



IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Saturday, January 19
10:00 am
Women's March
Civic Park, Walnut Creek
(see page 4)

Saturday, January 26
12:00 – 2:00 pm
New Member Lunch & Orientation
Concord Library
(see page 4)

Saturday, February 2
12:00 – 2:00 pm
New Member Lunch & Orientation
LWVDV office, Lafayette
(see page 4)

Saturday, February 9
9:30 am – 3:30 pm
League Day
"Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Bay Area"
San Francisco
(see page 5)

Thursday, February 14
LWV is 99 years old!

Saturday, February 23
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Program Planning
Sequoia Room
Lafayette Comm. Ctr.

Monthly Meeting

Rescheduled: Election Wrap-Up

Come debrief after a busy voter service season!
We will look at election results and what they mean for League program going into next year.

Special Guest: County Clerk-Recorder
Joe Canciamilla

(see page 3 for details)



1:30 – 3:00 pm

Saturday, January 12

Contra Costa Water District
1331 Concord Ave, Concord

Free, everyone welcome!
Light refreshments served

info@lwvdv.org

(925) 283-2235



League Leaders' Letter

Welcome to our new year -- 2019 -- and preparation for the 2020 Presidential election year and the 10-year Census that will follow.

We have learned a lot from our growing membership and pre-election and election day activity. *You are invited and encouraged to attend our January 12 election review to learn the impact of our success. See Martha's announcement below.*

We are launching our 2019 Strategic Planning & Program Planning work, designing what we will do to help define community action, build community solutions and continue to build the network with other non-profits and grass roots voter support.

Our 2nd Strategic Planning session will focus on:

- Creating a proposed **Schools/Students Education Team** to assess current Voter Registration and Civics Education within school districts and focus on building school civics ed programs in schools where needed. *Watch for emails for more information on this Schools/Students team to participate in this effort.*
- Building grass roots connections through our proposed **Observer/Action Team** for cities, Contra Costa County, special districts and school districts. There are so many communication methods that have made this an easier and strategically interesting process. It can be an ideal method for assessing the effectiveness of our elected leaders and creating a sustainable advocacy relationship with them, for generating LWVDV advocacy to help promote effective community solutions and for providing background information to voters in advance of ballot measures generated at the local levels. *Watch for emails from this proposed Observer/Action team to participate in this effort.*
- Working on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. This national LWV priority for all leagues will be described at the LWV Bay Area's League Day in San Francisco on February 9th. *[More details below]. We recommend this training for our membership AND non-profits wanting to broaden their community participation and gain an understanding of how to be successful in this critical effort to grow membership while strengthen our democratic processes.*



- Preparing for our February 23rd Program Planning session to identify LWVDV focus priorities for the next year. In terms of LWVDV effectiveness, this is one of the most critical processes of the organization not specific to election processes. Last year we decided to focus on Immigration, Affordable Housing, Health Care (a LWV CA priority) and additionally Gun Sense Legislation. *We will be providing an opportunity to maintain or change direction on program priorities for the year. Watch for further information on this session and save the date – Saturday, February 23rd.*

New members and all members please feel invited and, by design, comfortably included in the continuing adventures of effective community building activities. We are looking forward to your participation as we work toward making a meaningful difference through these transforming public policy activities.

Yours in League,
Suzan Requa

VOTER SERVICE – Election Wrap-Up Meeting, January 12

Martha Goralka, Voter Service Chair

It's the New Year –and time for some resolutions you can keep! January kicks off with a series of strategic planning meetings. But for you Voter Service buffs – your primary date is January 12th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm at the Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Avenue in Concord.

We will once again be celebrating our many, many Voter Service successes this past election season, with County Clerk/Registrar Joe Canciamilla giving us a behind the scenes look at how the elections department facilitated registering voters and made voting easier; resulting in one of the largest turnouts ever.

