



# 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.

March 2019

### General Meeting

### Transit Housing Development – Is It Working?

Tuesday March 19

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

San Mateo Public Library

55 West Third Street San Mateo CA 94402



The housing development plan is to build housing near a transit hub or along a transit corridor. The benefits include saving time and money, relieving traffic congestion, providing a cleaner environment, and mitigating the effects of climate change. The following speakers will address how well this plan is working in addition to solutions and strategies for the future:

- Evelyn “Evvy” Stivers — Executive Director, Housing Leadership Council
- Michael Weinbauer — San Mateans for Responsive Government
- Transportation — Chris Lepe, Regional Policy Director, TransformCA

The League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo and the San Mateo Public Library sponsor this program  
For more information, contact us at [lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net) or leave a message at 650-342-5853.



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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.

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

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## President's Message



So often we hear forecasts of rain and little if any rain materializes, but February did not disappoint. This is all good as Californians will literally see greener pastures and hopefully less wildfires in the next few months. However, we must still move forward on many fronts to protect and stabilize our water resources.

At Bay Area League Day, we heard from a wide range of speakers addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). LWV CEO Virginia Kase did not mince words from the very beginning when she described the League image as an organization of “older white wealthy women.” We know that not everyone fits that image but there is more than a grain of truth in that. The League has power as evidenced by our ability to speak to legislators on the state and federal level; and the number of lawsuits we are involved indicates the standing we have. However, she cited the lack of DEI in our organization as an obstacle to our ability to achieve our mission. Our membership must reflect our country if we are to survive the next 100 years.

Our League has three main projects coming up that all include getting more involved with different aspects of the community that will not only increase our visibility but possibly bring in new members from more diverse backgrounds.

- **Book To Action Project** – Our League is partnering with the Burlingame Public Library on this project that combines a book club format with taking action. Films, speakers, and action activities are integrated into the reading and discussion of Congressman John Lewis’ graphic trilogy *March* on his experience in the civil rights movement. The nice thing about a graphic novel is that it is easy reading and yet you can learn a lot, especially from John Lewis. If you want to interact with your neighbors and community, pick up your free copy of book one at the Burlingame Library. (Subsequent volumes will be distributed to attendees.) The first discussion is on Tuesday, March 5 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. See the flyer in this *Voter* for more information. Let’s talk.
- **Census 2020** - Our League is working with the county’s Complete Count Committee, which is made up of over 40 agencies, nonprofits, health organizations and more to ensure a complete count. If you are interested in education and outreach to the community, please come to our League’s committee meeting on Saturday, March 16 at 10:30 and we can get started. Everyone counts from ages 0 on up.
- **Voter Girl Project** – The Voter Girl Project involves planning, hosting, and teaching a one-day program of workshops that will enable Girl Scouts of all levels to earn a Civics badge. We are working with countywide scout troops. It’s an opportunity for us to engage with girls and their parents of all ages and backgrounds. There is something for every League member to do from organizing the day, teaching workshops, or providing hospitality services. Susie Raye who is implementing this program hopes to see it become a staple activity of our League every year or every other year. Help make it happen.

Our fundraiser is in full swing and many thanks to those who have already donated. A special thank you to **Jackie Jacobberger** for printing the letter, inserts, and envelopes and for implementing the mail merges! Thank you to Joyce Delyani and Sandra Shapiro for help with the mailing. If there are any event planners out there interested in planning an event to celebrate our centennial in 2020, please contact me (see the *Member Handbook*) or leave a message at the League office.

