

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

LWV Diablo Valley is not holding any meetings this month other than Board and Action/Advocacy Committee (see pages 3 and 8) and Moderator Training (see page 3).

These will be held remotely using Zoom. For access information for the Zoom meetings, please contact us at the email or phone below, or see instructions in the announcements.

[info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org)  
(925) 283-2235

City Councils, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, and other government bodies are also meeting remotely. For more information on how to access these meetings, check our [webpage](#) for updated information.

Stay safe and well!

**WE'RE MAKING PLANS!**



**Our Annual Meeting will be held remotely on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 10:00 am. Sign-in will start at 9:30 am.**

**A quorum is needed for this meeting.**

**Join us to make decisions for the coming year and to learn how you can help to keep up our Voter Service in this challenging election year!**

**Read more in this Voter!  
Watch your email for announcements and the Annual Meeting information kit!**

[info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) (925) 283-2235

## President's Letter from Suzan

Dear League Leaders and all League Members:

**Got Zoom?** If not, you are invited to our mini-trainings on how to use this online meeting technology, to quickly get comfortable with using it to vote and participate in online LWVDV activities – learn how to share perspectives and strategies through online options. There is nothing to it once you have had a quick walk-through online.

*Watch for LWVDV emails throughout May and early June for dates and times.*

We **invite all members** and encourage your attendance at our LWVDV annual membership meeting!



**Save the date and participate!**

**When:** **The date has been changed to SATURDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am.** This will be an online Zoom conference meeting with video and voice service. You will be able to use your computer, laptop or iPad and/or your phone of any variety.

**Why:** We need a **quorum** of members to vote to continue services for the next year. We will **urgently request an RSVP.** With your RSVP we can determine if we will have our quorum for the meeting. We will respond by providing the Zoom online meeting information that you will need to attend and participate. Also, we will provide links to a few brief Zoom orientations so you will not be put off by the use of something new.

**How:** Watch for email from LWVDV for instructions on how to participate in the meeting and how to register your votes.

**What:** Vote for our elected officers; vote to approve our budget; vote on a bylaws change; and consider our LWVDV Program Priorities and vote to approve them. A packet will be sent to you before the meeting with all the information you need to “vote informed”.

**Who:** Meet our Voter Service leaders and learn of all the services we will be able to provide for the critical November election with your volunteer help. At the meeting, you will be able to volunteer early to participate in Voter Service for November, to be delivered mostly online.

We are thankful for these options to stay connected and support each other *safely*. We know that these are strenuously challenging times for all of us. We are fortunate to have such a caring and effective leadership and membership.

**And save the date to CELEBRATE: JUNE 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am we will also celebrate -- online -- the 100-year anniversary of the LWV and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment! Want to party online? Come join us!**

Call our office (925-283-2235) or email [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) to RSVP for the Annual Meeting. If you have questions, call our office and leave a message. We have a new message service that is improving our response time.

*NOTE: If Zoom online is not possible for you for any reason, DON'T MISS OUT! Please let us know in your RSVP and we will provide a phone number so you can call in and participate.*

## **ACTION/ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

The Action/Advocacy Committee will meet on Saturday, May 2, 2020, from 10 am – noon. This will be a **Zoom Only Meeting**. It is best if you join with your computer, camera, and sound, so that everyone can see and hear each other. The other option is to call in on a phone. NOTE: If you use an iPad, you can only view nine participants on a screen; if you use a phone, you can view four participants on a screen.

### **Agenda Highlights**

- Covid19 in Contra Costa: Status, Impact, Board of Supervisors Action
- Census 2020
- Contra Costa County Budget Justice Coalition Report

Please join us while you are sheltering in place.



If you want a Zoom link to join the meeting, email Marian Shostrom, [mshostrom49@gmail.com](mailto:mshostrom49@gmail.com), using subject line: Action Zoom Link

## **WHAT TO DO RIGHT AWAY:**

### **Get Trained as a League Moderator**

Learn the tips and tricks that a League moderator uses in candidate forums and other meetings. One of our most experienced moderators, Sharon Burke, will do a remote training on May 9, 2020, at 10:00 am. To sign up, email Voter Service chair Marth Goralka at [martha@goralka.com](mailto:martha@goralka.com).

