



## President's Message



2018 ended on a joyous note with our holiday party at the home of Linda and Wally Jansen. The restored 1879 Victorian mansion was a delight to behold and Wally entertained us with stories of the house and its art works. We also heard the stories from our League members who have run for local office: **Chelsea Bonini, Marta Bookbinder, Pedro Gonzalez, Nancy Magee, and Ann Schneider**. There were tales of winning and losing in addition to addressing the issues of money, endorsements, and the challenges of being a woman. The evening was heightened by the great reveal of one of our new retractable signs thanks to **Margie Gater**. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our hosts, speakers, and everyone who provided food. The League provided two bottles of wines but ended up taking home four bottles, which are stored safely in the office for our next occasion!

Since the election, I have been thinking of what 2019 will bring. There are no upcoming elections that I know of and we have no League studies. However, we do have some interesting projects coming up that will hopefully entice many of you to get involved. Susie Raye has been writing about the Girl Scouts' Voter Girl project that will go into high gear this month. In her article below, she provides a list of activities for volunteers which covers a wide range of skills.

Our League is partnering with the Burlingame Public Library on a Book to Action grant project that utilizes the book club concept to engage participants in community action related to the topic of the book. In this case, the book is the trilogy by Congressman John Lewis on the civil rights movement. There is more information in my article. In addition to encouraging members to participate, I am also looking for someone to work with the library as a point person and other interested League members.

I will be representing our League and LWV South San Mateo on San Mateo County's Complete Count Committee on the 2020 census. The County is eliciting the help of several nonprofit groups. You will be hearing about opportunities to get involved to ensure a complete and accurate census which is vital to our democracy.

Finally, do not miss the information on the fundraising field trip that Sheilah Musselman is organizing at the Cypress Lawn Cemetery in March. It's a great fundraising idea and who doesn't want to tour a cemetery?



*Ann Kuchins, President*

## Board Highlights

At the December Board meeting, our board

- Agreed that we will send a fund-raising appeal letter on our anniversary in February, 2019
- Heard that we will partner with the Burlingame Public Library in their Book to Action Program
- Heard the Voter Education Outreach Advisory Committee report on the November, 2018 election
- Learned that the Voter Girl project with the local Girl Scouts is planned for Spring 2019

*Jean Johnson, Secretary*



**When: Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:00pm**

**Or: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm**

**Where: League Office, 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo**

Whether you're a new member or have been a member for a while and feel you'd like a refresher on how the League of Women Voters works, I hope you'll plan on attending. The meeting will be an opportunity to learn about the League - its mission, policies, positions, areas of advocacy, and more. In addition, it's a great opportunity to meet other League members and discover how you can get involved. Understanding our members have busy lives, we are offering orientation on two different days and times in the hope more members will be able to attend. I look forward to meeting you.

Please RSVP and direct questions to me (see the Member Handbook for contact info); email the League office [lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-342-5853.

*Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director*

**Welcome to Our New Members!**

Nicole Niederer

Correction: Please accept our sincere apology for misspelling Carolyn Belknap's name in the print copy of the December 2018 issue of the *Voter*.

## Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee Report

During the last election cycle, our League was a member of the San Mateo County Office of Elections' Voter Education and Outreach Advisory Committee (VEOAC). VEOAC members assisted Chief Elections Officer Mark Church and his team in preparing San Mateo County for the transition from a traditional polling place election model to an all-mail ballot and Vote Center model as a Voter's Choice county. President **Ann Kuchins** attended regular VEOAC meetings and our members provided education and information to voters via Voter's Choice and Pros & Cons presentations, voter registration tables and our social media platforms. On Nov. 26, Mark Church and representatives of the Elections Office debriefed VEOAC members in the aftermath of the Nov. 6 midterm election. There was much good news.

- San Mateo County saw its highest midterm turnout since 1982, with 72.6% of registered voters casting ballots.
- Voter registration in the county is at an all-time high (399,591 registered voters).
- 64.1% of voters voted by mail (either via post office or ballot collection Drop Boxes).
- With same-day registration and conditional voting available as part of the Voter's Choice model, 8.5% of voters cast ballots in person at Vote Centers.

