



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.

April 2019

Book To Action Events – Open to the Public

The League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo has been working with librarian Elaine Tai at the Burlingame Public Library on the *Book To Action Project*. Book discussions on *March*, a graphic novel chronicling Congressman John Lewis' struggle for civil and human rights have taken place. Coincidentally, the San Mateo County Office of Education has been reading the same book in their One Book One County Project. The following events complement the book discussions and are intended to inspire activism in the spirit of the civil rights movement. All events are free and open to the public. Attendance at the book discussions is not required.

- **Tuesday, April 16; 7:00 - 8:30:** Film: *Answering the Call* (1h 15 min) and discussion
Burlingame Public Library 480 Primrose Rd. Burlingame CA 94010

The bloody attacks on protesters in Selma in 1965 led to the historic protection of all Americans' right to vote. The film explores a cherished family story of Selma and the current stat of voter suppression in America. Written and directed by Brian Jenkins; featuring: John Lewis, John Witeck, Ari Berman

- **Wednesday, April 17; 6:30 – 8:00:** Co-creators of *March*: Andrew Aydin, co-author and Nate Powell, artist

One County, One Book. Fox Theatre, 2215 Broadway, Redwood City 94063
For free tickets, go to onebookonecounty.eventbrite.com.

Meet the co-creators of *March*, the graphic novel chronicling Congressman John Lewis' struggle for civil and human rights.

- **Thursday, May 9; 7:00 - 8:30:** Community Organizing and Legislative Advocacy Workshop presented by the San Francisco YWCA

Burlingame Public Library 480 Primrose Rd. Burlingame CA 94010

- **Thursday, May 23, 7:00 – 8:30:** Talking With:

- ◆ **Civil Rights Movement Veterans:** Bruce Hartford, a Jewish activist with CORE and SCLC from 1963-1967 in California, Alabama, and Mississippi

- ◆ **ACLU Norcal Leadership:** Tessa D'arcangelew, Leadership Development Manager who manages the ACLU chapter and volunteer programs across Northern California

Burlingame Public Library 480 Primrose Rd. Burlingame CA

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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



Thank you to the sixteen people who braved the rain to attend the Cypress Lawn Cemetery Tour fundraiser! I can't think of an easier or more enjoyable way to raise \$425 for our League! We were well-protected from the rain in a warm and comfortable trolley. The box lunch was first class and we received a book entitled *Pillars of the Past*, which is like a who's who of past Bay Area residents now interred at Cypress Lawn. Our tour guide provided us with a wealth of information. I don't think there was a question he couldn't answer. And in addition, Marta Bookbinder won a \$50 gift card in a raffle! So, many thanks to **Sheila Musselman** who had this brilliant idea and organized this truly enjoyable fundraiser!

This month and next month, our general meeting is going to be a little different. League members have worked with Elaine Tai who is spearheading the Book to Action Project at the Burlingame Public Library in planning speakers and events related to the project. Elaine followed through on the contacts and set up the events outlined on the first page of the *Voter*. Elaine and I are also talking about doing a program on the census, which might be in June.

If you were unable to attend the book discussions, I hope that you can find the time to attend one or more of these other events. As a baby boomer, I was in junior high school and high school when the civil rights activism of the early 1960s was taking place. I was somewhat aware of what was happening around me, but I wasn't that involved except in discussions around the dinner table. These events provide an excellent opportunity to re-engage oneself on the civil rights movement of the past and what is happening now. Our book discussions have included people of all ages and it is particularly interesting to hear how younger people who were born after the civil rights movement are reacting to the events recounted in the book.

For the second year in a row, **Joyce Delyani** did voter registration for an event sponsored by the Asian-American parents at Aragon High School. The topic of the event was the Asian Exclusion Act. Joyce reports that the new voter registration forms specifically ask, "Did anyone fill out or deliver the form for you?" She hopes to have a voter registration training in the next month or so.

We had an excellent panel discussion on *Transit Housing Development – Is It Working?* at the San Mateo Library. The speakers were **Evy Stivers**, Housing Leadership Council, **Michael Weinbauer**, San Mateans for Responsive Government doubling as a typical San Mateo resident, and **Chris Lepe**, Transform. The discussion was run like our candidate forums with audience members submitting questions on index cards to ensure a civil environment and to facilitate the question-asking. There was agreement and there were differences but everyone remained respectful. As moderator, **Margie Gater** skillfully guided the discussion with confidence, authority, and humor. When she noticed that the audience was getting restless during a long question and answer session, she wisely ended the discussion to allow time for audience members to interact with the speakers. Which they did....until well after 3:00 end time.