If you helped to register voters (students, elderly, Spanish speakers, impoverished neighborhoods), produce candidate forums (live or taped), facilitate Voters Edge candidate participation, present Pros & Cons ballot issue programs, extract ballots, or if you helped drive to Martinez on election night – we can use your insights on how to improve our efforts.

Celebrate the New Year with the League of Women Voters as we hold our Election Review Saturday, January 12th from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm at the Contra Costa Water District headquarters. Joe Canciamilla is our speaker – but you are our program as well.



Beyond the Election – Here's what to do next!

Participate in the Women's March, January 19



LWV Diablo Valley will have a table at the Walnut Creek Women's March. Volunteers are needed to set up the table at 8:45 am and staff it during the event.

Marching? Meet at the table at 9:45 am to be part of the LWV Diablo Valley contingent.

[photo shows our table last year with the crowds lining up to register – be part of the excitement this year!]

Learn More About the League: Two Lunch Orientations for New Members

Meet some experienced League members and others who have joined in the past year or so. We will share what motivates us and what we want to accomplish in 2019. Learn about League's history, structure, and how you can participate in Making Democracy Work!

Choose ONE of these:

Saturday January 26, 12 pm to 2 pm at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord

OR

Saturday February 2, 12 pm to 2 pm at the LWVDV Office, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette

The events are free, but please RSVP to let us plan for food and space. To RSVP use the Eventbrite link for the date and location you prefer.

January 26:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwvdv-lunch-orientation-tickets-53943696047>

February 2:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwvdv-lunch-orientation-tickets-54074775108>

If you cannot attend on either Saturday, or have questions, email ashleyaoc@comcast.net.



[Some of our newer members who signed up to help with Voter Service in 2018 – and did a great job!]

Meet the Chief Executive Officer of LWVUS – Right Here in San Francisco!

Attend the LWV Bay Area's annual League Day on Saturday, February 9 in San Francisco and hear LWVUS Chief Executive Officer Virginia Kase kick off a day of discussions on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – a focus for the League nationally.

Networking with coffee starts at 9:30 am and the event goes until mid-afternoon, with an (optional) lunch included. Panels include noted speakers and regional leaders including Fred Blackwell, CEO of the San Francisco Foundation, as well as members of the LWV California DEI Task Force.



The location is the Google Community Space, 188 The Embarcadero, just a few blocks from BART. Registration is \$30, lunch adds \$15. To buy a ticket, go to tinyurl.com/LeagueDay2019. Then join the crowd on BART (this is already proving to be a popular event for LWVDV members!)

Have a Chat With a State Legislator

Each year at the start of the legislative season, local League members meet with our representatives in the California Senate and Assembly. We ask a few questions that will be helpful to LWV California in the upcoming lobbying contacts, as well as a local question or two. Meetings are usually at the official's local offices, and we like to have a group of about four people, so that we can rotate questions (and note-taking!)

Our LWVC questions this year will cover water, local redistricting commissions, and closing the achievement gap in public education – if you are interested in any of these, the background packet will give you all the information you need to gauge how well your legislator knows the issue.



It's always a challenge matching up schedules for local League members and elected officials so now is the time to get your name on the list for the state Senator or Assemblymember of your choice, and Lee Lawrence will let you know when she sets up a visit. Send a message to info@lwvdv.org including the legislator and/or interest area you prefer. New member? Not a problem – you'll be teamed with experienced League members, and this is a great way to find out what happens after the campaign promises are a distant memory.

Be an LWVDV office volunteer!

Office volunteers are the unsung heroines of LWV Diablo Valley – they open mail, check phone messages, call members with event reminders, and so much more! If you can spare a few hours one day a month, call Barbara Coenen on the LWVDV office phone line, 925-283-2235. You'll learn a lot and get oodles of gratitude!

Get Ready to Set State Priorities for 2019-2021!

(Adapted from LWVC Program Planning webpage)

Program Planning. In the League, this is the process by which we decide where and how we will focus our resources – member time, money, reputation – over the next two years.

