



League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER

May 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.



April 27, Saturday, **League of Women Voters Bay Area CALL TO BIENNIAL COUNCIL**, at the Bellevue Club, 525 Bellevue Ave. Oakland CA. Tickets are \$10. To register/ buy tickets lwvbayarea.org and scroll down to the announcement of the Biennial Council and click on Buy My Ticket. If you would like to attend but need assistance with the registration fee please email judy.potter@gmail.com.

May 7, Tues., **LWV Benicia Board Meeting** 7:00 PM, Niles Medders' home, 200 Brighton Drive, Vallejo.

May 16, Thursday: **LWV Benicia, Annual Membership Meeting**, 7:00 PM, Camellia Tea Room, election of officers, quorum required. Keynote Speaker: Rochelle Sherlock, Chair Solano County Commission for Women and Girls.

May 11, Saturday, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library. **"Who gets to live in our changing community?"** (See details page 3)

May 20, Monday: **Great Decisions Extension**, 7:00 PM, Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Room

May 30th – June 2, 2019 Convention, League of Women Voters of California at Westin Pasadena Hotel, 191 North Los Robles, Pasadena, CA 91101. Attendance at convention is open to everyone.

REMINDER: 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 their input at City Council meetings on May 14 and June 11 at 7 PM.

Great Decisions 2019

Extension to meet May 20, 2019,

The regular Great Decisions Meetings wrapped up on April 1 with a discussion on the state of the economy. This year 49 people participated in Great Decisions and weekly attendance at meetings averaged about 30 people. Topics included Global Migration, Populism in Europe, Trading with China, and Regional Disorder: The Middle East.



Great Decisions Extension has grown out of the regular eight-week meetings. Thirty people have expressed an interest in continuing to meet on a monthly basis. Participants suggest topics, books, or articles for the group to consider. The first meeting will take place Monday May 20, 2019, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at the Benicia Public Library. Topics /books suggested include: *Back Channel* by William J. Burns, described by James Baker as... 'one of the finest U.S. diplomats of the last century' and by Walter Isaacson (*Leonardo da Vinci*) as "a stellar example of the grand tradition of wise Americans who made our country the indispensable nation in this world," Madeleine Albright says " *The Black Channel* is a masterfully written memoir from one of America's most accomplished and respected diplomats, *The Hill to Die On: The Battle for Congress and the Future of Trump's America*, by Jake Sherman and Anna Palmer and *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander.

If you are interested in participating in Great Decisions Extension but have not yet signed up email your request to be added to our list to Niles Medders at nilesmedders@gmail.com. Subsequent meetings will be held on 4th Mondays.

67th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California

When: 10 am, Friday, May 31, through 12 pm, Sunday, June 2, 2019, with a special pre-Convention event on Thursday, May 30, 2019.

Where: The Westin Pasadena Hotel
191 North Los Robles
Pasadena, CA 91101
Phone: 626-792-2727



Who: Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League.

Purpose: Inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work!

Find out details about speakers, workshops, special activities, and more on our site: <http://lwvc.wordpress.com>. Some scholarships available.

LWVB Dues due at Annual Meeting 5/16/19

Annual dues are due at Annual Membership Meeting 5/16/19. If you joined earlier this year you do not need to renew at this time.

2019-2020: 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 LWV Benicia
\$22 to LWVB Ed Fund	\$ 34.50 to LWVB Ed Fund

Money donated to the League of Women Voter's Benicia is not tax deductible because we are a 501 (c)(4). We do have a 501 (c)(3) fund: the League of Women Voter's Benicia Education fund.

Money donated to the League of Women Voter's Benicia's Education Fund is tax deductible, but 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 educational fund.

Where your dues goes: Most of the \$70 collected goes to support our state and federal organization: League of Women Voters US: \$32.00

League of Women Voters CA: \$28.00

League of Women Voters Bay Area: \$2:00

League of Women Voters Benicia \$8.00

You can pay your dues at our Annual Membership Meeting, send a check to: LWV Benicia, P.O. 83, Benicia, CA 94510, or go on our website <https://my.lwv.org/california/benicia> and pay by PayPal!!!