The League of Women Voters of California is holding its convention in Pasadena from May 30 – June 2. Our League can send four delegates. The League pays for registration, lodging, and transportation. Some meals are included. If you are interested in going, please let me know at lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net. It's a great opportunity to be involved in League decision-making at the state level. In addition, you meet some incredible people, listen and interact with great speakers, and really learn what the League is all about.

The time is always right to do what is right — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ann Kuchins, President

Board Highlights

At the March board meeting, our board

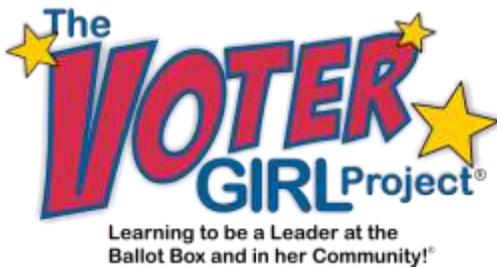
- Heard a housing report from Carolyn Crow
- Learned that the LWV California Convention will be May 31 to June 2 in Pasadena
- Learned that all Legislative Interviews have been completed
- Agreed that Jackie Jacobberger will continue representing the League on the Strategic Plan Stakeholders Advisory Group committee
- Heard that the Voter Girl Project with the Girl Scouts has been postponed until next fall
- Heard that the Annual Meeting will be on June 8; location and speaker TBD

Voter Girl

We are moving ahead with our Voter Girl project! We now have a location and a date:

Location: Notre Dame High School, Belmont

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2019



We will be having monthly planning meetings and are looking for volunteers on the planning side as well as help on our event day. Event day jobs include:

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

This is a great opportunity for the League to get to know students and their parents – and for them to get to know us! The excitement is growing, this is going to be a great event, hope you will join in the fun!

Please contact me if you are interested in helping out: leave a message on the League phone (650-342-5853) or email lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net.



Susie Raye, Vice President

Action Report

LWVUS

The LWVUS provides talking points to Leagues about its engagement with a possible “Green New Deal” and climate change policy more generally. The League website outlines these points in greater detail, but they include urging Congress to hold hearings and openly debate legislation about climate change in a transparent manner so the public can be educated on the subject. The League feels that only by being in the initial conversation can the League influence the outcome of potential legislation on the issue.

In early March, the LWVUS and the LWV Oregon submitted an amicus brief to the 9th Circuit in the case of *Juliana v. US*. The brief was submitted in favor of the young plaintiffs arguing that it is the job of the federal government to protect them from the damaging effects of climate change. The brief also argues that it is the job of the courts to address claims that are asserted by the politically powerless and the courts should act to fulfill that vital function by allowing the merits of this case to proceed to the trial process.

LWVBAYAREA

The biennial council will be held on Saturday, April 27, from 9:30 - 1:30. Following a short business meeting will be a presentation on voter services, an informational training in conjunction with the LWVC. Learn Voter Services 101 training on best practices for your voter services team along with real world examples of how to handle extreme challenges at candidate forums. The cost is \$10 per League for all voting League delegates. The cost for nonvoting members is \$10 per person. The meeting will be at the Bellevue Club in Oakland. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, contact lwnvncsmc@sbcglobal.net or leave a message at 650-342-5853

Diana Stephens, Action Director

Count Me In!



San Mateo County formed the Complete Count Committee to work with organizations and leaders on ensuring a complete census count. At this point in time, our League committee includes **Joyce Delyani, Pat Fuetsch, Pat Paquette, Sandy Shapiro, and Pat West Smith**. If you are still interested in working on this committee, please contact me. (lwnvncsmc@sbcglobal.net)

Currently, the Complete Count Committee is forming Strategy Work Groups to develop localized strategies, messaging, and toolkits. Each work group has its own lead and will arrange its own meeting times. We have League committee members signed up for the following work groups:

- **Communications and Media:** Deliverables include a communication plan, messaging guide, and a press kit.
- **Community Outreach:** Deliverables include outreach strategy and an outreach toolkit.
- **Elections and Census:** Deliverables include messaging and outreach strategy.
- **Youth Engagement:** Deliverables include engagement strategy and a plan. The young are crucial to the success of the census as they can encourage their parents to complete the census as the young have much to gain with a complete count.

