

League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER

June 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.



June 22, Monday: Great Decisions Extension, 7:00 PM at Nancy Lund's home, 200 Marina Village Way. Benicia. We will be discussing *What is Populism* by Jan-Werner Muller. If you are interested in this program but are not receiving email information email Niles Medders at nilesmedders@gmail.com

July 9, Tuesday: LWV Benicia Board Meeting 7:00 PM, Niles Medders' home, 200 Brighton Drive, Vallejo

July 22, Monday: Great Decisions Extension 7:00 PM Benicia Public Library. Discussion topic to be determined. To be placed on the email distribution list to receive updated information please email Niles Medders at nilesmedders@gmail.com

August 26, Monday: Great Decisions Extension 7:00 PM. Topic and location to be determined. To receive updated information contact Niles Medders at nilesmedders@gmail.com



The **Annual Meeting** at Camellia Tea Room on May 16 was robust and lively. At least 42 people were there, well above the necessary quorum to vote on a new board (page 4) and a change in our name. We chose **League of Women Voters Solano County** which will to be submitted to state and national officials. The chief takeaway seems to be that in this expansion of membership to include Vacaville, Fairfield and Vallejo; the goal is to increase our diversity and reach more cities.

Rochelle Sherlock, Chair of Solano County Commission For Women and Girls, presented the commission's purpose of informing the communities and advise the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to the changing social and economic conditions of women and girls, to celebrate achievements, champion opportunities and recommend legislative solutions at the city, county, state and federal levels.

Susan Street, editor



PROGRAM PLANNING, Julie Hartford

We are starting a Program Planning Committee and we will have Program Planning Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 2 P.M. To find out more about the meetings people

can call or email me: juliehartford@gmail.com or cell 925 786-5531.

The dates for the next few meetings are:

5/22

6/26

7/24

8/28

9/25

10/23



We will decide later when in November and December to hold the meetings, (if needed) because of the holidays.

CITY OF VALLEJO DISTRICT ELECTIONS PROJECT

The City of Vallejo is considering a transition from an at-large elections system to a district-based elections system. Find out more at Vallejo's District

Elections website home page: <http://www.cityofvallejo.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=13506&pageId=14386203>

Vallejo residents and groups can provide input at the City Council meeting, June 11th at 7 PM.



VOTER REGISTRATION, Becky Cecena, voter services coordinator for Vacaville

We have a commitment from Vacaville High School to get us in next fall for in-class presentations and voter registration.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE



We're Now Serving Greater Solano County! The LWV Benicia continues its growth throughout the county. Over the last six months our membership has grown from 33 to 73. Almost half of our active members are now from the Cordelia, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Suisun areas.

2019 MEMBERSHIP TEAM PLAN

Develop and execute a plan for building influencer relationships with values-based community organizations focused on engagement in government / elections. We are actively building these relationships through Solano Community College and many other diverse

community organizations.

Organize a round table event with the participation of these community organizations. Topic: how to build strong mutual community engagement in government / elections.

Build awareness and recognition of LWV as a valuable resource for unbiased information and an organization where members can make a real difference.

Significantly expand our membership base and Voter Registration program.

Build a strong community-based foundation for expanding to a diverse, inclusive membership.

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

Meetings: The Membership Committee meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Fairfield. For more information, please contact Sandy Coury at sandycoury@gmail.com.

Find the latest information at our **new website** at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/benicia>:

- **Upcoming Events** in the Home Page, Events, and Calendar sections.
- **Voter Newsletters**, new and past
- **Committee and Board** updates
- Easy tools to **join or renew your membership** online using PayPal or by mail with a check.
- **Password-protected "Members Only" section** for current members includes member roster and board meeting notes.



For website questions or to suggest a change or add a new event, please email us at: lwvbenicia@gmail.com. We make updates on a biweekly basis.

LWVB Dues are now due.



Annual dues became due at the Annual Membership Meeting. If you attended the meeting and paid your dues thank you so much!! If you did not attend the Annual Membership Meeting or attended but have not paid your dues you may pay by sending a check or checks to LWV Benicia, P.O. Box 83, Benicia, CA 94510 or go on our website <https://my.lwv.org/california/benicia> and pay by **PayPal!!!!** If you paid earlier this year you do not need to renew at this time.