*A lot of different flowers make a bouquet* — Muslim Origin

Ann Kuchins, President

## Board Highlights

At the February Board meeting, our board

- Discussed which LWV members will attend scheduled Legislative Interviews
- Heard the proposed activities for the Burlingame Library Book to Action Program
- Responded to an inquiry approving an LWV member to apply for the Citizen's Oversight Committee for Expenditures of Measure X Funds in San Bruno
- Approved the 2019 Program Planning Report
- Discussed the proposal from LWVSSMC to alter our southern geographical boundaries and will add it to the County League Day agenda
- Discussed the request to approve changes to the draft documents for the proposed Flood Resiliency Agency and decided that we needed clarification on several items



## The Observer Corps Wants You!

It's not too late to join our League's Observer Corps. The Corps 2019 mission is to examine and report on local bond measures – what is promised to voters v. how the bond money is spent. As part of this mission, the Corps will assess and testify on the bond's oversight committee's accessibility, transparency, and accountability as stated in their bylaws and in state and local regulations. If this work interests you, please plan on attending the Observer Corps' next meeting.

**When: Thursday, March 21, 2019 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm**  
**Where: League Office, 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo**

For more information contact Marie Baldisseri (see the *Member Handbook* or leave a message at the League office).

*Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director*

## Shelter Creek Thank You

Thank you to our members who counted ballots at Shelter Creek on February 12. **Maria Barr, Linda Blum, Marta Bookbinder, Betty Fleming, Sheila Musselman, Diana Stephens** and **Don Jacobberger** were efficient and the process was completed in two hours. They cheerfully slit all the envelopes and tallied the votes.

This is the twelfth year that the League has served as Inspector of Elections for Shelter Creek and we could not do it without our volunteers. The funds raised by these projects allow us to provide our services to the community as well as to other members.

We need to recruit members to learn the basics of the process and the state law about how these are to be conducted. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me (see the *Member Handbook* or leave a message at the League office).

*Jackie Jacobberger, Treasurer*

## Community Events

**BURLINGAME PUBLIC LIBRARY** THE BURLINGAME PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

for Adults & Teens 16+

**Community Book to Action**  
**READ • DISCUSS • ACT**

In partnership with the League of Women Voters North and Central San Mateo County **LWV**

Featuring **MARCH**, by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, II, by Nate Powell  
Free copies of Volume 1 available to participants 16 yrs+ WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.  
Sign up at Burlingame Library Main Desk

**Join us for these events:**

- Tuesday March 6, 2019, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM, Late Room**  
Book discussion on Vol. 1 and postcard session
- Tuesday March 13, 2019, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM, Late Room**  
Book discussion on Vol. 2 and short film
- Tuesday April 2, 2019, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM, Late Room**  
Book discussion on Vol. 3 and postcard session
- Tuesday April 16, 2019, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM, Late Room**  
Viewing and Discussion of film: **Answering the Call: The American Struggle for the Right to Vote**, by Brian Jenkins
- Friday May 3, 2019, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM, Main Level**  
**Civic Action Zine Fest!** Join us for a night of zines, art, music, refreshments, and the chance to make your own zine zine.

Stay tuned for details on our **Speaker Event!**  
Tag us at @BooktoAction #BPLBooktoAction

Supported in part by California Center for the Book.

**Burlingame Public Library**  
480 Primrose Road  
(650) 558-7400 ext. 2  
www.burlingame.org/library

Free & Open to the Public

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LIBRARIES TRANSFORM

**CLIMATE READY**  
SAN MATEO COUNTY

**Preparing for Wildfire:**  
Climate Ready SMC Collaborative Convening  
March 13, 2019

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
**TIME:** 9:00 am (Refreshments/Networking); 9:30 am-12:30 pm (Convening)  
**LOCATION:** Crowne Plaza, 1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94044

**OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY**  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

To register, go to <https://seach.angesmc.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=40c74669d3d70d2d1ece795a&id=0aa0000c99&e=142238a5ed>

## County League Day Roundup

County League Day began with the video *Legalize Equality* by Kamala Lopez that describes the status of women today through stories and statistics and the urgency of ratifying the ERA. A skillful facilitator, **Marta Bookbinder** generated an energetic discussion where members asked questions, provided insight, and made plans to take action on the ERA.