### **Want To Get More Involved? Contact the Nominating Committee NOW!**

Every year, a committee of on-board and off-board members searches our membership for people with the enthusiasm to take on one of our leadership roles. We submit the slate for a vote at our Annual Meeting (June 20).

If you would like to get involved in planning meetings, registering voters, helping with candidate forums, or advocating on our priorities (to name a few possibilities), please email Ashley Coates to set up a time to talk! [ashleyaoc@comcast.net](mailto:ashleyaoc@comcast.net)

### **Tell Your Story About Schools and Communities First!**

*Janet Hoy, LWVDV SCF team member*

Schools and Communities First (SCF) needs you! SCF staff—working with the League and other coalition partners—has developed an easy-to-use **website dedicated to recording our personal stories** about the importance of SCF to our local communities and schools. It's an effort to expand visibility of SCF, as stories will be distributed broadly via social media.



So I am asking you to add your voice to this important effort!

Please contact me at [janetahoy@gmail.com](mailto:janetahoy@gmail.com) if you are interested in 'telling your story'—the more voices we can provide the better!

And I promise...it really is fun! Thanks!

## LWVDV Voter Services Online Planning

*Suzan Requa, LWVDV Voter Services Team*



You are invited to join in the excitement of creating and building community involvement through our new online delivery of Voter Services.

**Save the date:** Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> 2020, at 10am. It's our ONLINE Annual Meeting!

Learn about our planning for this amazing transition to **Voter Services online delivery**, and how to sign up to volunteer in whatever service is of interest to you. Voter Services includes Voter Registration, Voter's Edge California-Get Out the Vote, Candidate Forums, Pros and Cons, Schools Voter Information Team activities—all being re-designed for online delivery. Also, learn how to help with outreach to our Central and East County non-profit network of partners.

"Meet", via Zoom, the **Voter Services team leaders:** Martha Goralka, organizing for online CCTV Candidate Forums; Marian Shostrom, coordinating our online Voter's Edge voter information; Shawn Gilbert, leading our online Schools Voter Information Team activities; Kay James and Janet Thomas, planning our online Pros and Cons preparation and delivery; and Suzan Requa, covering online Voter Registration and Voter's Edge California-Get Out the Vote activities.

## Yes, There Will Be Meetings!

*Diane Bianchi, LWVDV Public Programs Co-Chair*

The League's Public Programs is collaborating with the Contra Costa County Library to host virtual meetings in order to continue our education outreach to the community on issues identified as priorities by the League. Stay tuned for updates on programs we are developing as we employ 21st century outreach.

## Online LWV National Convention. Save the Dates!

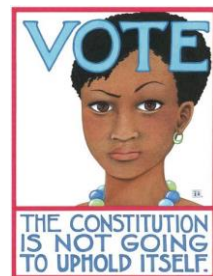
What an outstanding opportunity! An online LWV national convention where members can attend without travel costs, "see" the talent and the expertise of our leaders, and learn about the diversity of successful *Making Democracy Work* experiences across the country.

Convention sessions will be held on **June 25-27** and LWVUS is planning the agenda with consideration towards all time zones.

Check out this link to learn the current details. More information to follow.

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/update-convention-2020>.

RSVP to [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) if you would like to learn more and would like to attend the sessions.



## Our Observers Report In

*Carol Murota, Observer Corps Coordinator, Lafayette Observer*

Who makes deposits to your city's bank account?

Most city revenue comes from sales and property taxes. It matters where you shop!

Cities are thinking of ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while supporting their businesses and the employees threatened by their closing (however temporary). In Lafayette, City Manager

Niroop Srivatsa believes that many small businesses will not survive the shutdown. To help local businesses, Lafayette is making all parking free so it will be easier to pick up take-out orders and groceries, and allowing sidewalk signs to easily locate open businesses.

Recently, the City Council approved funding for a Business Assistance Program, a free service designed to assist local businesses and nonprofits in applying for federal and state funding. Signs are up all over town alerting people to ways Lafayette is helping businesses navigate the convoluted small business loan process.



