



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.

June 2019

League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County

Annual Meeting

Saturday June 8

9:30 a.m. - noon

Congregational Church of Belmont

751 Alameda de las Pulgas

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast \$15.00
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Speaker: Rose Jacobs Gibson
11:00 – 11:10 a.m.	Break
11:00 – noon	LWVNCSMC Business Meeting

The Annual Meeting is the only business meeting for the general membership during the year. Your participation is important as we set the direction of the League during the next twelve months. All members of the League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County in good standing are delegates. Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend, although they may not vote.

At this meeting the membership will approve a budget, county and local programs, county issues for emphasis, and elect new board members to carry out these mandates.

Please bring your Annual Meeting kit that was mailed to all members in early May. For more information, go to <https://my.lwv.org/california/north-central-san-mateo-county/annual-meeting>.



Speaker of the day Rose Jacobs Gibson will talk on civic engagement and leadership development based on her experiences in local government and as CEO of Hagar Services Coalition. Ms. Jacobs Gibson co-founded Hagar Services Coalition in 1994 with Vivian Gibbons. The coalition evolved with the times and today the focus is on creating a nurturing environment where new leaders can find their voice and create positive changes and solutions for their communities.

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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



At the Annual Meeting on June 8, **Marta Bookbinder** will be elected as the new president of the League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo. She will bring enthusiasm, energy, and a wealth of knowledge from her work in a variety of positions related to civic engagement. Our membership continues to grow and we are always looking for new ways to get involved in our community to make democracy work. The 2019-2020 board will need support and ideas from all members as we have some significant events coming up.

One of the most important dates to look forward to is February 14, 2020, the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. We need to find a way to celebrate this amazing accomplishment. What other grassroots organization has been around this long and still makes a significant impact on our nation at the local, state, and national level?

Then there is California's early primary on March 3. **Margie Gater** and **Kathy Wheeler**, a dynamic duo, will be Voter Service co-directors. You will be hearing from them about training for candidate forums and Pros & Cons. **Joyce Delyani** has already begun voter registration training. The more people we have, the more people we can reach. **Kathee Tyson** will be coordinating our Voter's Edge website, which I suspect is probably the League's most valuable tool.

I will remain on the board with a focus on Census 2020 and external relations. I think that it is key that we continue reaching out to other groups if we want to broaden our membership to become a more diverse and vibrant organization. We need to go where the people are and not expect them to come to us. The Voter's Act Coalition was a good start in working with other groups and working with the Complete Count Committee for Census 2020 is another opportunity. Already a few of us participated in the Complete Count Committee's special workgroups and plan to continue over the summer as we define our role in the census. I hope to expand on what I learned from these experiences.

Thanks to **Susie Raye**, we are working with the Girl Scouts on the Voter Girl project, which we hope will continue in future years. With this project, we are engaging with a younger generation and their parents who we hope will be inspired to continue civic engagement throughout their lifetimes.

With voter registration drives, we are attempting to target different communities. It would be ideal if we could enlist the support of community members in helping us staff the voter registration tables because they know their community. You can help us by connecting us with different groups.

I am very proud of our partnership with the Burlingame Public Library on their Book-to-Action project. Librarian **Elaine Tai** selected Congressman John Lewis' graphic novel *March* on his experiences with the civil rights movement and organized events related to this topic and a workshop on getting involved and taking action. As a discussion leader, Elaine provided participants with the opportunity to talk about civil rights and race from a personal and intellectual viewpoint. I would like to commend Elaine on her excellent leadership, commitment, and zeal in bringing this project to fruition. She made it happen.

See you at Annual Meeting!

Let your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more! — Unknown

Ann Kuchins, President

Board Highlights

At the May Board meeting, our board

- ◆ Heard the President's Report from the LWV Bay Area Convention which gave many suggestions for candidate forums, voter registration, and Pros and Cons events
- ◆ Decided to design and print our own brochure promoting our League
- ◆ Approved the recommended county issues for emphasis from County League Day
- ◆ Approved a Call to Action regarding the Community College District's proposal to modify their policy for Board Meeting minutes. The Observer Corps will write the letter.
- ◆ Reviewed legislative measures SB139 and AB849 on Local and County Redistricting. The LWVC co-sponsors both measures.