In the business portion of the meeting, members voted to recommend the retention of all county positions at Annual Meeting. The two leagues voted to recommend the following county issues for emphasis in 2019-20:

- Census 2020
- Climate Change Adaptation as it impacts San Mateo County with a focus on sea level rise and increased fire risk

**Michelle Garside** recommended that the two Leagues consider looking into holding districts accountable for student mobility. Student mobility is becoming a crucial issue in our children’s education as families move around more. If other people are interested in looking at our local Education position, please let us know.

Many thanks to **Kristi Denham**, Pastor of the Belmont Congregational Church and League member, for providing the church space for our meeting. Thank you also to the North & Central San Mateo board members for providing refreshments and helping with setup and cleanup.



**Marta Bookbinder**

*Ann Kuchins*

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**Welcome to Our New Members!**

Frances Luster  
Nancy Reyring

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**Interview with Assemblymember Phil Ting**



**Question: Redistricting, State and Local**

*Would you support a bill to require local governments that have district representation to establish independent redistricting commissions that would use a transparent process and fair criteria similar to the State, including safeguards against discriminating against any political party?*

**Answer:**

Democracy has been challenged for the last two years and I feel that it is imperative to defend our right to vote. I am proud that California has established an independent commission for drawing state redistricting lines. The lines drawn are based on the

Voting Rights Act. I am open to a state law requiring oversight at the local level and a more transparent process. I have concerns that lawsuits might be filed over unfairness concerns

### **Question: Public Education in California – Closing the Achievement Gap**

*For years closing the achievement and opportunity gaps has been both a clear state and local priority. We join with the researchers in asking a different and equally important question: "Are there ways to avoid the gaps in the first place?" As a legislator, what are your thoughts about the findings of Getting Down to Facts II? What action(s) would you support to further these goals?*

#### **Answer:**

I do not think that California is doing as well with K-12. Forty percent of the general fund goes to K-12 so there is a gap. It's worth taking a look at whether we are paying enough for education. California relies on the middle and working classes for taxes. We need to know how to raise more revenue without taxing the people who are already feeling the pinch. The top 20% are doing pretty well whereas the rest of the population is not doing as well and that is the group that benefits most from public education.

We need to deal with social issues that are more prevalent in schools and we need people to provide those services. Spend more on kids and less on prisons.

The State Assembly is keen on preschool and has been spending more but we are still making up from the cuts of 2008. One of the challenges facing preschool education is finding facilities. Public schools do not know how to integrate preschool where many of the preschool slots are designated. For example, schools need different equipment for preschool, such as smaller desks. We need to provide capital to help the public schools that are integrating preschools.

Another important need is to have full day kindergarten, as many schools are still half day.

The Assembly does champion/support the funding for preschool. Only recently has the Assembly been able to ensure transparency to determine whether the schools are doing what they are supposed to do. School districts know best what to do so the Legislature does not tell them what to do and that makes sense. Now that the spending has been stabilized, the Legislature needs to take a larger look at what schools need.

In terms of measuring success, we need to look at measurements in addition to testing, such as truancy, absenteeism, and how well students are moving through the system.

### **Question: Water Resources**

*What ideas do you have for addressing the needs of your own constituency while advancing water management planning that benefits all Californians?*

Water is one of the most challenging issues that people don't talk about. It is one of the best-managed resources, but there are complex issues. Drought calls to attention on how we conserve but no matter how much we conserve, we cannot make up the difference for what agriculture uses. Conservation is something that everyone needs to pay attention to and find new ways of managing water. The Twin Tunnels project is controversial. I am in favor of improving/managing the infrastructure. The Twin Tunnels is about moving water and not infrastructure.

Most bills are about water management and not so much water supply. Water storage is a key issue in getting a bond measure on the ballot. The number one priority for agriculture is storage. Twin Tunnels has more of an impact on Alameda and Contra Costa counties as these counties get their water from the Delta.

Trying to figure out how to raise more money to clean water is another issue as several places in California have compromised tap water quality. Water is basic to survival and if you can't drink it, it has a huge impact on our lives. One possible solution is raising fees. I recommend the League look into water quality.