2019-2020 dues is: Full member \$70

Two-member household \$105

Two options for paying your 2019-2020 dues:

The simple way: Write a single check to the League of Women Voters Benicia

To get a partial tax deduction: Write two separate checks:

Single member: \$47. to LWV Benicia **2-in-1 household:** \$70.50 to LWF Benicia

\$22. To LWV Benicia Ed Fund \$34.50 to LWV Benicia Ed Fund

Money donated to the League of Women Voters Benicia is not tax deductible because we are a 501 (c)(4), a classification under the IRS code that allows us to do advocacy and lobbying. Though this classification is a non-profit, (ie: we do not have to pay taxes on our income), donations are not tax deductible. We do have a 501 (c)(3) entity, The League of Women Voter's Benicia Education Fund. Money donated to the League of Women Voters' Benicia Education Fund is tax deductible and can only be used for educational activities. The LWVUS and the LWVCA have determined the portion of their activities supported by your dues which qualify for tax deductible status and therefore only allow a portion of your dues to be paid into our education fund.

Most of our dues (nearly 90%) goes to support the LWVUS, the LWVCA, with a small amount (\$2.00) going to support the work of our regional organization, the League of Women Voters Bay Area. Both the national and state organizations of the League are very active in advocacy, lobbying and legal action to further our advocacy priorities. A recent example of the type of work the League supports can be found in the recent federal court decision regarding Ohio's Congressional Map (see NY Times, Saturday, May 4, 2019). The court threw out current district lines because "the dominant party in state government manipulated district lines in an attempt to control electoral outcomes and thus direct the political ideology of the state's congressional delegation." Ohio's map, in effect since 2012 has solidified a congressional delegation that has remained unchanged in four elections, with 12 Republicans and 4 democrats, or 75% for one party in what is a swing state. The court has ordered redistricting be completed in time for the 2020 election. The LWV Ohio was party to the suit brought that is affecting this changed. State leagues and the National League have been involved in a number of similar successful lawsuits.

(continued next page)

(Dues continued)

To see all the ways that our state organization is involved in advocacy go to LWVC.org, the state website and review the 59 pages of the LWVCA Bill Status Report. This is a listing of every piece of state legislation on which the League has taken a position. Bills are listed in categories alphabetically from Air Quality, Campaign Finance, Child Care, Children and Families, Climate Change ... through Redistricting, Selection of the President, State and Local Finance, Violence Prevention, Voting Rights, and Water. Each bill is listed with a link to the text of the bill, there is a status report that delineates exactly where the bill is currently. The bill is summarized, the League position is stated, and action taken to support or oppose the legislation is listed with links to letters and other materials sent regarding bills.

New legislative priorities for 2019 have been set and the issues which we chose as our top three - housing, Voter protection, education and mobilization, and campaign finance reform (Money in Politics) - are all on their short list!!!!

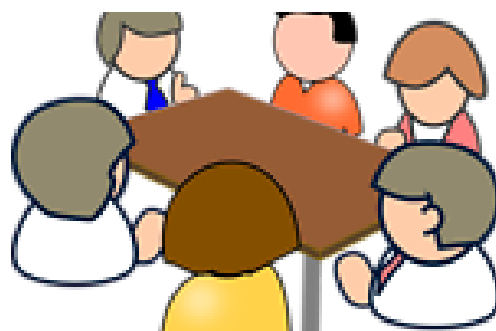
On the LWVC.org website you can also click on "Take Action" and see all the ways our state league is working to bring about change and see what you can do to help!!!

YOUR DUES SUPPORTS ALL THIS WORK AND MORE!!!!

Sandy Coury, 510.599.0925, sandycoury@gmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Niles Medders, President
 Julie Hartford, Vice President
 Alice Labay, Secretary
 Judy Potter, Treasurer
 Sandy Coury
 Margo McGlone



And a thanks for their work for the League to departing board members, Malin Coleridge and Susan Cohen-Grossman

Newsletter

Susan Street, Leslie Lessenger and Niles Medders

Newsletter submissions:
due by 20th of the month
Susan Street, susanstreet240@gmail.com

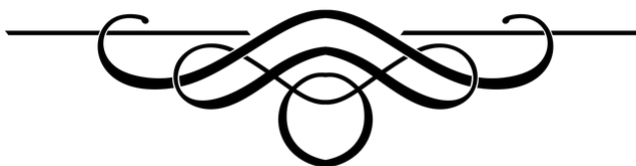
League business only
What where, when why in first paragraph
200 words or less
Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt is preferred.

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