



**IMPORTANT DATES**  
*(regular meetings page 8)*

May 30-June 2  
LWVC Convention  
Pasadena

**No Voter in July!**  
**No Monthly Meeting in July!**

Saturday, July 27  
LWVDV Leadership Team  
Retreat  
Location TBD

Saturday, August 17  
LWV Bay Area Mini-League Day:  
Voting Rights 1920 to  
Equal Rights 2020  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
San Francisco  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/voting-rights-1920-to-equal-rights-2020-a-workshop-on-the-rights-of-women-tickets-58973619684>

Sunday, August 18  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
Nineteenth Amendment

Saturday, August 24  
Wildfire Prevention and  
Preparedness  
3 – 4:30 pm  
Location TBA

## League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 15**  
**10:30 am – 1:30 pm**  
**Contra Costa Water District Board Room**  
1331 Concord Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520

Business Meeting 10:30 am  
*A quorum of members is needed for this meeting!*



Speaker: 12:45 pm  
**Lynn Mackey, Contra Costa County  
Superintendent of Schools**

**Everyone welcome!**  
*Cost: \$10 for meeting and refreshments; \$5 for  
meeting only; no charge for speaker presentation*

**RSVP by June 12**  
[info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) (925) 283-2235

## Leaders' Letters

*From Martha Goralka, LWVDV Co-President:*

This is my very last chance to do a president's message. It has been such an honor to work with each of you during the past two years. As I'm sure you've noticed, Suzan has done the heavy lifting. The Diablo Valley League is so very lucky Suzan is continuing as our president with Shawn Gilbert assisting in the first vice president position.



Many of you new to the League have filled in everywhere. As those of us who have been around for a while age, we can be assured that our efforts weren't in vain and you will continue this essential work as we begin our next 100 years. I so appreciate your stepping up and keeping democracy alive in our communities and our nation. My turn is over, but I'm grateful that your turn is now!

*From Suzan Requa, LWVDV Co-President:*

It has been such a blessing to have Martha as Co-President these past two years. Her League history of many years of activism has been an amazing record of achievement and this has been her second term as LWVDV President. Her genuine and appealing openness and enthusiasm about the League and Voter Services have helped build a strong, local, respected presence for LWVDV.

Though she is reducing her board presence, we are very appreciative that she will be a co-chair of Voter Services in our next term. We wish her the very best in her travels with her husband and look forward to her leadership presence at election time again. Thank you, Martha, for all your support and your leadership contributions in our shared Co-Presidency.

## Executive Director Melissa Breach Leaving LWVC



The League of Women Voters of California will be looking for a replacement for Executive Director Melissa Breach.

*"Since 2011, Melissa has led the organization through a period of growth and change. We want to thank her for eight years of dedicated service. During her tenure, Melissa raised our public profile and significantly expanded our impact by bringing in new resources and expanding and diversifying our partnerships. She will be greatly missed by the staff, board, our members, and our allies." LWVC Board.*

Outgoing president of the LWVC Board Helen Hutchison (*pictured*) will be serving as Interim Executive Director during the search for a new Executive Director.

## June 29 Coffee to Welcome New Members

Have you joined LWV recently? Did you miss our last orientation? Are you thinking "What can LWVDV do for me?" or "What can I do now that I'm a member of LWVDV?"

Come to our New Member Orientation!

When: Saturday June 29 from 10:00 to 12:00  
Where: Concord Library Meeting Room  
2900 Salvio Street  
Community Room (Enter in library or side door just near library front door)  
Concord, CA 94519

Coffee, Tea, and bagels will be served.

Please RSVP to EventBrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lwv-coffee-tickets-62455409812>

or you may contact Cathleen Kirk at [cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net).

## August Meeting on Wildfire Measures in Contra Costa

*Ann Flynn and Diane Bianchi, Incoming LWVDV Program Chairs*

Join us on Saturday, August 24, at 3:00 pm for an expert panel presentation on Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness in Contra Costa County. Hear from local speakers on our local risks, learn about local and state efforts to reduce those risks, and what you can advocate for in your own community. This is a state-wide issue of course, but with local impacts. Location and presentation panel details to come. Save the Date!