The VEOAC also learned that the Election Department's aging technology (dating from 2006), in particular its ballot sorter, was seriously stressed by the all-mail election and that the county will be purchasing a new sorter and voting system before the 2020 election. Another problem the Election Department faced during the November voting period was that, due to the labor shortage in San Mateo County, it was unable to hire the number of paid elections workers needed for optimal Vote Center staffing, ballot counting and outreach.

VEOAC members gave their own November election period observations, and reported an overall improvement from the June primary in Vote Center compliance with accessibility for disabled voters and the availability of language-translated materials. Some Vote Centers still fell short of accessibility goals. Members also reported observing long lines at some Vote Centers, due to inadequate staffing to help voters with Election Day registration issues. Elections officials and VEOAC members agreed that in 2020, more outreach is needed to persuade voters to not wait until Election Day to register and vote.

*Joyce Delyani, Voter Registration Coordinator and Social Media Director*

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## Action Report

The Program Planning Kit is available online and is due March 3. A reminder for all members: program planning is the issues that we choose the issues that we recommend for concerted study, education and action. Programs can include both education and advocacy work. The Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) is an example of this. Accepting that climate change is real and needs to be planned for, the CCTF advocates for important public policy reforms and helps local Leagues educate their legislators and communities. "For people to vote climate, they need to understand the science and the legislation," according to Diz Swift, task force director.

Does our League want to work on educating members and the public about climate change by hosting meetings? We can discuss this and other topics at the January 15 meeting at the Silicon Valley Foundation. If you want to do some background reading before you decide, go to climate [change@lwvc.org](mailto:change@lwvc.org).

A new legislative session was called to order on December 3. Can legislative interviews be far behind? No. Each year, League members meet with their state Senators and Assembly members. The LWVC has a packet ready for interviewers to use. It includes questions in three areas of possible action, but Leagues are encouraged to ask about local concerns and include that information in the report due March 11. If you are interested in meeting with one or more of your legislators, please contact Ann Kuchins at [lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-342-5853.

*Diana Stephens, Action Director*



**LWV Bay Area League Day**  
**February 9, 2019**  
**9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Topic:** Diversity, Equality, & Inclusion (DEI) in the Bay Area:  
 DEI in Action — DEI in Practice

**Key Address Speaker:** Virginia Case,  
 CEO LWVUS

**Location:** Google Community Space,  
 188 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

**Cost:** \$45 with lunch; \$30 without  
 Lunch

**Tickets:** [tinyurl.com/LeagueDay2019](https://tinyurl.com/LeagueDay2019)

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## Homeowner Association Elections Help the League

Thanks to our volunteers who helped count ballots for the Woodlake Association on November 14. **Betty Fleming, Jackie James, Ann Kuchins, Mary Nobriga, and Sandra Shapiro** spent their evening and efficiently tallied the ballots.

Volunteers will be needed again on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019** in the evening as the League will serve as Inspector of Election for the Shelter Creek Condo Owners Association in San Bruno. This will be the twelfth year that we have provided this service for this association and shows the confidence they have in the League.

It is ideal to have eight people to open and count ballots. It requires about two or three hours of your time that evening. Fundraising projects like this allow the League to continue its work of informing the community. The materials and services we provided during the November election helped voters make their decisions and informed them about the changes in our election procedures.

Please contact Jackie Jacobberger if you can help (see the Member Handbook for contact info). You can also e-mail the League office, [lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net), or leave a message on the League phone (650-342-5853).

*Jackie Jacobberger, Treasurer*

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## Volunteer Point Person Needed for the Burlingame Public Library Book to Action Program

Last September, the board agreed to partner with the Burlingame Public Library's Book to Action program for which the library recently received a grant. The library selects a book that engages community members on a current topic. The library also partners with a community organization to plan activities that "encourages community learning, connection, and volunteerism/community engagement." For more information on the Book to Action program, see <https://calbook.org/programs/bta/>.

The Burlingame Public Library has selected Congressman John Lewis' trilogy on the American civil rights movement: *Run: Book One, March: Book Two, and March: Book Three*.

If you are interested in book clubs and in supporting the goals of the Book to Action program, this is an ideal opportunity to get involved on behalf of the League. If you are interested in working with the Burlingame Library on this program, please contact Ann Kuchins at [lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-342-5853. If you are not interested in this position, we hope that some of you will choose to participate in this program and partake in the give and take of sharing ideas on this book and perhaps getting involved in some community action on civil rights.

