



IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Saturday, June 2
10 am – noon
(9:30 am registration)
LWVDV Annual Meeting
Speaker: Supervisor
Candace Andersen
Cedar Room, Lafayette
Community Center

Tuesday, June 5
ELECTION DAY

Wednesday, June 6
6:30 pm
Concord Naval Weapons
Station: Joint Session of
City Council and Planning
Commission *(see page 3)*

June 28 – July 1
LWVUS Convention
Chicago

Saturday, June 30
Petitions due at LWVC
office in Sacramento

**No July Voter
Back on August 1!**

Saturday, August 18
3 – 4:30 pm
Political Book Review
Social
(see page 2)



All petitions need to be returned to the LWVDV office by noon on Wednesday June 27 to be turned in for final counting.

If you have a petition that needs to be picked up, please email us or call the office and let us know – someone will arrange to get it from you!



info@lwvdv.org

(925) 283-2235



League Leader's Letter

Martha Goralka, LWVDV Co-President

In just twenty months the League of Women Voters will celebrate our 100th birthday. As we reflect on the accomplishments of our past 100 years, we must contemplate our vision for the next 100 years.

Generations before us could only guess at and hope for the future; which is our lot as well. It is time to rededicate ourselves to our high ideals of nonpartisanship, voter education, studying of issues, and advocacy — or to review, refine, and responsibly change those ideals to reflect current realities.

Join with the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley as we embark on this new fiscal year, as we concentrate on our usual voter outreach — registering new voters, promoting Voter's Edge, offering Pros & Cons of ballot issues, and presenting both live and taped candidate forums and roundtables. And also join with us in responsible visioning for our next 100 years.

Small Team Strategic Planning Session

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President

We had put off a strategic planning effort in order to plan the March activity in support of an end to school shootings and gun violence in our communities. Now a Strategic Planning initial work session will be planned for July or early August.

This Small Team Strategic Planning session will consider:

- Our direction in regard to building LWVDV generational membership — including membership diversity — to accomplish more toward our baseline LWV mission of knowledgeable voter participation.
- Student and school programs and/or scholarships working with student leaders
- Growing our voter information communication methods to reach all generations and stimulate civil factual discourse throughout our communities.

This initial team will be looking at priorities for strategic planning discussion by the entire board and then discussion will be carried forward to engage our whole membership in creating and working on our focus areas.

LWVDV Book Club Forming



The first ever LWVDV Political Book Review Social will be held on Saturday, August 18th at 3:00pm – location to be determined. RSVP with the title of the book you plan to review to facilitate discussion and minimize duplication. Your suggestions are welcome to help design this first Book Club social.

We hope to expand our knowledge of governance and political activism with a more social setting and activity. This is an early summer reading announcement so you can look forward to our LWVDV Book Club social and discussion of each other's political activism reading material. Bring your reading list, an open mind, and a desire to have some fun and civil discourse!

LWVDV PRIORITY: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ashley Coates, Chair, LWVDV Housing Committee

Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Specific Plan

Deadline extended to June 2019; Joint Concord Planning Commission and City Council meeting June 6 to discuss housing densities.

The Concord City Council voted to extend the deadline in order to incorporate more property and make the specific plan cover all phases of development, not just the first phase. We still have opportunities to shape the specific plan. Please attend the June 6 meeting at 6:30 pm at the City Council Chambers. Meeting materials will be available prior to the meeting at <http://www.concordreuseproject.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=107>

Advocating for Housing: Tips from the Exuberant Advocacy Workshop

On May 14, at the workshop "Exuberant Advocacy: Voicing your Support for Housing for All",* audience members heard insights from two county supervisors (Candace Andersen and Karen Mitchoff) and a Walnut Creek Councilmember (Rich Carlston) in a discussion moderated by Walnut Creek Planning Commissioner Iman Novin. This was followed by tips for advocacy by Anthony Federico, a union legislative advocate (formerly with East Bay Housing Organizations).



The elected officials said that there is a lot of community resistance to "affordable housing"; recent tax increase measures have failed; and there are multiple competing needs for supervisors and council members to address. Supervisors were not optimistic about the ability to pass a county bond measure for housing any time soon.

Advice We Received:

Do not wait until the meeting at which the issue will be decided. Rather, we should meet with staff and elected officials we first find out about a housing opportunity. Advocates need to get involved when a project is first proposed and will be going to the planning commission. (Walnut Creek's housing applications start with the Design Review Commission.) If multiple people are against a project, it is important for supporters to voice their support and the reasons for it. "Do your homework;" know the arguments against a project and address them. Petitions and form letters are not as effective as custom-written letters or statements with the rationale about why you personally support a project.

