



League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER

September 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.



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

September 23rd, 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.

WEBSITE UPDATE

For the latest information visit our **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 update the site twice per month.





Garage Sale Fund Raiser Committee Members Needed

The League of Women Voters Benicia has proposed mounting its nearly annual Garage Sale this year. We have reserved the Clock Tower in Benicia, venue for previous garage sales, for Saturday June 20th, 2020. We have had successful events three previous years. We invite other non-profit organizations to join us. We charge organizations \$50 for the rental of a space and invite organizations to sell used items as a fund raiser for their organization and encourage organizations to provide the public information about their organization. In order to make this event a success we need a committee of interested members willing to work on this project. We need to enlist three to six non-profit organizations to join with us. If you are interested in joining this effort please email Niles Medders at nilesmedders@gmail.com or Judy Potter at judy.potter@gmail.com. Money that we raise goes to support our local voter registration and education projects since most of our dues goes to the LWV US and the LWV California to fund national and state programs.

Local Theatre Company Mounts Play about Suffragists.



B8 Theatre Company, a small non-profit theatre in Concord, CA is mounting a production of local playwright Susan Sobeloff's *Strange Ladies*. The play tells the story of a group of radical suffragists who fight to win the right to vote as the U.S. enters World War I. A diverse group of women struggle with managing personal and political challenges in creating social change. Period protest music weaves through the play dramatizing the suffragist's political strategies. The play will be performed at the Concord Historical Society Event Center at 1928 Clayton Road, Concord.

B-8 Theatre Company would like to invite League of Women Voters members to come to the play and have the League provide voter registration at the event. League members who are willing to provide voter registration at the theatre will receive a complimentary admission to the production. The production runs for three weekends in September and October with a preview Thurs. Sept. 26th at 8:00 PM, opening Friday Sept. 27th 8:00 PM, Sat. Sept. 28 at 8:00 PM and Sun. Sept. 29 at 7:00 PM. The second weekend there are performances Fri. Oct. 4th and Sat. Oct. 5th at a 8:00 PM and a Sun. matinee at 2:00 PM on Oct. 6th. The final weekend, Oct 10th – Oct 13th there are Thurs., Fri. and Sat. evening performances at 8:00 PM and 2:00 PM matinees on Saturday and Sunday. If you would like more information or want to sign up to register voters and receive a complimentary admission please contact Judy Potter at judy.potter@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Now Serving Greater Solano County with 90+ Members and counting! A key Membership goal include building our active member roster to 100 members in 2019 and we are on track to meet and exceed that number this fall.

The Membership Team continues to work hard in the various Solano County communities, building relationships with Solano Community College (SCC) and diverse service, faith, and business groups.

In August, Membership hosted a Welcome table for students at the SCC Fairfield campus during the first week of the fall semester and plans to have a presence during other key student events. We alert students to the many services and activities the League has to offer and to encourage students to join (student members are free!), register to vote, and to volunteer to help with voter registration and Adopt-a-Poll events, and participate in other League activities.

The Alameda League Communications and Membership teams are generously sharing their experience and ideas on processes and new technologies to help us better serve our members and community. We are also in touch with the Diablo Valley League and will be sharing ideas with them as well.

We work hand in hand with our Voter Services and Program Planning teams to support their efforts and build our membership such as helping staff our League's booth at the Fairfield Tomato Festival.

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

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

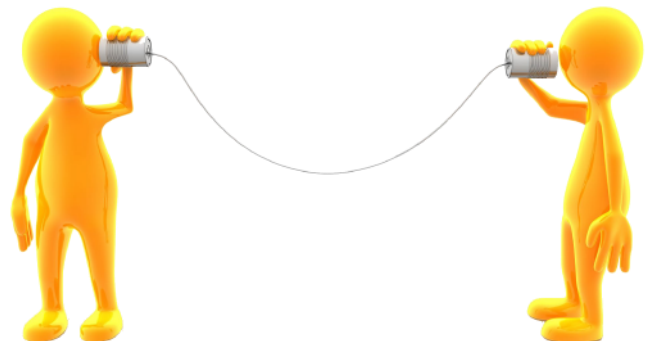
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Our League has recently formed a new Communications Committee with the goal of providing information to members, friends, and the media. We are currently focused on building simple, standard processes to make sure the flow of information is developed and distributed in a standardized, easy to access manner that is within League guidelines.

Thanks to Marilee Scholl's excellent publicity efforts, we've already seen articles about our league appearing in numerous local papers.

Communications Team Members:
Sandy Coury, Alice Fried, Marilee Scholl

Meetings: Monthly, please contact Sandy at sandycoury@gmail.com for more information.





The League's Booth at the **Tomato Festival** was a great success! It could not have been successful without the help of those who staffed the booth and made our booth a welcoming and friendly place. I believe we achieved our goals which were to raise awareness of the League, to educate the public as to what we are about and to register voters.

The booth was staffed the whole time the Festival was open; Saturday 11 – 7, and Sunday 12 – 5. We registered three people to vote! (It may not sound like a lot, but most people we talked to were already registered.) We handed out 11 voter registration forms! (That IS a lot!) We handed out info about the league or voting at least 10 times! We got five people to sign up for the newsletter, and four people signed up to get text reminders to vote.

