



League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER

December 2018 <http://www.lwvbenicia.org>

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.



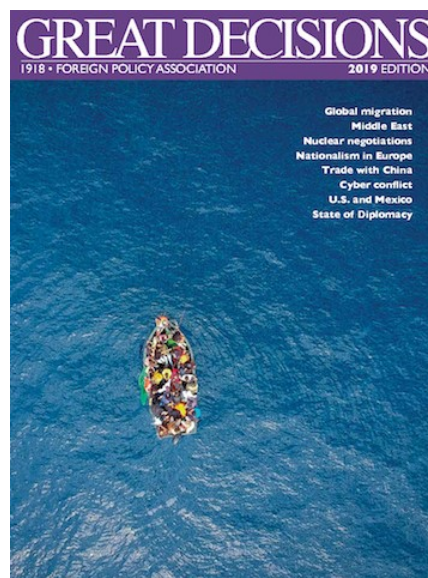
January 8, 7 PM LWV Benicia Board meeting at Niles Medders' home at 200 Brighton Drive, Vallejo

January 3rd or 4th week date TBA 7:00 PM program planning meeting

January 28th, Mon. 7:00 PM Great Decisions first meeting, Benicia Public Library, Topic: Refugees and Global Migration

February date TBA possibly 4th Friday Meet Your Local Officials

Great Decisions: Sign up now for a discounted book for the 2019 Great Decisions series. They are going fast but there are still some left. To reserve one of the books or to place your name and email address on our Great Decisions contact list please email Niles Medders at nilesmedders@gmail.com. Meetings will begin the last Monday in January at Benicia Public Library and continue weekly through April 1st. There are no meetings the middle two Mondays in February because the Library is closed for the President's Holidays. For a complete list of topics see the November 2018 Voter.



Meet Your Local Officials

We are again working on plans for our always popular Meet Your Local Officials evening. Watch for more information coming soon. We always need lots of help. If you are interested in helping with the organization of the event please contact Susan Cohen Grossman at susancg@gmail.com

Bay Area League

The organization of Leagues in the Bay Area will be hosting a League Day Saturday **February 9, 2019**. Save the date!!! The Focus of the event will be "Diversity, Inclusion and Equity in the Bay Area. More information to follow.



Program Planning Meeting January date and place TBA

The Benicia chapter of the League of Women Voters will participate in the yearly Program Planning for national and state organization. Each year we meet as a local league and review the proposed program for either the state league or the US league. Last year we reviewed the proposed program from the LWV US which was the continuation of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work. It was proposed that Leagues throughout the country would work on voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting. We concurred and sent the results of our meeting to the LWV US. The LWV US then developed the details of their proposed program reflecting input from all the local leagues and in June Convention delegates adopted the 2018-2020 LWV US Program after debate and discussion.

Every other year our program planning focuses on the proposed program for the state leagues so this year we will be reviewing the program goals of the LWV California. At this writing we have not received information about what those program goals will be. This is an important opportunity for each individual member to express their opinions and formally make their program wishes known to the state. We vote on priority issues and send a report to the LWV CA. We hope everyone can attend. Watch for more information in the January newsletter for date and time.





League of Women Voters Benicia

Voter Service Report

Jan-Nov. 2018

Prepared by Gayle Vaughan, Nov. 13, 2018

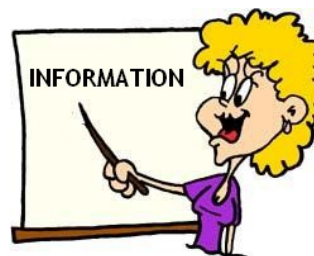
Youth Voter Project: April-November: Voting was up to 73 % in Benicia. Reports from the senior center indicated the number of voters had increased from 500 (2016) to 1500. We ended up registering just over 1200 students.

Budget: We received a grant of \$1000 in March, 2018, and spent \$784 of that during the Spring campaign on supplies, student treats, volunteer training, student incentives, and Voters Edge bookmarks. In the Fall we spent an additional \$404.

Results: Between April and November we registered or preregistered close to 1200 students, meeting and exceeding the goals of the initial grant. Many of those in senior classes were only 17, and weren't able to vote in the primary and/or general election. But they will be ready to go in 2020.