## 2020 Census Program Report

*Marian Shostrom*

On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, a lively group of engaged citizens gathered in the Pittsburg Library to learn about the 2020 Census. Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair of the Contra Costa 2020 Census Committee, gave an overview of the Census process and timeline. Julia Marks, Staff Attorney at Advancing Justice—Asian Law Caucus, and a census specialist, shared information about issues particularly relevant to immigrant and hard-to-count populations. For the first time, many people will respond to the Census online.



Audience members asked many questions, including how people are counted if they don't have a regular residence. The short answer is that they are counted where they are on Census Day, April 1, 2020. That could be a soup kitchen, a non-sheltered outdoor location, etc. If you missed this excellent program, here are links to the presentations by [Supervisor Diane Burgis](#) and [Julia Marks](#).

The program was co-sponsored by LWVDV, Monument Crisis Center, and the Pittsburg Library.

## **Voter Registration and Education for Residents of Affordable Housing**

*Marian Shostrom*

A team of LWVDV members were invited by VISTA coordinator Camille LeBlanc to provide voter registration and education at several public housing complexes in Contra Costa County. Team members Shawn Gilbert, Martha Goralka, Cathleen Kirk, Suzan Requa, and Marian Shostrom developed a program, and have enjoyed meeting with curious and engaged residents in Concord, Pittsburg, and Bay Point. Residents shared what they knew, had their questions about voting answered, and learned about Voter's Edge California and the Easy Voter Guide in multiple languages. These residents will now help spread what they learned to their neighbors.



*[Martha Goralka and Marian Shostrom, second and third from left, in Pittsburg. Photo credit: Cathleen Kirk.]*

### **And Feedback . . .**

Hi fabulous women!

I want to give my sincerest thanks for your work with CCIH! The voter education classes were a hit! I felt that all residents got something out of it (even if it was a small fact). A lot of us were really interested in hearing about VotersEdge and I think it will be a great resource for REP to use while we are prepping for the elections. I truly appreciate your kindness and willingness to answer questions and help us learn. You are all great teachers and listeners and it was such a blessing to have you all to work with our residents. Again, huge thank you from me and CCIH!

Have a great day!

Camille LeBlanc

### **New County General Plan in Progress**

Be part of the conversation about the future of Contra Costa County! The County is updating its General Plan, Zoning Code, and Climate Action Plan – a project called “Envision Contra Costa 2040” – to set the course for conservation efforts and development in the unincorporated county over the next twenty years.

The County is holding open houses soliciting input on key countywide issues the project will address, such as mobility, housing, sustainability, and economic development. Another set of community-based meetings will talk about community-specific issues. Check out [www.envisioncontracosta2040.org](http://www.envisioncontracosta2040.org) to find out more about the meetings and join the mailing list.

## Observer's Report: Antioch Unified School District

Martha Goralka, Observer

The first time I tried to observe the Antioch Unified School District's board meeting; more than 300 people showed up for a room that would hold perhaps 75 seated community members. It was moved to a larger venue the following Friday; I was unable to attend. My second try was a quick, uneventful school board meeting, which was over by 8:00 pm.



My second actual observation was on May 22. In anticipation of a large turnout, the meeting had been moved to Beede Auditorium at Antioch High School. I didn't count, but there seemed to be more than 400 in attendance – with at least 50 students, from kindergarten to fifth grade, in attendance.

I was impressed by how cordial the board, staff and audience appeared to be. In the past, a reputation for less than courteous behavior had been developed by some board members and some community members.

The AUSD board is in the process of **developing districts** for the 2020 election cycle. Their consultant seemed to think protecting current seats was of utmost importance, while also combining census tracts composed of a majority of Hispanic and/or African Americans, based on the 2010 census information. The consultant did say that the lines would have to be redrawn when the 2020 census was completed. There was no one interested in public comment – but there will be several meetings available for public input before the final lines are drawn. Since school board members don't live near each other, they would probably be in separate districts, anyway.



A resolution supporting **LGBTQ Pride** was passed which included approval to fly the rainbow banner over this district office and district schools during the month of June.

A resolution to continue the **Rocketship Charter School's** probation was approved. This was agreed to by the school, the board, and the teachers' union, with oversight provisions that the charter school seemed to welcome. The discussion on this topic was mostly centered on students and their parents demonstrating the positive results of the school's programs. The board reminded the audience that the provisional status was not about the program – but about financial reporting, which included a lack of financial transparency, lack of timely reporting and a concern that the school could be insolvent in three years.