Additionally, many interesting conversations took place! Raising the profile of the League in all parts of Solano County is instrumental to our growth and will allow us to have a greater impact in our communities.

The Events and Program Committee is planning several upcoming events. The week of October 15th through 19th we will be working with the office of the Registrar of Voters for Solano County to hold "Mock Elections". These will be held in four locations throughout Solano County and will be a chance for people to come out and at try the new voting machines. This is also a chance for the Voter's Registrars office to test the machines. More information will be coming out soon!

November 6th at 7 P.M. will be an **Informational Presentation** sponsored by the League of Women Voters Benicia and the SCC Student Life Office. It will be held at 1400 Student Center on the main campus in Fairfield.

This will be open for the general public to attend as well as students from surrounding high schools and those who are just interested in voting, how to vote, why we vote on certain propositions, and the safety of the voting system. We hope the students from surrounding high schools will be excited to step on the campus if they haven't before. John will even bring some voting booth samples to demonstrate that evening. This should be a fun and educational event! We will be looking for League members to help host.

The League is also partnering with the Voter's registrar's office to support their community meetings throughout the county where they will present the new voting machines to the public. This partnership will raise awareness of the League and highlight our nonpartisan status.

Meet Your Local Officials Events are in the planning stages for Vacaville and Suisun City as well as the annual Meet Your Local Officials event in Benicia in February.

The Events and Program Committee is planning a **League Mixer Event** so league members can get to know one another and learn more about the league. Look for information on this event soon.

We have a lot a head of us, including candidate forms coming up at the beginning of next year. We need help for all these activities. **To help or to join the Events and Program Committee please call Julie Hartford at 925 786-5531.** Our next meeting is September 25th.

Voter Services News

By Gayle Vaughan

Volunteer Training

On August 19, over 50 volunteers traveled to the Fairfield Civic Center Library for a two-hour workshop on how to register high school students to vote. Board members working with the Voter Service team produced and presented a scripted power point presentation which describes voter rights and responsibilities, information about upcoming elections, and how to fill out the voter registration form. The League presenters (Sandy Coury and Gayle Vaughan) were joined by Solano County Assistant Registrar of Voters, John Gardner, who answered more specific questions and explained how college students and members of the military register to vote. He and his staff then demonstrated the new voting machines and attendees were encouraged to give them a try.



The meeting was open to the public and was attended by members, perspective members, our new voter registration partners, Delta Sigma Theta, and activists from various political groups. All volunteers who will be helping signed a pledge to keep their presentations nonpartisan, not mentioning, supporting, or opposing any candidate or political party.

Twenty-five volunteers signed up to work by city and will be working under the supervision of one of the five voter service area coordinators:

Becky Cecena: Vacaville and Assistant Voter Service Chair

Carole Paterson and Barbara King: Fairfield Suisun

Debra Schwab: Rio Vista/Dixon

Gayle Vaughan: Benicia/Vallejo

Other experienced and trained volunteers will be joining our new trainees to register young voters throughout Solano County between now and mid-February. If you have questions or would like to join us please contact Gayle Vaughan at vonwindgayle@gmail.com or Becky Cecena at redmustang501002@aol.com.

More Volunteer Opportunities

The county Registrar of Voters will be hosting mock elections throughout the county from Oct. 14-18, to help familiarize voters with the new voting machines. The League will be helping out, by providing trained volunteers. Our first confirmed poll site is Benicia High School. If you are interested in helping with this you may contact Julie Hartford at juliehartfod@gmail.com.



Not only will Voter Service team members register youth to vote, we will assist with collecting information from candidates in Solano County for **Voter's Edge**, the online resource for voters looking for election information. We will begin collecting information in December and continue through February. Most of the work is simple data entry. We will need help to collect data from candidates throughout the county. If you are interested in helping with this important job, please contact vonwindgayle@gmail.com

Additionally, volunteers are encouraged to participate in **Adopt-a-poll**. In this county-sponsored program, groups of volunteers sign up to run a poll during the election. We have signed up to run the poll at Club Pacifica in Benicia. League members in Fairfield and Vacaville are considering which poll to apply for. Poll workers are trained and work shifts (instead of a normal all-day stint) and paid for their time. They have the option of donating their pay to the League. Most groups can earn up to \$3000 per site, making it a good fundraiser for us too! More about this in next month's newsletter.

Finally, Voter Service will be sponsoring **candidate forum** for the March primary. A Benicia forum has already been scheduled in conjunction with AAUW at the Benicia Public Library on January 27. Other county sites and dates are in the works. Stay tuned and remember: Democracy is not a spectator sport!



LWV President's Letter

Hello League members,

Welcome to an exciting League year! As we gear up for the March 2020 primary, remember there is more to talk about than League's traditional voter education topics. This year it's time to educate Californians about the US Census and, in some counties, a new elections system. Work them into every conversation, forum, registration effort your League is involved in.