At the same time, Lafayette anticipates a \$1M shortfall this fiscal year from reduced sales taxes (businesses shuttering or having reduced sales) and other revenue sources. From Diablo Foods, Safeway, Orchard Nursery, Peet's, and ACE Hardware, to take-out options like Hideout, Sideboard, El Jarro, Great Wall, and Rising Loafer, our businesses pay sales taxes that fund city services.

The economy is circular. It helps everyone when residents shop locally. Hone your ability to gauge 6 feet, wear your face mask, order from the many restaurants that remain open, use take-out and think of ways to support your local business.

### **Beyond Lafayette:**

Your League Observers are trying to keep us apprised, and the requirement to allow public comment is still in place. Make sure you know what your local government is doing while we are hunkering down. See our regular Board of Supervisors reports on the LWVDV [website!](#)

Catherine Newman, in her BART oversight role, reports that BART is making use of the slowdown to make exceptional progress on capital projects.

And many thanks to League members Peggy Huston (Martinez) and Stephanie Williams-Rogers (Brentwood) who are joining our Observer Corps, extending our presence and alerting our members to local actions. If you would like to join our Observer Corps, please let me know at [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org)! The League and your cities are staying busy and relevant during this time – we are physically distanced but not inactive!

## **CENSUS UPDATE**

*Mary Schreiber, LWVDV Census 2020 Co-Chair*

We know it's a stressful time with COVID-19! Remember you can respond to #Census2020 from the comfort and safety of your own home! Stay healthy (wash your hands!) and respond to the Census by October 31! The future of our healthcare industry depends on it!

Census 2020 has been underway for almost two months and so far, 63.1% of Contra Costa County residents and 54% of Californians have responded. If you haven't responded to Census 2020 yet, remember: it's easy (9 short questions), safe (social distancing approved), and important! You can fill out the census online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov), by phone ([numbers available in 13 languages at this link](#)), or by mail. Your response will help decide how many resources and how much civic representation our state and county will get for the next decade. You can respond to the census online, by phone, or by mail.

Still have questions about how to respond to Census 2020? [Click here to check out answers to frequently asked questions.](#)

Late this summer, non-response follow-up for Census 2020 begins. From mid-August through the end of October, Census Takers or Census Enumerators (someone hired from our local community by the Bureau) will be going around to knock on doors and collect responses to Census 2020 from households that have not yet responded. (*Read more on our [website.](#)*)

## This Month's Exercise in Exploring Our Own Unconscious Biases

*Sue Brandy, LWVDV Administrative Vice President*

The Board engaged in a second month of lively communication based on Chapter 2 of Waking Up White by Debbie Irving. The discussion included the impact of what area of the country we lived in, where our parents worked (or did not work), and what the configuration of our community was. It has been a meaningful and intimate sharing for the Board. Hopefully, you non-Board members will take this opportunity to read Waking Up White and reflect on these questions as well.

For May, we will be discussing the questions at the end of Chapter 3:

*"Class is determined by income, wealth (assets), education, and profession. Betsy Leonard-Wright, program director of Class Action, suggests these categories as a way of thinking about class:*

- *Poverty*
- *Working Class*
- *Lower Middle Class*
- *Professional Middle Class*
- *Upper Middle Class*
- *Owning Class*

*"How would you characterize your parents' class? Your grandparents' class? Your class as a child? Your class now? What messages did you get about race in each?"*

Once again, we invite you to join us by reflecting on your own answers to these questions.

## Suffragists You Need to Meet: Maria Guadalupe Evangelina de Lopéz de Lowther (1881-1977)

*Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Vice President*

Maria Guadalupe Evangelina Lopéz was a Los Angeles suffragist and educator. She grew up in San Gabriel, California, where her father worked as a blacksmith. De Lopéz graduated from Pasadena High in 1897, and later completed college at the Los Angeles Normal School. She soon began teaching English as a second language at Los Angeles High School. By 1902, de Lopéz became the youngest teacher hired by UCLA, and perhaps the first Latina.

When her father died in 1904, de Lopéz and her younger sister, Ernestina, moved back into the family home to help care for their mother.

The family occupied the home from 1849 to 1964. Maria did some restoration to the adobe, which is known today as La Casa de Lopéz de Lowther. Originally, the home was a part of the San Gabriel Mission, thus leaving a significant Catholic influence on de Lopéz.