Mind Your Home Business

Attend a panel discussion that resides on the question, "**Who gets to live in our changing community?**" on **Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library.**

The event is being presented by the League of Women Voters of Fremont-Newark-Union City and advocacy group Greenbelt Alliance. Housing discussions will feature Randy Shaw, Berkeley author of "Generation Priced Out: Who Gets to Live in the New Urban America." Shaw, also executive director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, will be available to sign books. <https://my.lwv.org/california/fremont-newark-union-city/event/who-gets-live-our-changing-communities-bay-area-housing-discussion>



VOTER SERVICES / MEMBERSHIP



UPDATE!

Leaders:

Gayle Vaughan: Voter Registration Trainer, and coordinator for Benicia and Vallejo schools
 Barbara King and Carol Paterson: Co-coordinators for Fairfield voter registration including Solano Community College.
 Becky Cecena: Coordinator for Vacaville school voter registration.
 Margo McGlone: Membership co-chair and liaison pro-tem with Principals.

Activities:

Julie Hartford represented us at two events:

March 28, Table at Resource Fair, Solano College. Several new members added, no voter registration. Julie was also able to make a connection with Solano Pride and will follow up with information for distribution at their meetings and discuss LWV speaking at a meeting.

April 4, Table at Fairfield High Career Day

Margo McGlone met with **John Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters for Solano County** to discuss voter registration. Margo talked to John about our league registration activities including our special emphasis on student registration in civics and their government class and senior registration outreach. John talked about Solano County having regional voting site by the year 2021.

Margo also met with the **Fairfield Chamber of Commerce** committee and it is open to our League hosting candidate forums at their facility in the future.

Becky Cecena, our Voter Services coordinator for Vacaville and Margo McGlone met with two high school principals in Vacaville to introduce our in-class student voter registration presentation. Becky will follow up with the principals after spring break.

In Class Voter Registration Activity

Fairfield School District Volunteer Co-coordinators: Carol Paterson (864-0419) and Barbara King (707-362-0718) Waiting until fall to go into classes since we preregistered tons at Fairfield high in fall 2018.

Fairfield School District Lead Volunteer: Peggy Wade (618-698-8092) Will be contacting schools other than Fairfield High to get into classes this spring. Gayle provided contact numbers for schools and volunteer coordination for this spring.

Vacaville School District Volunteer Coordinator: Becky Cecena (619-892-9540) and Margo McGlone (margowmc@comcast.net) Margo and Becky have met with principals at Buckingham Charter School, Vacaville High School, and are seeking to meet with Will C. Wood to introduce the program. Becky will then be setting up in-class sessions with teachers.

Registration Tools: Gayle has ordered "I VOTE" pins, and Voter Edge book marks, and Benicia League voter register bookmarks in time for late spring in class visits.

Annual Membership Meeting May 16, 2019

7 PM, Camellia Tea Room

828 1st Street, Benicia

Speaker: Rochelle Sherlock

Chair Solano County Commission for Women and Girls



Rochelle will be sharing with us the important work this new commission is pursuing and will let us know what we can do to help the commission reach its goals.

The Annual Membership meeting is an important meeting and **we encourage all members to attend**. We will have a short but purposeful board meeting during which we will review and vote on our annual budget, receive brief reports from each of our standing committees, vote on our slate of officers, and we will consider a name change to reflect our expanding membership. We have truly become a league that serves all of Solano County.

We will need a quorum (30%) of our membership in order to complete our business. All members should have received, via email, the annual membership packet in mid-April. It includes our proposed budget, a proposed local program for the ensuing year, our slate of officers, and information about other issues. Watch for this packet in your emails! All are welcome but only members will be able to vote.

We are excited to welcome our new members to the Camellia Tea Room, a favorite meeting place for the League. In a beautifully restored 1897 building with an ornate ceiling featuring Bradbury and Bradbury Art Wallpapers it is an elegant and relaxing atmosphere. Come and enjoy tea, coffee and delicious scones!!!

WE'RE NOW SERVING GREATER SOLANO COUNTY!

The LWV Benicia continues its growth throughout the county. Almost half of our active members are now from the Fairfield, Vacaville, and Suisun areas.



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

Julie Hartman: Member-at-large

Margo McGlone: Member-at-large



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.
No colored backgrounds or fancy font

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Alec MacDonald, Editor of Bay Area Monitor

editor@bayareamonitor.org

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Benicia>