### LWV Bay Area Nineteenth Amendment Anniversary Event

#### **Women's Equity: Global, National & Local Perspectives** Sat Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am - 1:30pm

San Francisco Library | Latino Room | 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Free to the Public event - pay what you will (\$5 or \$10 donation)

For more information: <https://tockify.com/lwvbayarea/detail/15/1566061200000>



## Your Voice Matters!

*Did you respond to the recent Action Alerts from LWV California? If so, here is a message from LWVC President Helen Hutchison with a progress report:*

Thank you for standing with the League! Because you took action this week, we're celebrating some big wins:

- AB 849, the Fair Maps Act, has passed out of the Assembly and is on its way to the Senate. Once passed, this bill will combat partisan and racially-discriminatory gerrymandering at the local level.
- SB 72 has passed out of the Senate and is advancing to the Assembly. Upon passage, it will bring Election Day Registration to every California polling place in 2020.
- SB 139, the People's Maps Act, also passed out of the Senate, and is one step closer to giving people—not politicians—the power to draw the lines in large counties.



With your help, we sent thousands of messages to legislators to get these bills over their first major hurdle. And we're just getting started. Each of these bills still needs to be passed from the second house and then be signed by the governor. I hope we can count on you to continue taking action on this important legislation.

Thank you again for speaking up!

### **What you can do now:**

Watch your email for more Action Alerts – LWVDV forwards some Alerts by email, but you can **sign up for all LWVC Action Alerts** at <https://lwvc.org/stay-informed> (you can also sign up for regular newsletters about all LWVC issues on the same page). LWVC Action Alerts are also posted automatically to the LWVDV website.

**Bonus:** On the LWVC Stay Informed page, you will also find a list of Google and Yahoo groups covering many issues, including Advocacy, Budget Reform, Children and Family, Communications, Education, Energy, Healthcare Reform, Higher Education, Schools & Communities First, Money in Politics, Policing Practices, Program Planning, SpeakerSource, Sustainability, and Water (moderated by LWVDV's Linda Soliven). There is also a link to the LWVUS options to get information emailed to you, including the biweekly Leader's Update (not just for leaders!)

**DONATE**

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org).


**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & UPDATES**


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.*)

- |                 |                 |               |                    |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Lauren Babb     | David Dolder    | Mary Lembke   | Catherine Sherwood |
| Kat Bautista    | Karen Dolder    | Shirlee Loret | Linda Soliven      |
| Diane Bianchi   | Jennifer Faught | Aimee Moss    | Tamara Steiner     |
| Sarah Buhre     | Bette Felton    | Tammy Moulton | Linda Waters       |
| Michele Colucci | Marianne Gagen  | Gail Murray   | Dianna Wellborn    |
| Ashia Derksen   | Beverly Lane    | Hwi Ling Ng   | Allan Woods        |
| Paul Derksen    | Lee Lawrence    | Molly Redding | Carole Woods       |

**Welcome, new member Valerie Stone!**

*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!**  
<http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>  
@LWVDiabloValley

Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page.  
**And Twitter!** Follow us on Twitter -- 

**In Memoriam:**  
**Robert Schroder**, former Contra Costa County Supervisor, husband of LWVDV member Fran Schroder. April 2019.  
**Holly Hollingsworth (married name O’Konski)**, longtime LWVDV member. From 1972-74, she was president of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, and eventually served on the national board. She was the initial editor of the LWVBA publication on regional issues, the "Bay Area Monitor." This editorship helped her land a job at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, where she served as a legislative analyst until retiring in 1991. December 2018.  
We offer our condolences to their families.



**LWVDV VOTER**  
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**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*
- Shawn Gilbert, *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 \_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$110 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 8**      **Action Committee**  
 10-noon      [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)
- Jun 13**      **Board Meeting**  
 10:15 -      [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)  
 12:15 am
- July 6**      **Action Committee**  
 10-noon      [LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org)
- July 27**      **Board Retreat**  
 Time and Place TBA

**Check out our website,  
[www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org) to keep up  
 on meetings and activities!**