Where do League members want to have the most impact? What will help build the League name – and help build our organization? In addition to setting local priorities, we will also provide our input to the state League Board to prepare for decisions at Convention, May 30-June 2, 2019.



What do we want prioritized in California?

The LWVC [Program Planning Kit](#) includes background information about work that we know will be on our plate and a few ideas to start your thinking.

At the LWWUS convention last June, we re-adopted a national “Campaign for Making Democracy Work” program, with a focus on

- Voter protection and mobilization
- Election reform
- Money in politics, constitutional amendment, and redistricting

[Read more](#) about some of the ways we know we will be implementing Making Democracy Work in California as well as other ongoing work of the League.

What’s new about LWVC program planning this year?

- **We don't need to review all of the positions!** Of course, if you have questions or concerns about any position we definitely want to hear them; bring them to the Program Planning meeting on February 23, or email advocacy@lwvc.org.
- **Proposals for new positions via concurrence.** There are at least two proposals for new positions to be adopted via concurrence (Criminal Justice and Voter Representation). Our League has already been hearing from supporters of each. Look for more details in the February *Voter*. Concurrence allows us to add a position resulting from a local League study without each local League completing a similar study.

LWVC is committed to meeting the challenge to make certain the League’s membership and leadership more accurately reflects California’s rich diversity. At the local League level, we want to reach out to our entire membership — and especially young members and members of color, and invite them into the program planning process.

We hope to engage with community organizations that represent populations often overlooked, under-resourced, or in need of support. By listening to others -- sometimes going outside of our comfort zones -- we learn new things, expand our circle, share ideas and common concerns. By building new relationships outside of our usual circle, we take steps to make the League stronger, more vibrant and more effective in ensuring that California is a truly representative democracy.

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

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership in January. 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.)*

Peggy Huston

Dan Senter

Laurie Senter

Robin Klau

Notice to all members: If outstanding dues are not received by mid-January, you will be dropped from the roster, as we need to do our annual report to LWVUS by January 31!

Welcome, new members: Beth Soloway, Lelia Tokuyama, Susan Blair, Liz DiGiorgio, Heather Ramamurthy, and Joan Foster!

Did you join LWV before 1969? If you have been a member ever since then, you are a Life Member and do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Ashley Coates to upgrade your status!



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



From LWVUS:

Take Action: End the Influence of Big Money

New legislation from Congress, HR1, will modernize our election system, reform redistricting, and restore the Voting Rights Act. But we need your help to ensure that a key provision reducing the undue influence of Big Money in our politics is also included. [Contact your Representative](#) and ask that a small donor public financing system is included as a priority in HR1.



LWVDV VOTER
 Published ten times per year
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
 500 St. Mary's Road, #14
 Lafayette, CA 94549

LWVDV Board Members:

Suzan Requa, *Co-President*
 Martha Goralka, *Co-President & Voter Service Chair*
 Sue Brandy, *Vice President*
 Karen Dolder, *Secretary*
 Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
 Lee Lawrence, *Action/Advocacy*
 Leslie Stewart, *Communications*
 Barbara Coenen, *Office Mgr*
 Marian Shostrom, *At-Large Director*
 Ann Flynn, *At-Large Director*
 Diane Bianchi, *At-Large Director*
 Ashley Coates, *Membership*
 Tammy Moulton, *At-Large Director*
 Nancy Thursby, *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.

- \$ _____ \$75 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___
 - \$ _____ \$105 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**

- Cancelled** Action Committee
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Jan 10** Board Meeting
 6:30 - [LWVDV Office](#)
 8:30 pm
- Feb 2** Action Committee
 10-noon [LWVDV Office](#)
- Feb 14** Board Meeting
 10:15 - [LWVDV Office](#)
 12:15 am

Check out our website,
www.lwvdv.org to keep up
 on meetings and activities!