



# League of Women Voters Benicia

## VOTER

August 2019

<https://my.lwv.org/california/benicia>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties. We encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and action.



August 19, 10am-12pm, **Voter Registration Volunteers Training**, Fairfield Civic Center Library, Fairfield.

August 21, Fairfield. **Membership Committee meeting**. contact Sandy Coury at [sandycoury@gmail.com](mailto:sandycoury@gmail.com).

August 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday, **Great Decisions Extension**, 7:00 PM, Nancy Lund's home, 200 Marina Drive, Benicia, CA. For more information email Niles Medders at [nilesmedders@gmail.com](mailto:nilesmedders@gmail.com).

August 28th, Wednesday, 2 PM. **Events and Planning meeting**. Contact Julie Hartford 925 786-5531 to attend

September 10th Tuesday, 7:00 PM **LWV Benicia Board Meeting**, Niles Medders' home, 200 Brighton Drive, Vallejo, CA

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Monday, **Great Decisions Extension**, 7:00 PM, Nancy Lund's Home, 200 Marina Drive, Benicia, CA

Sept. 24, **National Voter Registration Day**: Watch the newsletter and website for listings of multiple events that day.



## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I hope everyone is having a good summer. Your new board is hitting the ground running, developing events for members, for students, and for the general public over the next few months.

We have new members joining our League, many of whom bring invaluable expertise in areas like Marilee Scholl in media communication county wide; Alice Fried, examining the development of a scholarship program for high school students; as

well as increased energy in the Program and Events Committee (Julie Hartford), Voter Service Committee (Gayle Vaughan), Membership Committee (Margo McGlone), and the Great Decision and GD Extension (Judy Potter). And Sandy Coury is coordinating all communication, managing the website, as well as helping everybody else. Our Secretary, Alice Labay, is heading up a group to digitize our archives (so we can quit shuffling old boxes from one retiring board member's garage or closet to their replacement's garage or closet). You'll read about some of their work in other parts of this newsletter.

A lot is in the works as we move from a league comprised of 25 or so Benicians plus a couple from Vallejo and Fairfield to (assuming okays from higher powers) a countywide League of more than twice that size and equally distributed between North and South. We are also focusing on development of our own infrastructure to insure that the work that we start can be sustained. And, particularly in the current climate, proceeding in a manner that preserves the League's reputation for nonpartisanship and civility.

Feedback is welcome and encouraged. Members are urged to attend board meetings (just email me so I know how many chairs we need) . Give some thought to joining a committee, if you haven't already done so. Besides those mentioned above we have a nominating committee with space, charged with identifying candidates for next year's Board elections. A Fundraising committee, which will be addressing whether to continue with our biannual Clocktower Garage sale in June 2020 or do something else.

So, thanks for being a member.

Niles Medders  
LWVBenicia (soon to be Solano) President  
(and Mailman)



## VOTER SERVICES

### RESTRUCTURING

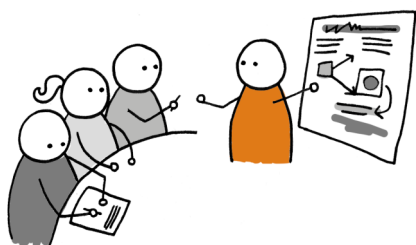
Our youth voter registration for 2019-2020 began with a restructuring of administration the program. At our July committee meeting, coordination of high school registration was divided among League members from Benicia, Fairfield, and Vacaville. Each city (including Vallejo) will have their own coordinator who will oversee and schedule in-class presentations and tabling at the various high schools.

Gayle Vaughan will continue as Voter Service chair and work directly with schools in Benicia and Vallejo. Barbara King and Carole Paterson will handle the schools in Fairfield-Suisun, Becky Cecena will be organizing presentations for the Vacaville area, and Marilee Scholl is our representative for Solano Community College.

If you have been active in our youth registration program in the past, expect a call from one of our coordinators this month. We will be registering youth voters from August, 2019 through January 2020 and from August, 2020 through October, 2020. We will start If you would like to join in helping our program, please consider attending the training session explained below.



### TRAINING



We will kick off this registration season with a training session on Aug. 19, 10am-12pm, at the Fairfield Civic Center Library. We will be showing our newly updated power point presentation, discussing civic instructions, and the March primary. Solano County Assistant Registrar of Voters, John Gardner will be demonstrating changes in the actual voting process with some new machines. Please register to attend at [vonwindgayle@gmail.com](mailto:vonwindgayle@gmail.com) by August 15. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### EVENTS AND PLANNING

The Events and Program Planning Committee is planning a Fall event to be held at Solano Community College which will be a basic presentation on how to vote, how elections are run, and how to research propositions. John Gardner from the Solano County office of Voter Registrar will present.

There will be two "Meet Your Local Officials" events this Fall. One in Vacaville and one in Suisun City.

Additionally, we have been asked to plan some sort of "Mixer" event for the League.

More details will soon be available.