Schools: We visited 11 schools in Benicia, Vallejo, and Fairfield. We went to some schools both in the spring and fall. Others we only went once. Volunteers worked in classrooms of 31 teachers, most of whom taught between 4 and 5 classes each, which allowed us to contact an average of 120 students per teacher at the following facilities:

- Early College High, Cordelia (Fairfield -Suisun District)
- Jesse Bethel High, Vallejo
- Vallejo High, Vallejo
- Benicia High, Benicia
- Fairfield High, Fairfield
- MIT Academy, Vallejo
- John Finney High, Vallejo
- Independent Living Resource Center, Fairfield
- St. Vincent-St. Pat's High, Vallejo
- Vallejo Independent Study Academy, Vallejo
- Rodriguez High, Cordelia (Fairfield-Suisun District)



Volunteers: Fifty-eight volunteers were trained in the spring. Another 15 received training in the fall. Most of these were not members of the League, but individuals who pledged to follow League non-partisan procedures. All non-league volunteers were accompanied by a League member when presenting to a class of students.

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Voter Service Report continued

Methods:

Power point presentation was developed by the Voter Service Team

Contact was made with County School Superintendent's Office who put us in contact with a representative from interested schools.

Direct contact and scheduling was made with individual teachers, and volunteers were assigned.

A volunteer team went to each classroom showed the power point, discussed relevant materials, encouraged students with activities, and guided them through the voter registration forms. If time allowed we reviewed the propositions and measures on the ballot. In some classes, we used online registration which was much faster.

We collected names and phone numbers of students who wanted a text reminder to vote.



Hours Spent: Most presentations were 45-50 minutes long, totaling just under 140 hours.

Contacting teachers and scheduling took about 2 hours a day, 5 days a week, for six weeks (60 hours). Additional time was need to prepare the power point and purchase materials. Volunteer trainings took two hours each.

Events:

National Walk-Out Day: Staffed tables at three different locations in Benicia/Vallejo

March for Our Lives: Staffed a table at Benicia City Park at the request of BHS student body president.

Be Relevant Civic Forum and Conference, Club Stride, Vallejo: worked with Club Stride students on how to register others to vote, taught them League methods for conducting forums, and 5 volunteers set up and staffed tables at the event on October 21.

Voter Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, Nov. 14, 2018.

Community Voter Events:

Public Proclamations for National Register to Vote Day: Proclamations were made by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, Vallejo City Council, and Benicia City Council. League members were present at each meeting to accept the documents.

National Register to Vote Day: One set of four volunteers worked the line at the Vallejo Ferry during the morning rush registering people and reminding them of the upcoming election. Another set of five volunteers staffed a table in front of the Benicia Post Office. The Voter Service team was also responsible for providing and replenishing voter registration forms to the U.S. Post Office Benicia. They had many requests for the forms both before and after National Register to Vote Day. We resupplied three times.

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Voter Service Report continued

Public Speaking Requests Filled:

PEO, Vallejo: Spoke about the League and propositions on primary ballot.

Benicia Women's Club: Explained the propositions on the general election ballot.

Benicia Heritage Church: Presentation on how to get out the vote.

Forums:

Forum and Debate on Measure 3, June election: Monica Brown vs. Jim Spring

Benicia School Board Candidates

Benicia City Council/ Co-sponsored with AAUW.

Get Out the Vote:

Placed and collected 25 VOTE! Signs in Benicia and Vallejo, once for the June primary and again for the general election in November.

Texting: three League volunteers texted 310 registered students to remind them to vote.

Rides to the polls: Several volunteers were looking for a centralized system to connect with people who needed rides to the polls. We were not able to accommodate that desire.



Adopt-a- Poll: During the primary election, 9 volunteers, all but one League members ran the poll at Club Pacifica, Benicia. Four of us did full day shifts, others did half day. Volunteers have the option of donating their poll worker pay to the League, or keeping it themselves. In June, about \$445 was donated. This fall, ten volunteers, most but not all of them League members, staffed the poll at Club Pacifica, Benicia. They assisted about 250 voters. Two League members worked 15-hour shifts. The rest worked split shifts of 7.5 hours each. As for the primary election, each volunteer had to spend at least 2 hours training in person, with additional hours online.