*Ann Kuchins*

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## Advocacy Training Day for South SF Peninsula LWVs

With LWVC President Helen Hutchison

**When:** Sat, January 12, 2019, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Cubberley Community Center, Room M4, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

**Description:** Learn How to Sharpen Your Local Advocacy Skills!

**Bring local advocacy issues to work on!**

LWVC President Helen Hutchison will lead this how-to for local advocacy, hosted by LWV Palo Alto.

**Register early via Eventbrite at this link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advocacy-training-day-with-lwvc-president-helen-hutchison-tickets-53938739221>

## **Voter Girl Project – Call for Volunteers!**

We are moving forward with our Voter Girl Project and connecting with our local Girl Scout councils. Our January goal is to get approval for the project from the Girl Scouts and to work on finding a location. Tentative dates are in late April or early May, 2019 (working around school spring break and Easter).

We are looking for a school site where we can use 7-10 classrooms for a one-day event where Girl Scouts at all levels will work on their Civic Engagement badges. As an example, there will be a room for Brownies, with a League member leading the course and Girl Scout and other League members assisting.

**Do you have a connection to a local school that would be interested in hosting this event?**

We will need lots of volunteers for this one-day event:

- Classroom leaders and assistants
- Welcome Area: registration, information, first-aid helpers
- Election helpers
- Parent Lounge helpers
- Photographer

The next planning meeting will be in January (date to be determined).

This should be a fun day and a great way to introduce the League to a new community. Contact Susie Raye if you are interested in helping plan or to volunteer for this event: [lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-342-5853..

*Susie Raye, Vice President*

## **Field Trip Fundraiser to the Cypress Lawn Cemetery**

The League is planning a unique fundraising field trip in March to the Cypress Lawn Cemetery to view the various monuments there. Since March is Women's History Month, the tour will be customized and we will be seeing lots of women's graves! You may be surprised by the women of note buried there.

We will be on a trolley for this tour and will sit for the hour or so. Included will be a box lunch with plenty of food. We can also see the stained glass windows in the columbarium, which is magnificent. Best of all, not only do we not pay, but the League receives \$25/person for our coffers! We can take up to 24 people...that's a potential \$600 raised. LWV members have first choice and if there are any places left, we can invite friends.

Is this a win-win or what? The tour will start at 11:00 a.m. at Cypress Lawn in Colma and that's where we will meet. The complete tour is about 1-1/2 to 2 hrs. Our docent, Terry, is very receptive to various requests. Stay tuned for further information.

*Sheilah Musselman*

## Observer Corps Report

(Part 4 of a 4-part series)

This month the Observer Corps is proud to report results from its evaluation of the San Mateo County Harbor District. The review was conducted by **Kathy Wheeler** and **Diana Stephens**. Kathy and Diana acknowledge their gratitude to **Steve McGrath**, General Manager, who was instrumental in answering questions and sharing information contributing greatly to the findings included in their report.

**About the San Mateo County Harbor District:** The District was first established in 1933 and now operates both Pillar Point Harbor and Oyster Point Marina/Park. Pillar Point Harbor, near Half Moon Bay, remains a major commercial and sport fishing harbor, with 369 berths and is host to many public events throughout the year. Oyster Point Marina/Park in the City of South San Francisco provides a 408-berth marina and boat launch ramp, a fishing pier, and open space and trails.

In February 2018, the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) awarded the Transparency Certificate of Excellence to the San Mateo County Harbor District in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. To receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner. SDLF is an independent, nonprofit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

2018 was a great beginning for our League's Observer Corps. In 2019 the Corps will expand its mission to include the examination of recently passed local bond measures. We will compare what was promised on the ballot to how the approved bond dollars were spent. In addition, we will review the effectiveness of bond oversight emphasizing easy public access to accurate and timely reporting. If our work sounds exciting and meaningful to you, please join us by contacting me at [lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-342-5853.

*Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director*

### Government Agency: San Mateo County Harbor District

#### Access

Easy access to public meetings:

- Agendas: SDLF Certification
  - Meeting notices and calendar posted in public place.
  - Meeting agenda (including attachments and the full packet) available online.
    - Observer Corps recommended action: Make note on website that entire paper copy of agenda available in District Office.
- Minutes: SDLF Certification
  - Every Board Packet contains the prior meeting's minutes.
  - More than two months' lag time before minutes are approved and posted online.
  - Observer Corps recommended action:
    - Move 2017 Board Meeting Minutes to online archive.
    - Create link from recent Board Meeting Agendas to "Draft Minutes" to be updated to "Minutes" when fully approved.

- Online: SDLF Certification
  - Signage: Sign for offices on outside of building.
  - Parking and Safety: Excellent
- Easy, accurate access to agency:
- Contact information - Public officials, staff members, departments and services: SDLF Certification
    - Excellent
  - Addresses and Maps:
    - No map online for Oyster Point
  - ADA compliance:
    - ADA compliance report completed August 2018; no plan by District to respond.
    - Observer Corps recommended actions:
      - Insert bookmarks into the online ADA report for ease of use and review.
      - Create an online compliance “to do” checklist, their location in the ADA report and completion status.
  - ESL and non-English speaking accommodations:
    - General Manager conceded there is no ESL accommodation. General agreement there should be at least some Spanish language translation. The District will investigate using Google Translation for the website.
    - District working on a comprehensive Transition Plan.
  - Timely responses:
    - Not discernable from website; however, after discussion with General Manager, Observer Corps agreed questions replied to promptly.
    - District website linked to Public Records.
    - Observer Corps recommended action:
      - Review all website links to ensure they include https:// in their link.

#### **Transparency:**

- Informational materials/aids used to clarify/support actions/decisions were exceptionally well done; complete and easy to understand.
- No direct feedback loop from Activity Reports and Monthly Capital Projects Update to Meeting Minutes; however, minutes clearly identify actions to be taken.
- Videos of meetings should have link on Meeting page to minutes and related issues.
- An opportunity for public comments is an agenda item; however, there are no instructions on how to submit questions before meetings.
- Meetings are not televised but are videotaped.
- Observer Corps recommended action:
  - Link online video on Meeting page to the online agenda and to the meeting minutes.

#### **Accountability:**

- Agency directories and access to public records available online: SDLF Certification
  - Home Page linked to Public Records.

#### **Comments:**

- New website is excellent!
- District sends email alerts (agendas, minutes, etc.) to a list of 200. The District agreed to add a note on the website meeting page allowing the public to sign up for email alerts.
- The District will discuss and consider having translators available with advance notice.

- The General Manager agreed to several “big misses”:
  - Not posting an announcement of the League’s candidates forum on their website.
  - Not providing better information to the public regarding District Elections.

**Overall Rating - Excellent**

## Volunteer to Count the Homeless

This request for volunteers comes from the San Mateo County Human Services Agency. For our League’s position on the homeless in San Mateo, please see the *Member Handbook* or go to <https://my.lwv.org/california/north-central-san-mateo-county/position/homeless-san-mateo-county>.

On **Thursday, January 31, 2019**, from approximately **5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**, San Mateo County will conduct its biennial One Day Homeless Count. In collaboration with community and County partners, the San Mateo County Human Services Agency organizes a census and survey of people who are unsheltered and experiencing homelessness.

By signing up to volunteer, you are committing to the following:

- 1) Attend a 2-hour volunteer training. This training is mandatory for all volunteers. There are many dates/locations to choose from throughout the month of January and you will be able to choose your preferred training date/location in the volunteer registration process.
- 2) Participate in the One Day Homeless Count on January 31, 2019 from 5am to 10am.

For complete information and to volunteer, please sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OneDayCount2019>.

## January Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday Jan. 7	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Wednesday Jan. 9	Noon – 1:00 a.m.	Brown Bag Lunch Discussion – All welcome! Issues for 2019	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday Jan. 12	10:00 a.m. – Noon	League Orientation	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday Jan. 12	9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Advocacy Training with LWVC President Helen Hutchison	Library Rm. Peninsula Conservation Ctr. 3921 Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto 94303
Tuesday Jan. 15	1:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Program Planning Meeting	Silicon Valley Community Foundation 1300 S. El Camino, San Mateo 94402
Wednesday Jan. 16	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	League Orientation	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Thursday Jan. 31	5:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Count the Homeless	TBD

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 not tax deductible.*)

Mail to: LWVNC&SMC 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