There is only one chance every 10 years to get an accurate count of the people living in California. Census data is used for far more than drawing legislative district lines. It is used in formulas to allocate resources and tax dollars for public safety, planning and disaster response, education needs, hospitals, assistance for veterans and infrastructure needs. Business leaders use Census data to make investment decisions.

Join in [LWV's national effort](#) to educate Americans about the importance of the Census. Join your county's Complete Count Committees, or if that is not possible, distribute the information the Complete Count Committees generate. See the [update on Census](#) for further information and links.

The second topic for education is the Voter's Choice Act. Over half of all registered Californians will cast their ballots in a slightly new way in March 2020. Fifteen counties will use the Voter's Choice Act version of elections in which each voter receives a vote by mail ballot and the opportunity to cast that ballot in one of three ways. Your far flung neighborhood polling places will be replaced by fewer full service Vote Centers. This is a change for voters, so much education on how this all works is vital. See the [update on the Voter's Choice Act](#) for further information for your League to use.

At all your League's events in the coming months, please discuss and distribute written materials on the Census and the new voting system. Talk about it in connection with voter registration and in any situation in which you have contact with voters. Let's do our best to make sure there is an accurate Census and good voter understanding.

Please take some time to review the contents of this Update. There is important information on how to review your League's [nonpartisan policy](#); on how League speaks with [one voice](#); and on the education position [update concurrence](#).

As you do the work of the League, please remember this: A representative democracy only works when all are represented. We are most effective and impactful in our voter service and advocacy work when the League looks like California. We will continue our excellent voter service work; we will continue to deepen our advocacy impact; and we will continue to expand our equity work.

Looking forward to the work ahead,

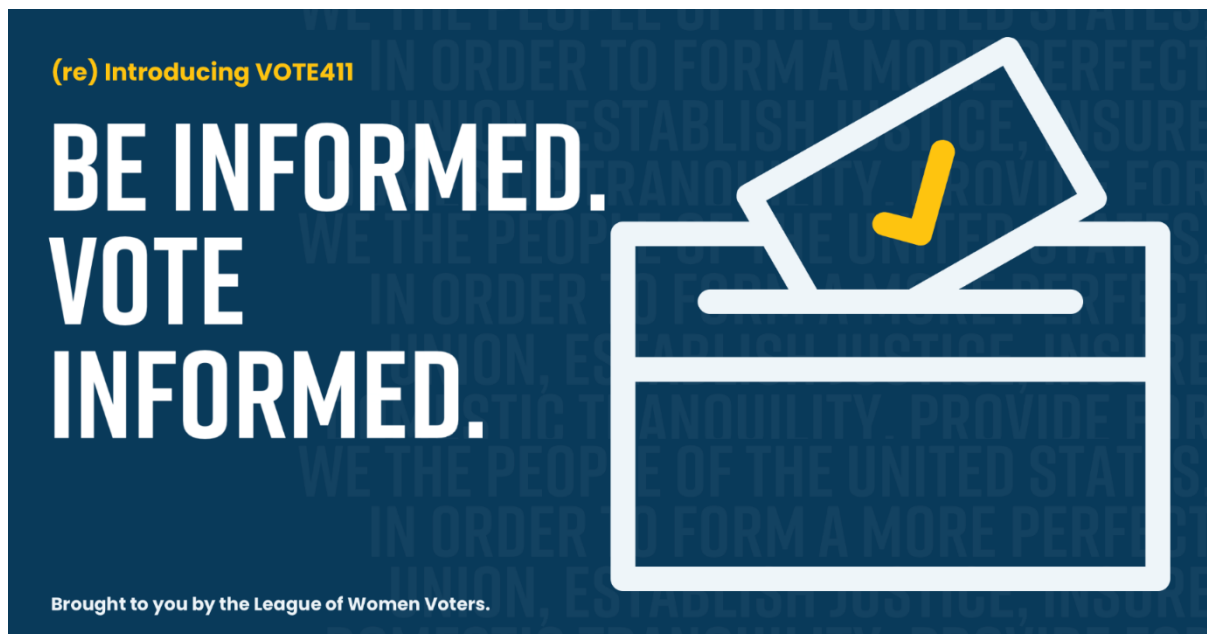
Carol



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

As we are ramping up for voter registration and elections this fall here at the LWV, we're excited and proud to announce that, last week, [we relaunched our election information website, VOTE411.org](https://www.vote411.org), with a new look and feel! Informing voters has been our brand for nearly 100 years and, through VOTE411.org, we reached more than five million voters in 2018.

We are thrilled to be able to help visitors more easily navigate VOTE411.org, with better user experience and accessibility for the everyday voter. With the new design, you will be able to find the information you need more quickly—registering to vote, learning what's on your ballot, hearing what candidates have to say about the issues, finding your polling place, and more. We're here to help every step of the way and take the guesswork out of voting.



With voter registration deadlines and election dates quickly approaching, not to mention the important 2020 elections happening next year, now is the time to get the election information you need. Don't forget to spread the word to your friends and family: now is the time to learn about the candidates and issues and get ready to

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeanette Senecal".

Jeanette Senecal

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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

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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