



The Voter



League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County, California

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

November 2019

General Meeting

Topic: Are we making progress in solving the affordable housing crisis in San Mateo County?



Tuesday November 19, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

City of San Mateo Main Library

55 West Third Street San Mateo CA 94402

Come meet our panel of professionals from organizations that are currently part of the hands-on work of creating housing. Each panelist will speak about the work performed by the organization they represent, their progress in meeting their goals, as well as their housing creation forecasts. The League will moderate the panel and invite questions from the audience.

Justin Alley – Helped cofound **One San Mateo**, a community group working for a fairer and more inclusive San Mateo which seeks to advance just, equitable, and across-the-board solutions to the housing crisis, with a focus on protecting and improving the lives of renters.

Amy Bayley – **RSM, Vice President, Community Planning, Mercy Housing** which handles every aspect of the affordable housing process, from project financing and housing development to community outreach and long-term resident services providing a custom approach to help more people and communities while ensuring each project is completed to high standards.

Ken Cole – **Director, San Mateo County Department of Housing**, which serves as a catalyst for increasing access to affordable housing, increasing the supply of workforce housing, and supporting related community development so housing permanently exists for people of all income levels and age groups.

Nevada Merriman – **Director of Housing Development Mid Peninsula Housing** one of the nation's leading nonprofit developers, owners and managers of high-quality affordable housing.

We are excited to provide an opportunity to hear from experts with “boots on the street” in the area of so much concern. Invite your friends, bring your brown-bag lunch and the league will provide drinks and dessert!

Contents: President's Message, p. 2 — Board Highlights, p. 2 — Voter Girl, p. 3 — Become a Trusted Messenger and Help with the Census, p. 4 — Seniors on the Move, p. 5 — San Mateo County Transportation Authority: Draft Strategic Plan, 2020-2024, p. 6 — November Calendar, p. 6 — General Meeting Planner, p. 7

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Marta Bookbinder, President • Marie Baldisseri, Membership Chair • Ann Kuchins, Editor

Office: 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo CA 94401 • Phone: 650-342-5853 Email: LWVNCSMC@sbcglobal.net • Web site: www.lwvnscsmc.org

President's Message

In mid-October, I traveled to Washington, D.C. where the League of Women Voters will hold the National Convention in 2020. I lodged in the Foggy Bottom area, a couple of blocks from George Washington University, walking distance from downtown where many old and new museums and memorial monuments depicting past history and government are found. As I looked on the printed visitor maps available, I could not find a site dedicated to women's history listed. However, a 3-story house standing on Capitol Hill for over 200 years is there.



The **Sewall-Belmont House and Museum** tells the story of women's search for equality. It is home to the history of the women who have fought for women's rights for so long. President Obama officially added the old federal-style brick house situated next to the Senate Hart Office Building to the National Park Service in 2016 as one of a dozen park sites focused on women's stories. Also known as **The Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument**, I was able to walk around the desk where Alice Paul and other suffragists sat while strategizing to win the passage of the 19th amendment; and I saw original letters, signs, banners, photos, cartoons and news articles.

In the quiet of the rooms, I felt a deep reverence for the past, and most importantly, I felt that I was home. You will be welcome too. Make plans to visit 144 Constitution Ave. NE (at 2nd St.) next time you are in the area! <http://www.sewallbelmont.org/>

History Question: Who was Alva Belmont?

Marta Bookbinder, President

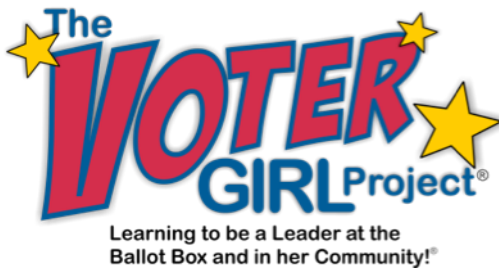
Board Highlights

At the October board meeting, our board

- Discussed coordination and streamlining of League communications channels
- Reviewed the many voter registration and informational events held during October and the importance of selecting and working with partners
- Heard about the successful Voter Girl event; a full report coming next month
- Read a letter to go out to local libraries supporting their planning for the coming anniversary of the LWV and the 19th Amendment
- Was updated on the upcoming general meetings and discussed channels to promote them
- Was informed that the 2020 Census group will offer Ambassador Training on 1/18/20
- Heard that the Schools and Communities First campaign is moving forward and will begin gathering signatures and other activities beginning next month
- Selected a sun canopy to purchase for outdoor events

Nicole Niederer, Secretary

Voter Girl



The first Voter Girl event on Saturday October 5, 2019 was a fabulous success! Notre Dame High School hosted our event, with over 190 Girl Scouts in attendance. The star of the day was the San Mateo County Elections Department; the girls all enjoyed voting and getting to try out the new voting machines.

We received many compliments from the girls and their parents on how they enjoyed learning about voting and how to be an active citizen in their community. One parent comment was particularly special:

My Junior really enjoyed it and she was inspired by the workshop. She finished the letter that she started working on at the workshop at home, typed it up, and had her classmates sign it. (I think she said she got about 40 signatures.) They gave it to their principal and the principal is now going to help them with the issue they pointed out. Thank you for helping her see she can make a difference in her community.

That statement sums up what the Voter Girl Project means to me: if we can help engage girls in their community, working to solve an issue that is important in their life, that makes the event a great success!

Most of all, this event brought together League members and Girl Scout leaders, working together to make this day happen. A huge **THANK YOU** to all who participated!