If you are interested in joining one of these work groups, please let me know. (lwnvncsmc@sbcglobal.net)

I didn't sign up our League for the following work groups because I wasn't sure we would have any interested members, but if you are interested in one of the following, please let me know!

- **Language Access:** Deliverable includes a language access plan.
- **Technology & Digital Access:** Deliverables include tech outreach strategy and a digital access plan.
- **Employer and Small Business Engagement:** Engagement Strategy Plan.

For more information on what San Mateo County and the Complete Count Committee is doing, go to <https://cmo.smcgov.org/what-we-are-doing-prepare-census>.

Ann Kuchins

Legislative Interview with Senator Jerry Hill



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: Senator Hill is reluctant to add more legislation here as he isn't sure there is really a problem to address in each city. There seems to be a lack of trust in the local redistricting process, but he doesn't sense a need today for legislation. Senator Hill supports the idea in principle. An example of Daly City was given, where there were no Asian council members, even though Asians are a majority in that city. After district elections were started, there are now Asian council members. Senator Hill responded with a look at San Mateo County Supervisors, who now must reside in their districts, but are more often looking only to issues in their district rather than looking at issues countywide. Each locale should look at district elections when a concern is raised.

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?

Answer: Senator Hill stated that his first priority is to ensure that San Mateo County has the water it needs. The Water Board sets the allocation of resources and we (SMC) get our water from San Francisco, whose views differ from the State Board. One issue is the length of drought planning, whether for 5 or for 8 years, but we cannot be assured a drought will last only that long. Senator Hill stated that he views our water needs first and the environmental issues second, that there needs to be a balance. As for diverting water to Southern California, the conveyance doesn't matter so much when any method may harm the Bay eco system, the Bay is what's more important. So how do we manage this, find a balance? The proposal to cut San Francisco water supply (BAWSCA) should be put to a vote by all SFPUC voters. Any plan should be flexible with how much water is taken from the Tuolumne River.

Solution ideas include storage, capturing rain water, and water treatment reuse. The San Joaquin Valley is sinking, we could recharge ground water. There is a new bill to allow more uses of recycled water too. Senator Hill gave an example of San Jose which is bottling treated water to give away (it can't be sold). Agricultural water use needs to be held to higher standards, but not necessarily via legislation. Today 1 million people in CA can't drink the water from their tap, it's contaminated from nitrates in the soil (from Agricultural practices). Senator Hill considers it important to find funding to help small rural districts provide clean drinking water. Another solution might include draining treated waste water back in ground water storage, for further purification.

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: Senator Hill stated that while Governor Brown did not see early childhood education as a priority, he is happy that Governor Newsom does. Senator Hill supports Governor Newsom's initiative to add \$1 billion for education. Senator Hill is proposing a bill to change the requirement for successful passage of parcel taxes from 2/3

to 55% (SCA 5 Taxation: school districts: parcel tax). It has been shown that pre-school with day care help with the achievement gap. When asked about Universal Preschool, Senator Hill replied that he is in favor but doesn't know how it will be paid for. The question was raised if we could pay for this locally through local control funding. Senator Hill did not think that would work due to higher costs in SMC for pensions, healthcare, and other costs. Senator Hill explained that the excess property tax money generated the counties that pay for the trial courts, should be directed back into the county offices of education budgets to offset costs of unfunded/underfunded programs and services. There are currently 11 counties in the state where this is an issue. To make this right, Senator Hill will be working with the Governor's Office and he is drafting a letter that will be circulated to the legislators in the 11 counties, asking them to support his budget request to give those 11 county education offices the authority to retain and expend funds raised locally via property taxes beyond the current Local Control Funding target. This mechanism would need to be done through the state budget.

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

Answer: Senator Hill started with the question "what motivates Jerry Hill?" and his answer is simple: He gets mad! And then he looks for a way to fix the problem.