You can also speak to affordable housing developers about how you can help them. They can let you know when they have an application they will be filing.

**Co-sponsored by Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition, Ensuring Opportunity Campaign, and League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley*

What You Can Do:

To promote housing for all income levels in your community, or help us learn about projects in other communities in the area, contact Ashley Coates, ashleyaoc@comcast.net 925-247-4034.

VOTER SERVICE

Voter's Edge California for the June Primary

Marian Shostrom, Voter's Edge County Coordinator

Contra Costa County voters have had the opportunity to compare most candidates on their June 5, 2018 primary ballot online. As of ten days before the election, 83% of the thirty Contra Costa candidates in contested races are participating in Voter's Edge. (The state average is 56%). Even a few candidates in uncontested races think it is important to communicate with their constituents by participating. If you have not yet voted, check out <http://votersedge.org/> to learn about candidate, measures, and who is funding them.

Thank you to Voter's Edge volunteers: Sue Brandy, Ann Flynn, Emily Hopkins, Tiffany Martin, and Carol Murota.

Candidate Workshop for Potential Candidates: A Report

Marian Shostrom

The Contra Costa County Elections Department held a Candidate Workshop on May 12th in the Pacheco Community Center. Clerk-Recorder-Registrar Joe Canciamilla welcomed participants and explained that many candidates are elected with no opposition, or appointed because no one filed to run for office. We all know that our democracy works best when voters are engaged in learning about opposing candidates. The purpose of the workshop was to give potential candidates a better understanding of what is involved in running for office in Contra Costa County.

Assistant Registrar Scott Konopasek moderated the first panel, **Filing for Office**. Panelists explained what is required to file for office, including fees, signature-gathering requirements, ballot designation rules, and key dates. The second panel described the process of **Reporting Campaign Finance Documents**, and was moderated by Sophie Lehman, Elections Manager in the Elections Department.

Walnut Creek Public Information Officer Betsy Burkhart moderated a panel on **Communicating the Message**. Panelists described how to work with consultants, communicate with journalists, and use social media and Voter's Edge California to get the word out to voters.



The final panel, moderated by District 3 Supervisor Diane Burgis, had former elected officials **Encouraging Future Leaders**. Panelists included Joan Buchanan (*photo*), Kristina Lawson, John Marquez, and Charles Ramsey.

If you are interested in running for office in November, or know someone who might consider it, mark your calendar: the nomination period is July 16 – August 10, 2018. Positions up for Election November 6, 2018 include Council members from 19 cities, several Mayors, City Clerks and Treasurers. Special Districts will elect more than 90 Directors in November. Nineteen School Districts, as well as the Contra Costa County Board of Education and the Contra Costa Community College District, will elect governing board members.

Think of this as a great opportunity to begin public service. Now, with Voter's Edge California, candidates can communicate online directly with voters for free.

Student Voter Registration Report

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President

The student voter activism across the country including California has been driven by the Florida school shootings. Our League has been called to assist in student voter registration at Mt. Diablo USD high schools by the Superintendent, Nellie Meyer. Tamara Steiner, editor of *Concord/Clayton Pioneer*, has also spearheaded and participated in LWVDV successful voter registration efforts at Carondelet, Clayton Valley High, Mt. Diablo High and other area high schools. The voter registration forms are designed to preregister 16 and 17 year-olds and register 18+ year-olds. About 230 known high school student registrations have been accomplished since March and many more voter registration forms went home with students to be completed. We have found that student voter engagement is supported by outstanding leadership teaching efforts at high schools. There is a need to identify what high school programs have been successful and find ways to replicate that success to all high schools and local colleges.

Candidate Forums Report

Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President

Ann Flynn arranged for most of our candidate forums this year with Martha Goralka making the initial contacts and coordinating with CCTV. We also met with a new Community Librarian, Liz Fuller, who wants to promote candidate forums at local libraries with our help and on an ongoing basis in the future.