Our next meeting is August 28th at 2 P.M. Contact Julie Hartford 925 786-5531 to attend.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Now Serving Greater Solano County with 82 Members! The LWV Benicia continues its growth throughout the county. Almost half of our active members are now from the Cordelia, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Suisun areas.

### **2019 MEMBERSHIP TEAM “BUILDING” PLAN**

This year our plan is to create a strong foundation for our League throughout Solano County that will enable us to build:

- A strong, diverse, and inclusive base of members.
- Influencer relationships with values-based community organizations focused on engagement in government / elections.
- Awareness and recognition of LWV as a valuable resource for unbiased information and an organization that makes a real difference.



A key part of our plan is to build a pilot annual “*Democracy Matters*” *High School Civic Speech Scholarship Program* modeled on the highly successful program piloted by Alameda LWV and our new member Alice Fried. Alice has volunteered to lead this exciting project for our League! Working with Solano Community College, high schools, and other community organizations this program will be foundational in spreading LWV “roots” throughout the county.

You can read about the Alameda League’s program here: <https://www.lwvalameda.org/high-school-civics-scholarship-program.html>.

We work hand in hand with our Voter Services and Program Planning teams to support their efforts and build our membership.

The Membership Committee is also working with Solano Community College (SCC) to encourage students to join the League (student memberships are free) at each campus starting during the fall semester Welcome Week (August 12-16). Then, throughout the year on a regular basis, we have SCC permission to staff a League table for recruiting LWV members and registering voters. Our SCC liaison Rischa Slade, the Associated Students Advisor, will provide us with guidance on the days and hours when peak traffic is likely at each campus.

Our experienced League members will work with our new student members with the goal of having student members eventually manage the program. We are still working out details for this program but if you are interested in volunteering at the Vallejo, Fairfield, or Vacaville campus, please email us at: [lwvbenicia@gmail.com](mailto:lwvbenicia@gmail.com).

**Membership Team Members:** Margo McGlone, Sandy Coury, Marilee Scholl, Julie Hartford, Margie Olson, Alice Fried, Lilli Rollins

Meetings: The Membership Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month in Fairfield. For more information and/or join us, please contact Sandy Coury at [sandycoury@gmail.com](mailto:sandycoury@gmail.com).

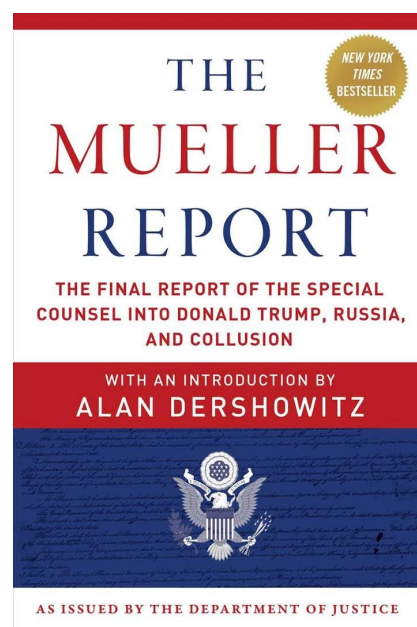


## GREAT DECISIONS EXTENSION SERIES continues fourth Mondays at 7:00 PM

The League of Women Voter's Benicia's Great Decision program continues with its year-round current events/foreign affairs discussion meetings. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. The next meeting will take place on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of Nancy Lund, 200 Marina Village Drive, Benicia, CA. If you are interested in finding out more about our group please email your request to Niles Medders, at [nilesmedders@gmail.com](mailto:nilesmedders@gmail.com). He will add you to our contact list. Reminders about each meeting and information about topics to be covered are sent to all interested potential participants.

We look at upcoming discussion topics, often including the reading of a book or articles about a particular subject at the end of each monthly meeting and generally make a decision about our next topic. Input is also gathered from online submissions.

At our regular July meeting we will be discussing the Mueller report. We suggested at a minimum that people read the summaries that Mueller and his staff prepared to be released to the public. Participants were also encouraged to view the 1 hour 17 min live stream video of the dramatic adaptation, "The Investigation: A Search For The Truth" Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Robert Schenkkan wrote the play which hews closely to the original Mueller Report. The reading was performed for a live audience at Riverside Church in Manhattan and was introduced by Bill Moyer. Annette Benning is the narrator, Kevin Klein portrays Robert Mueller, John Lithgow is an excellent Trump, Joel Gray plays Jeff Sessions, Jason Alexander is Chris Christie and so many more. If you missed our July meeting this will give you an idea of what we talked about. We welcome all to join us for upcoming meetings.



### FROM LWVC

Only 29 Days Left to Apply for the Redistricting Commission!

<https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/621/pm.asp?id=14822&nav=1&aacwc=361556216721120148223275385%20target=>



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### Newsletter

Susan Street, Leslie Lessenger and Niles Medders

Newsletter submissions:  
 due by 20th of the month  
 Susan Street, [susanstreet240@gmail.com](mailto:susanstreet240@gmail.com)

League business only  
 What where, when why in first paragraph  
 200 words or less  
 Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt is preferred.



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