They are paid for those hours as well as their work on election day. We don't know yet how many choose to donate their pay. Soliciting volunteers and organizing in the fall was difficult as people's schedules kept changing. Recommendations: (1) We either have all League members at the poll who donate as a group to the League, and/or (2) encourage League members to volunteer individually at any poll so as to reduce the organizational issues.

Voter's Edge: Three volunteers participated in a full day training early last spring. Due to personal circumstances only one was able to work on Voter's Edge in both the primary and general election. We were able to get all Benicia Candidates to support their information and get it up on the online site two weeks before the general election. The spring election was geared toward a statewide team working to get candidates in the primary to submit info. The process is both fun and very time consuming. However, it is a very worthwhile endeavor to provide candidates a place to put their info free of charge, and provide voters with comprehensive information.

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Voter Service Report continued

Partnerships: We formed formal and informal partnerships for work on voter service events and voter registration with:

Benicia-Vallejo AAUW

Club Stride, Vallejo

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA), Vallejo

Solano County Food Bank, registered voters at food distribution sites.

AAUW co-sponsored one of our forums, Club Stride held a large conference for students with candidates for office, including those running for Congress, BWOPA registered students at several facilities including Vallejo and Jesse Bethel High this fall, and Solano County Food Bank registered voters at food delivery sites during the fall. Individuals from many other groups got League training and participated with us. People from Vacaville and Fairfield staffed tables at Farmer's Markets in their communities and began the process of working with their high schools to register students to vote.

Future Plans: (2019-2020)

Solicit and train more volunteers.

Revamp the power point presentation to reflect the issues of the 2020 election.

Begin contacting teachers for in class voter registration in the fall, 2019. The Primary will be early, in March 2019, so we probably won't need to revisit in the spring. Begin registration schools in the early fall of 2020 in anticipation of the 2020 general election

Consider working with teachers/students to do online registration when possible.

Distribute Vote Signs in February and October.

Develop an education campaign to inform adults that the 2020 primary will be held in March instead of June.

Work with volunteers to expand registration into Vacaville and Fairfield Schools

Hold Voter Forums on Propositions and Measures, State Assembly, Senate, and US Congress.

Encourage more volunteers to train and work on Voter's Edge.

Continue to maintain and develop our partnerships.



Volunteers for the Voter Service team met for a pot luck luncheon on Nov. 14 to share and review our volunteer experiences. The 20 people attending included those who registered students in high school classes and at tables during protests as well as those who staffed our Adopt-a-poll at Club Pacifica, texted voters reminding them to vote, wrote for Voter's Edge, helped organize and moderate three different voter forms or delivered Vote signs. About half of the attendees were League members. The rest were individuals with a deep concern for our election process. Members from our partner groups, Black Women Organizing for Political Action (BWOPA), and American Association of University Women (AAUW) joined Supervisor Monica Brown in honoring the efforts of over 50 volunteers.



Thanks Jackie!

A fond farewell and an abundance of appreciation to LWV Benicia's long time LWV California advisor, Jackie Jacobberger. Jackie shared with us at our recent board that she is stepping down from her position as our advisor from the LWV CA. This is a sad announcement for those of us who have worked with Jackie for years!! She has gone above and beyond the call of duty. She has attended most of our board meetings, has served as parliamentarian at our Annual Membership meeting many times and frequently attends our Meet Your Local Officials event! This is especially astonishing considering that she lives in San Mateo county. Jackie is a past president of the LWV CA and has always been a wealth of knowledge, a patient teacher and an enthusiastic cheerleader for our league. We will miss your sage advice and your warm continence!!! Happy to hear you will still be available via email when we need a helping hand.

Thanks so much Jackie, for all your years of work!!!!

Current Board

Judy Potter: Treasurer, Exec. Committee

Nile Medders: Member-at-Large, Exec. Committee

Alice Labay: Reporting Secretary

Malin Coleridge: Member-at-Large, Webmaster

Sandy Coury: Member-at- Large, Membership

Susan Cohen Grossman: Member-at-Large, Programs



Newsletter submissions:
due by 20th of the month
Susan Street, sustreet@pacbell.net

League business only
What where, when why in first paragraph
200 words or less
Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt is preferred.
No colored backgrounds or fancy font

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Susan Street, Leslie Lessenger and Niles Medders

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