## **Question:**

*What other major issues do you think the Legislature must deal with in 2019? What are your personal priorities?*

### **Clean Energy/Climate Change**

A clean energy economy is key to fighting climate change and maintaining a strong economy. The biggest threat to the climate comes from transportation emissions. There needs to be more incentives to clean cars – 0 emissions. The Assembly didn't get this passed last year. We did get a bill to study how to clean cars. I encourage the League to get into transportation. We need to change our behavior to get car manufacturers to make electric cars or cars that use hydrogen fuel cells. Proterra in Burlingame is making electric buses.

### **Gun Violence**

We need to bring back a bill on gun violence restraints which expands the number of people, such as principals and teachers, who can request gun restraints on other people. Governor Brown vetoed such a bill twice. San Diego has provided money to go around the state publicizing this.

The challenge with mental health and gun violence is that there are mental health resources but there are so many different types of mental health issues in addition to the fact that people don't want to talk about mental health.

### **Housing**

I am pushing legislation for accessory lots housing that would not be used for tourists. This is the fastest way to build houses.

### **E-receipts**

I am looking into a bill on asking retailers to make e-receipts the default as the receipt paper is coated with BPA so that the ink can stick to it. Receipts are not compostable and cannot be recycled.

### **Budget**

The budget is 200 billion.

- The rainy day fund is completed but I would advise raising that.
- We need to be careful about building new commitments into the budget. One-time expenditures are saner.
- Although the Legislature is giving more money to CALSTRS for the teachers' pension funds, school districts should be required to put more money into the fund.
- Expand health care, as 8% of Californians are uninsured, mostly undocumented people. One solution is to expand Medi-Cal from 0 – 18 years to 0 – 26 years.
- More money for housing and the homeless
  - Governor Newsom has a proposal that I need to look into.
  - A housing tax credit would create better incentives for cities to create more affordable housing and shelters.
  - We need to figure out how to build faster.
  - More money is needed for homeless public health.

I would like to see the earned income tax credit rise to a higher level because very few families can live on the current level. Even if they do not have to pay taxes, if they do file for this credit, they will get money.

## **Cypress Lawn Cemetery Fundraiser**

**When: Friday , March 22, 11:00 am (arrive after 10:30 am)**

**Where: 1370 El Camino Real, Colma CA**

There are still tickets available for this fundraiser. Please contact Sheilah Musselman (see the *Member Handbook* for email) or leave a message on the office phone at 650 342-5853. Deadline to register is March 15.

The League receives \$25 for each person who attends. No cost to participants. Free box lunch provided. If we do not receive 24 participants by March 10, we will open it up to friends and families. If 24 people attend, we will raise \$600!

The tour is a docent-led excursion of Cypress Lawn grounds, historic mausoleums, stained glass and statuary in an enclosed trolley. The tour will focus on notable women buried at Cypress Lawn. Learn some history of the Bay Area's famous families such as the Hearsts, Crockers, Floods, Spreckels, and more.

If you would like to participate, please contact Sheilah Musselman by email (see the Member Handbook) or leave a message on the office phone (650-342-5853). RSVP is required because of limited space.

## March Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday March 4	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday March 5	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	First Book To Action Meeting Open to the public	Burlingame Public Library 480 Primrose Rd. Burlingame CA 94010
Wednesday March 13	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Brown Bag Lunch with the League Topic: Waking up White Ted Talk video (Debby Irving) & discussion	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday March 16	10:30 a.m. - Noon	Census 2020 Committee Meeting First meeting; open to all interested members	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday March 19	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	General Meeting Transit Housing Development – Is It Working?	San Mateo Public Library 55 West Third Street San Mateo CA 94402
Thursday March 21	10:00 a.m. - Noon	Observer Corps Meeting Open to all interested members	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Friday, March 22	11:00 a.m.	Cypress Lawn Fundraising Tour	1370 El Camino Real Colma CA
Saturday March 30	10:30 a.m. – Noon	Voter Girl Open to all interested members	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401



*New Member Orientation*



*Virginia Kase, LWVUS CEO*

**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

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