fund. The impact of a revision of how member dues are shared at the national, state, and local League levels is partially responsible. A standard dues level for all League members of \$75, down from our locally-adopted dues of \$90, also impacted our revenue. We only received 68% of our budgeted revenue, but we only spent 60% of our budgeted expenses. The shortfall mitigation from LWVUS was also less than budgeted. Jane encouraged all our members to renew their membership in July and to consider an additional donation to our local League to give us the resources we need to continue to be active in our local communities.

She also thanked Yvette Remlinger who had a mini-fundraiser for the League: she asked family and friends to make a donation to the League instead of buying a present for her birthday.

She also reported that the Ed Fund balance is up from last year's ending balance of \$8375 to \$10,000 at the end of this fiscal year.

Presentation of Recommended Program

Suzy Daveluy reported on the Recommended Program for the 2026-2027 year.

- Making Democracy Work
- Women's Rights
- Health Care Accessibility

The motion to adopt the recommended program for the year was put forth by the Board and did not require a second.

Moved Carried to adopt the recommended program topics as our issues for education and advocacy for the coming League year.

Presentation of the Proposed Budget

President Suzy Daveluy reviewed the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, as presented in the Annual Meeting Kit.

The budget is recommended by the Board; the motion to adopt the budget did not require a second.

Moved Carried: to adopt the proposed budget for 2026-2027 as printed in the Annual Meeting Kit.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Margo Praus, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported on the slate of officers, directors, and Nominating Committee members to be voted on.

Officers and Directors

- President (2026-2027): Suzy Daveluy
- 1st Vice President (2026-2028) –Abby Avila
- Secretary (2026-2028): Mary Avanti
- Directors: 2026-2028
 - Colleen Foster
 - Sue Kenmotsu
 - Terri Mercer

Nominating Committee

- Margo Praus, Chair
- Rosemary Hein
- Terri Mercer

Two members will be appointed from the Board

Helen Pearson Award Committee

- Colleen Foster
- Terri Mercer
- Cate White

There were no nominations from the floor. As a recommendation from the Nominating Committee, the proposed slate of nominees did not need a second.

Moved Carried: to adopt the slate of nominees for office as printed in the Annual Meeting Kit and reported above.

Helen Pearson Award

Suzy Daveluy announced the recipient of the Helen Pearson Award, noting that the award was established to recognize a member who has made an outstanding contribution to our League, demonstrating passion, dedication, and a cheerful outlook. Citing her many contributions as chair of the Nominating Committee for several years, as a bridge between the League and the wider community when local organizations offered programming on issues of interest to the League, and her volunteering to support League activities such as the candidate forums, she announced this year's recipient: Margo Praus.

Direction to the Board

Suzy Daveluy invited League members to send her any comments, concerns, suggestions or encouragement to action.

Announcements

- Suzy Daveluy announced the members who were interested in working on one of our Issues for Education and Advocacy committees and invited any other interested League members to join a committee that interests them.
 - Making Democracy Work: Mary Avanti, Donna Brown, Suzy Daveluy, Kathy Hart, Margo Praus, Jane Wagner-Tyack
 - Women's Rights: Lilia Becerra-Quintor, Colleen Foster, Mary Kenefick, Bea Lingenfelter, Gretchen Newby, Cate White
 - Access to Healthcare: Maureen Abaray-Becker, Mary Ann Cox-Martin, Yvette Remlinger, Daphne Shaw, Christine Varela
- The next Board meeting will be on Zoom on August 17, 2026.
 - The Board will continue today's discussion about how to reach out to candidates to invite them to participate in candidate forums and Vote 411.

- One member expressed concern about a candidate who distributed campaign literature at a League event. Suzy Daveluy said we would be more vigilant in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Foster

Colleen Foster
Secretary, 2024-2026

Annual Meeting Minutes – June 6 2026

Minutes approved by Committee to Approve the Annual Meeting Minutes: Abby Avila, Suzy Daveluy, and Mary Kenefick.