



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.

December 2019

JOIN US

League of Women Voters' Holiday Celebration

Tuesday, December 10th

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Home of Gayle Hardt: 851 Viewridge Drive, San Mateo 94403



Gayle Hardt has generously opened her home for our League's annual holiday potluck dinner honoring our members and celebrating the season. Come kick off the Holiday Season with other League members and please consider bringing a guest. Share and enjoy delicious food and drinks and mingle with members and their guests. This is a relaxed, fun event to get better acquainted with one another and to catch up on League activities and events.

Please RSVP by either responding to the electronic invitation (Evite) sent to you or by leaving a message on the League phone, 650-342-5853. To contribute to the potluck, click the "What to Bring List" button on the Evite or call the League office at 650-342-5853 and leave a message. We hope to see you at the Member Holiday Party!



Contents: President's Message, p. 2 — Board Highlights, p. 2, — Schools and Communities First, p. 3 — Welcome to Our New Member! p. 3, Voter Delivery, p. 4 — SamTrans Study Needs Your Input, p. 4 — December Calendar, p. 5

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: LWVNCSCMC@sbcglobal.net • Web site: www.lwvncsmc.org

President's Message

We are a month away from the Centennial of the passage of the **19th Amendment to the Constitution**: Suffrage for Women. The League of Women Voters will also celebrate their Founding Day 100 years ago, on February 14, 2020. Plans for many joyous events are in motion. Activities will begin on New Year's Day when the League will have a



float in the Rose Parade in Pasadena celebrating 100 years of women voting. Chris Carson, LWVUS President and Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO will be on the float, while League members walk alongside it.

The League is committed to empowering each voter to cast an informed vote and protect our democracy. One of our Founding Fathers recognized the importance of an informed society and was the leader in establishing free libraries over 200 years ago. Libraries hold a special place in our communities today. I invite all of us to collaborate and be included in plans to highlight, celebrate, display, promote, and inform the public about how the vote for women became law in 1920! The League of Women Voters was instrumental in the implementation of the law.

Today, we strive to involve our youth in civic life. Inclusive action means listening to a group of high school girls in San Mateo County who are interested in lowering the voting age to 16 years old. How exciting for the youth to know how a nonviolent struggle to gain the vote succeeded! Who were the heroines? Who

became their allies? How did they fight to win? Are there lessons to guide our current times? Get ready to join our community, make plans, have fun, and pay tribute as we sojourn to the past!

Legal Question: What happened on August 26th, 1920?

Marta Bookbinder, President

Board Highlights

At the November board meeting, our board

- Discussed planning for the 100th LWV anniversary
- Considered options to save money on paper mailings of the *Voter* and ways to encourage members to move to electronic distribution
- Looked ahead to the November general meeting plans for a panel discussion of housing issues confronting the San Mateo County communities
- Reviewed progress towards creating a new brochure for our many events in 2020
- Heard about wrap up activities for the Voter Girl project and efforts to lay the groundwork for an even bigger, better event next time
- Was updated on upcoming advocacy work for the Schools and Community First campaign, which will support either the existing or a new version of an initiative for the upcoming ballot

Nicole Niederer, Secretary

r

Schools and Communities First

Schools & Communities First (SCF) is a measure that will be on the Nov 2020 ballot. It will provide \$11 billion in new commercial property tax revenue annually. This money will provide increased funding for schools and local governments, providing more affordable housing, healthcare, parks, libraries, first responders, and public safety.

The goals of the measure are to:

1. **Reclaim \$11 billion every year** for our schools and local communities
2. **Make corporations pay their fair share**
3. **Make history:** Start a new legacy of investing in our future instead of starving schools and communities of needed resources.

The measure changes current property tax formulations for commercial properties and reassessing their value every three years with property taxes reflecting the new values. Currently, commercial properties benefit from the same treatment as residential properties, with value changing only when they are sold. Changing this practice will bring California into alignment with the vast majority of other states that reassess commercial property on a regular basis, and will generate needed funding for our schools and local communities.

Education has always been one of the strongest, most enduring areas of interest for League of Women Voters members. If you want to learn more about this measure and how our local League can help to get it into the WIN column in November 2020, please email Linda Jansen – ljansen0@gmail.com. Linda will host a meeting to review the measure in more detail and talk about the opportunities to help locally.



Linda Jansen, Board Director

Welcome to Our New Member!

Renee Callantine

Voter Delivery

40% of our members have chosen to have the *Voter* delivered by e-mail. This is a significant savings for the League in printing and postage costs. At the November board meeting it was suggested that we encourage more of our members to choose the email option.

If you chose “hard copy” when you submitted your member survey but are willing to receive it by email only, please let us know.

If you now want to choose email but have previously unsubscribed from our Constant Contact emails, we must continue to send a hard copy unless you give permission to receive emails from the League.

If you have unsubscribed, you do not receive our periodic updates and reminders. Our League sends only one or two per month so you won't be annoyed by too much email. The LWVUS and the LWVC also send emails to members and you can unsubscribe separately from these.

If you want to continue receiving the *Voter* or other messages from our League but have previously unsubscribed, please let me know in one of the following ways:

- Send an email to the League office, lwvnscmc@sbcglobal
- Leave a message on the League phone, 650-342-5853
- Use my contact information in the *Member Handbook*.

You will receive an email from Constant Contact asking you to confirm that you want to resubscribe and it requires a positive response from you.



Census Ambassador Training

Saturday January 11, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Redwood City Main Library

1044 Middlefield Road

Redwood City 94063

The training includes:

- **Basic Census 2020 information**
- **Integrating the census into voter registration and our other voter activities**
- **Addressing misinformation, privacy, security, questions, and concerns**
- **Directing community members to language, digital, and other support**

Jackie Jacobberger

SamTrans Study Needs Your Input



SamTrans launched *Reimagine SamTrans*, a transformative study that will examine each route in the SamTrans bus system in light of changing travel patterns. *Reimagine SamTrans* will consider everything from customer experience, to route design, to how often buses run, to efficient and effective operations and practice. We need your feedback on this critical effort!

Take the Reimagine Survey

Whether you ride the bus, drive, walk, bike or other SamTrans wants to hear from you. Share your vision for a future SamTrans network.

Visit <https://www.reimaginesamtrans.com/survey> to take this fun, short survey. Survey closes December 31, 2019.

Share your Feedback In-person

SamTrans staff are in the field at bus stops, farmers markets, and community meetings. A full list of events is available on the website and, if you miss them in-person, you can always leave a comment. To learn more about the project and events go to www.reimaginesamtrans.com.

Social Media

SamTrans wants your input to Reimagine SamTrans service. Take the survey, join an event, or submit a comment and make your voice heard! Whether you take the bus, drive, walk, bike or other share your vision for a future SamTrans network. Visit www.reimaginesamtrans.com.

Jackie Jacobberger

December Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday December 2	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday December 10	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Holiday Party	851 Viewridge Drive San Mateo CA 94403



2019 – 2020 General Meeting Planner

Date	Topic
2019	
Tuesday, December 10	Holiday Party – Potluck and surprise guests
2020	
Saturday, Jan. 11	Census Ambassador Training, Redwood City Library 10:30 – 12:30
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