A special shout out to all the participants:

Classroom Leaders

Kathee Tyson
Shirley Des Marais (LWVSSMC)
Kristi Denham
Betty Fleming
Ann Kuchins
Georgi LeBerge
Marilynn Vandorm

Classroom Assistants

Pat Smith
Karen Bertrand
Eleanor Lewis
Linda Franklyn
Marta Bookbinder
Sheila Musselman
Joyce Delyani
Afsoon Shahrदार
Joy Addison
Warren Dale

Helpers

Ruth Kahoun
Margaret Lukens
Shirley Roberson

Girl Scout Leaders

Becky Simpson
Paola Lancellotti
Lisa Malloy
Lorena Vargas
Adriana Arambula
Selena Steenbergen
Patricia Wampler

The Girl Scout leaders were instrumental in organizing and coordinating this event with the county organization and also helped in the classrooms. We are also thankful to the Notre Dame High School students who helped set up signs, direct traffic, and show parents to the dining room for registration.

And last but not least, we would like to extend our gratitude to Notre Dame High School who opened their doors to us and helped make this project possible.

Susie Raye
Voter Girl Project Leader



Become a Trusted Messenger and Help with the Census

Saturday, January 11 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon

As League members, we understand that the census is just as important as voting but it only comes around every 10 years.

You want to help, but how?

Our League is hosting Census Ambassador Training on Saturday January 11 from 10:00 a.m. to noon to train our members on how to engage and educate your friends, family, faith-based members, work and volunteer colleagues, book club members....whomever you want to talk to. The Census Ambassador Training is conducted by the San Mateo County Census Team and our training is open to LWV North & Central San Mateo, LWV South San Mateo, and any friends, family, or colleagues that you would like to invite.

The training includes:

- Key aspects of Census 2020 (what, why, when, where, and how)
- Engaging people
- Integrating the census into voter registration and our other voter activities
- Addressing misinformation, privacy, security, questions, and concerns
- Directing community members for language, digital, and other support

We want to go beyond a PowerPoint presentation by providing you with the tools to go out and interact with your circle of friends and acquaintances and if you want, to reach out to the community-at-large. You will be provided with outreach materials, such as factsheets and postcards, to share with people you talk to. This training is not for paid personnel who knock on doors and make phone calls. This training is for everyday people who may have everyday opportunities to talk to people they interact with on the importance of the census.

Challenges facing the 2020 Census include the initial online component of the census and the fallout from the immigration question that was removed from the form. In addition, fake mailers that look like census forms and other types of misinformation are already circulating. By equipping yourself with the tools and communication skills, you can become a trusted messenger making Census 2020 a success.

EVERYONE COUNTS



Ann Kuchins, External Relations Director

Seniors on the Move

The 32nd annual *Seniors on the Move* conference has a new name – *On the Move, Reframing Aging*.

The date is Friday, November 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the San Mateo County Event Center, 2495 S. Delaware St., San Mateo. The event always attracts over 500 attendees for workshops and presentations. The League will be an exhibitor at the conference again this year, providing a table with information about the services we provide to our community.

We need volunteers to staff the table. The busy times are just before the conference convenes (9:00 – 10:00 a.m.) and during the midmorning and lunch breaks. The quiet times provide an opportunity to meet other exhibitors. Snacks and lunch are always provided for exhibitors.

The exhibition room is separate from the main conference room so an exhibitor who would like to attend the conference must register separately beginning October 25. Information is available at www.Speier.House.Gov or at the senior centers in San Mateo County.

If you can help for the entire time or just two or three hours, please contact me. See the *Member Handbook* for my phone or email or email the League (lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net).

Jackie Jacobberger



Girl Scouts Testing the Voting Machines

San Mateo County Transportation Authority: Draft Strategic Plan, 2020-2024

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) released its *Draft Strategic Plan 2020-2024* on October 14, 2019. This plan will outline how the TA will make investment decisions over the next five years for the funds from Measures A and W. The TA is responsible for administering the plan, including the process for how projects will be evaluated and prioritized. These decisions will have a major impact on transportation funding in this County.

The League has actively participated in the development of this Draft Plan and we encourage you to take this opportunity to review and comment. The Draft Plan and comment form are available at http://www.smcta.com/about/Strategic_Plan_2020-2024.html. Public comment closes on November 15, 2019.

The TA will also present information on the Draft Plan at an online Virtual Town Hall on Monday, November 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. To register, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/san-mateo-county-ta-strategic-plan-2020-2024-virtual-town-hall-tickets-75736019473>.

Jackie Jacobberger

November Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday November 4	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday November 19	12:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Are we solving the affordable housing crisis in San Mateo County?	San Mateo Public Library 53 West Third St., San Mateo 94402
Friday November 22	10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Seniors on the Move	San Mateo County Event Center 2495 S. Delaware St., San Mateo 94402



2019 – 2020 General Meeting Planner

Date	Topic
2019	
TBD	Holiday Party – Potluck and surprise guests
2020	
Saturday, Jan. 11	Census Ambassador Training
Tuesday, Jan. 21	Pizza & Program Planning. Plus, <i>The Electoral College and the Popular Vote</i>
Tuesday, Feb. 18	Let's celebrate the 100 th anniversaries of the 19 th Amendment and the League
Tuesday, March 17	Fire Risk in San Mateo County
Tuesday, April 21	<i>Schools and Communities First</i>
Tuesday, May 19	California Budget – Take the challenge!
Date TBD, June	Annual Meeting. Plus, The State of the County

Note: Meeting times and locations to be announced



JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Where new members just like you are taking advantage of leadership opportunities and making an impact.

Name(s)

Address

City

Zip Code

Phone Number (daytime)

E-mail address

Amount enclosed \$ _____

(\$75 one member; \$115 two members, same household; \$40 each additional member, same household. *Dues are tax deductible.*)

Mail to: LWVNCSMC 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

League of Women Voters
Of North & Central
San Mateo County
444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1
San Mateo, CA 94401-1679