Here are some of the bills Senator Hill highlighted for us (see <https://sd13.senate.ca.gov/news/press-releases> for more details on these bills and others Senator Hill has recently introduced):

SB 38 Flavored tobacco products – Would ban retail sale of all flavored tobacco; see Dec. 4, 2018 news release, "State lawmakers introduce bill to ban sales of flavored tobacco e-cigarettes and all other flavored tobacco products to combat use by youths; also introduce bill to set stricter rules for age verification in sales of tobacco products online and by mail"

SB 220 Firearms dealers: storage and security – Requires gun stores to have stronger security measures to prevent theft; this follows on previous Hill legislation. See Feb. 7, 2019 news release, "Senator Hill introduces bills to end housing bias against veterans, increase police firearm and gun store security, and ensure students who rely on medical cannabis can take it to school."

SB 304 Criminal procedure: prosecuting jurisdiction in multi-jurisdictional elder-abuse cases - Allows district attorneys to consolidate elderly abuse and fraud cases that span multiple counties into a single prosecution; see Feb. 15, 2019 news release, "Senator Hill introduces bill to aid Das in prosecuting suspects in prosecuting suspects accused of victimizing the elderly in crime sprees that hop from county to county."

SB 360 Mandated reporters: clergy - Requires clergy to report suspected child abuse or neglect, even if they acquired the knowledge or suspicion during a penitential communication. See Feb. 20, 2019 news release: "New bill by Senator Hill requires clergy to report child abuse and neglect under any circumstances."

SB 425 Health care practitioners: licensee's file: probationary physician's and surgeon's certificate: unprofessional conduct - Gives hospitals, clinics and other health facilities 15 days from the time they receive an allegation of patient sexual abuse or sexual misconduct involving medical professionals who work on their premises to report the allegation to the appropriate state licensing board. See Feb. 21, 2019 news release, "Senator Jerry Hill introduces bill requiring hospitals and clinics to report allegations of sexual abuse involving doctors to licensing authorities within 15 days."

SB 549 Public Utilities Commission: rates: capital structure changes - Prohibits the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) from approving changes in rates of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) without Legislative authorization. See Feb. 22, 2019 news release, "Senator Hill introduces legislation to protect PG&E ratepayers."

Susie Raye

A successful census depends on many people performing a variety of tasks. Please pass this information on census jobs to whoever might be interested!

JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS TEAM Jobs Available in San Mateo County



WHEN: Saturday, April 20th from 9am – 1pm

WHERE: San Mateo Adult School, 789 E. Poplar Avenue, in San Mateo
WHAT: Meet US Census Bureau representatives & get help with application

One application qualifies you for any of the following positions:

Position	Pay Rate
Office Clerk	\$24.00 per hour
Office Operations Supervisor	\$31.00 per hour
Census Field Supervisor	\$33.00 per hour
Enumerator (Census Takers)	\$30.00 per hour
Recruiting Assistant	\$33.00 per hour

Basic Requirements:

- U.S. Citizen & be 18 years of age or older
- Valid Social Security number
- Valid email address
- Must apply online and answer assessment questions
- Pass a Census-performed criminal background check, including fingerprinting
- Registered for Selective Service if applicable - males only (www.sss.gov)

- ✓ Great Pay
- ✓ Flexible Hours
- ✓ Paid Training
- ✓ Weekly Pay
- ✓ Temp Positions

Scan here to reserve a spot or see more information



For more information or help applying, please call
1-855-JOB-2020 (1-855-562-2020)

APPLY ONLINE! 2020census.gov/jobs
 Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII www.gas.gov/fedrelay

Legislative Interview Team with Senator Jerry Hill.



April Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday April 1	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday April 2	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Book To Action Meeting, Book 3 Open to the public	Burlingame Public Library 480 Primrose Rd. Burlingame CA 94010
Wednesday April 10	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Brown Bag Lunch with the League White Privilege	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday April 16	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.	Film: <i>Answering the Call</i> John Witeck, who answered the call to march in Selma, returns to Alabama to explore voting rights and voter suppression today.	Burlingame Public Library Lane Community Room 480 Primrose Rd. Burlingame CA 94010
Wednesday April 17	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	Meet the co-creators of <i>March</i> : Co-author Andrew Aydin and artist Nate Powell	Fox Theatre 2215 Broadway, Redwood City 94063

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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