In the 1910s, de Lopéz was an active campaigner in the Los Angeles region's Votes for Women Club. As a Spanish-language translator for the California statewide suffrage movement in 1911, de Lopéz organized rallies and traveled the state, speaking, in both Spanish and English, about women's voting rights. She is often credited with being the first in the state to deliver suffrage speeches in Spanish. A week prior to the October 10, 1911, special election when California women successfully won the right to vote, de Lopéz was the featured speaker for the Votes for Women Club's large rally in Southern California encouraging a "yes" vote on Proposition 4.



In 1913, de Lopéz was tapped to be a representative for California suffragists, to go to Washington, D.C., to march in the 1913 suffrage parade being organized by Alice Paul. Whether she attended the march is unknown.

When the U.S. entered World War I, de Lopéz took a leave of absence from her teaching responsibilities at UCLA and moved to New York City, where she learned to be an ambulance driver. She then traveled to France where she worked as an ambulance driver for the war. The French government later recognized De Lopéz for her bravery.

Sometime before the 1930s, de Lopéz met Hugh Lowther, a professor at Occidental College. She was 38 when they married. From 1937 to 1938, Maria de Lopéz served as president of UCLA's Faculty Women's Club. Maria de Lopéz is buried at San Gabriel Christian Church in Los Angeles.

[photo credit: [California Historical Society Collection](#) at the [University of Southern California](#).]

## Spotlight on Members: Catherine Newman

Carol Murota, LWVDV Observer Chair

Our own League member (and BART bond oversight committee member) Catherine Newman is addressing COVID-19 "hands on", with her UC Berkeley engineering friends. Funded through [GoFundMe](#), *Shield the Bay* is manufacturing face shields for Highland Hospital and the Alameda Health System. They have already delivered more than 100 face shields plus 2250 replacement shields. (Health care workers are using 10 shields each day so the replacements are extremely important tools keeping them safe.) You can reach her at [Kay@berkeley.edu](mailto:Kay@berkeley.edu) with questions.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

**Welcome, new member Joanne Supersad! If you have a May membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew!**

***If you have been a League member for 50 years or more, you are a Life Member. Life Members do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chairs Ashley Coates ([ashleyaoc@comcast.net](mailto:ashleyaoc@comcast.net)) and Cathleen Kirk ([cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net)) to upgrade your status!***



Visit us and LIKE our **Facebook** page.

<http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>

Follow us on **Twitter** -- @LWVDiabloValley

See us on **Instagram**: @lwvdiablovalley

**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: Join Us or Renew!

*Membership is not based on ability to pay.*

*To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact the League office: (925) 283-2235.*

- \$75 Individual Membership
  - \$110 Family Membership (2)
  - \$35 Additional Family Membership
  - \$10 Student Membership
  - \$10 to receive printed copies of the Voter by US Mail
- (LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)*

**LWVDV Board Members:**

Suzan Requa, *President*  
 Shawn Gilbert, *First Vice President*  
 Sue Brandy, *Admin. Vice President*  
 Karen Dolder, *Secretary, Office Co-Mgr*  
 Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*  
 Marian Shostrom, *Action/Advocacy*  
 Barbara Coenen, *Office Co-Mgr*  
 Ann Flynn, *Program Co-Chair*  
 Diane Bianchi, *Program Co-Chair*  
 Ashley Coates, *Membership Co-Chair*  
 Cathleen Kirk, *Membership Co-Chair*  
 Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*  
 Linda Soliven, *LWVBA Liaison, Census*  
 Leslie Stewart, *At-Large Director*  
 Christina Soto-Maynez, *At-Large Director*

**CALENDAR  
MONTHLY MEETINGS**

<b>May 2</b>	<b>Action Committee</b>
10-noon	Zoom Meeting*
<b>May 14</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
6:30 pm -	Zoom Meeting*
8:30 pm	
<b>June 6</b>	<b>Action Committee</b>
10-noon	Zoom Meeting *
<b>June 11</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b>
10:15 am -	Zoom Meeting*
12:15 pm	

\*To participate in a Zoom meeting, leave a message with your email address on the office phone and meeting link will be sent to you.

**The League of Women Voters  
of Diablo Valley  
Voter**

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**Empowering Voters  
Defending Democracy**