Carol Murota, Barbara Hill, Carole Woods, Marian Shostrom, Barbara Kuklewicz, Sue Brandy and Karen Dolder helped as timers and question sorters. Gail Murray was a very effective moderator for our two District Attorney forums. Gail Murray also provided a presentation of the activities of our League at the Temple Isaiah in Lafayette which was very well received. ***Thanks to all the volunteers who filled essential roles in our Candidate Forums this year.***

Our reputation is growing as are requests for candidate forums and Pros and Cons public voter information sessions. We did find this primary season that civil discourse was challenged on a few occasions and that misinformation was deliberately delivered when it could not be rebutted within the same forum. There are discussions planned with the Elections Dept. to establish procedures to handle inappropriate language and rebuttals for misinformation, for example, immediately during video-taping of the individual forums. It is helpful that we can plan solutions previous to our November election activities.

Why Am I Getting an Email About Our Website?

Leslie Stewart, Communications Chair

As noted in the last *Voter*, if you go to our same old URL, <http://lwvdv.org>, you will find a brand-new website, thanks to LWV California's new MyLO platform.

One feature of the new site is a "Members Only" section, where we can put notices and other information that is not for public use, such as Pros and Cons sign-ups, tentative meeting planning ideas, etc.

Watch for an email telling you how to sign up -- then watch for emails and *Voters* that mention that something is available on the Members Only part of the website. We're looking forward to seeing what we can do with this new capability!

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at www.lwvdv.org.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & UPDATES

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Voter
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 LWV of Diablo Valley
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 Editor: Leslie Stewart



Email delivery is free, but **delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year**.
 Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership in June or July. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you! *(We send three notices before deleting but remember: expiration date does not change even if payment is later.)*


- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Emily Banks | Bette Felton | Lee Lawrence | Aimee Moss | Linda Waters |
| Diane Bianchi | Marianne Gagen | Mary Lembke | Gail Murray | Allan Woods |
| Michele Colucci | Beverly Lane | Shirlee Loret | Catherine Sherwood | Carole Woods |

Welcome, new members: Judy Carney, Vicki Chavez, Kathryn Ann Doyle, Elaine Jegi, Shelly Lewis, Alexandra Morris and Hollace Ungerleider!
Condolences to long-time member Carol Federighi on the loss of her husband, Doug.

Did you join LWV before 1968? If you have been a member ever since then, you are a Life Member and do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Audrey Albrecht to upgrade your status!

 **on Facebook!** Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page. <http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj> **And Twitter!** Follow us on Twitter --  **We're**
 @LWVDiabloValley

In Memory of Alice Johnson:



Alice Johnson, LWV Diablo Valley president 1974-75, passed away on May 9, 2018. Meeting Alice was an encounter with a force of nature. She seemed to know everyone. She was also convinced that she knew exactly what all of them should be doing, and she wasn't shy about telling them what she thought!

This singular bluntness was often accompanied by a sly wink ("I'm a naughty girl," she would say) and redeemed by an open mind and an underlying generosity and willingness to give time and energy to a worthy cause. The energy had to be limited in later years as her health issues became more demanding, but she stayed positive and amazingly active.

Alice's favorite cause was education, and she was elected to the County School Board. She also belonged to many organizations, from AAUW to the Gray Panthers! She was a fierce but helpful mentor. We are grateful that her family has requested memorial gifts to the LWV Diablo Valley.

Leslie Stewart



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 500 St. Mary's Road, #14
 Lafayette, CA 94549

LWVDV Board Members:

- Suzan Requa, *Co-President*
- Martha Goralka, *Co-President & Voter Service Chair*
- Carol Murota, *Vice President*
- Karen Dolder, *Secretary*
- Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
- Lee Lawrence, *Action/Advocacy*
- Leslie Stewart, *Communications*
- Barbara Coenen, *Office Mgr*
- Carole Woods, *Program*
- Marian Shostrom, *Voter's Edge*
- Sue Brandy, *At-Large Director*
- Ann Flynn, *At-Large Director*
- Diane Bianchi, *At-Large Director*

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact Barbara Hill at the League office: (925) 283-2235.

- \$ _____ \$65 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$95 Family Membership (2). Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$35 Associate Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ \$10 Student Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
- \$ _____ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category above)
- Gift Membership from: _____
 (Please write recipient's information below.)
- \$ _____ \$10 included to receive printed copies of the *Voter* by US Mail
- \$ _____ Additional Donation to LWVDV
- \$ _____ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV.

(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please print, complete, and mail this form along with your check to:
 LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR
 MONTHLY MEETINGS**

June 2 Annual Meeting
 10:00 am No Action Committee

June 14 Board Meeting
 10:15 am -- [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 pm

Note: July dates may change

July 7 Action Committee
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
Note new day of week!

July 12 Board Meeting
 10:15 am - [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 pm