Lifetime Membership Achievement

We are proud to celebrate three members who have earned the League of Women Voters' Lifetime Achievement Award: **Judy Bloom, Carolyn Crow, and Jan Elliott**. These women join a very special group – those with 50 years or more of membership in the League of Women Voters. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them for their dedication and support.

Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director



Voter Registration Report



On Saturday May 11, the League held a training session for voter registration volunteers. **Joyce Delyani** led the training, covering the basics of registering and preregistering voters in San Mateo County. She also prepared volunteers for the typical questions they might receive when tabling at registration events. (Do voters need to reregister if they've moved? Yes, and they also need to reregister if they've changed their name. Can "no party preference" voters vote in the presidential primary? Not unless they reregister in the party of their choice, or the party of their choice consents to "opening" their primaries.)

Members **Susie Raye, Sandra Shapiro, Frances Luster, Arlene Kace, and Patricia Fuetsch** participated in this lively (and fun!) discussion of all things registration-related. Members who want to attend a future voter registration training, or who have suggestions for events or locations that might be suitable for a voter registration table, should contact Joyce Delyani at lwvncsmc@sbcglobal.net. With a dedicated and knowledgeable core of VR volunteers, our League will be ready for a big push to register voters ahead of the March 3, 2020 California primary.

Joyce Delyani

Welcome to Our New Members!

David Bookbinder
Cynthia Chaddick

Action Report

A federal district court in Ohio ruled in favor of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, invalidating the 2011 redistricting maps. Another federal district court ruled in favor of LWV Michigan by invalidating the congressional and state legislative plans in Michigan. Both cases were attempts to disenfranchise voters, but so far the League is winning in court 5:1. In June, the Supreme Court will deliver a verdict on another gerrymandering case, *League of Women Voters of North Carolina v. Rucho*.

This month the LWV Tennessee filed litigation in federal district court to challenge the new 3rd party registration law that imposes substantial penalties on groups like the LWV that foster political participation through voter registration drives. The League is joined by several co-plaintiffs including American Muslim Advisory Council, Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, Rock the Vote, and Spread the Vote.

All is not gloom. Lawmakers in Colorado passed legislation expanding automatic voter registration in the state. The new bill would expand ways to automatically register Colorado residents to vote and would implement an opt-out process for those who do not wish to be included.

And the League is adding new materials to a census action kit. Expect to hear more on the census after the state convention. Getting every resident counted is very important to the League and to every citizen.

Diana Stephens, Action Director

Membership Renewal Reminder

Gentle reminder, if your League of Women Voters' annual membership expires on July 1, and you haven't renewed your membership, please do. In this time of heightened partisanship, gridlock between policy makers, and increased frustration among the public, there has never been a more urgent need for the reasoned, factual, and civil voice that the League of Women Voters brings to our community. As a member, you are a crucial part of our nonpartisan, hands-on work to safeguard democracy and create lasting change. The League is very grateful for your membership. We have much to be proud of, but there is still much work to do. It is not possible without your commitment to membership in the League and your support.

Thank you,
Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director



Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to our generous donors in response to our fundraising letter. We could not do what we do without your support!

Observer Corps Report

The Observer Corps has been busy advancing its 2019 goal, to examine and report on local bond measures – what was promised to voters v. how the bond money was spent.

To that end, the Corps has examined and refined its Vision and Mission Statements, agreed on the details of its 2019 Action Plan and correspondence template, and is in the process of developing its Bond Oversight Committee Observation/Evaluation Form.

Our Vision and Mission Statements are:

Vision: Strengthen public trust and confidence, as well as increased participation in government

Mission: Promote accountability, transparency, and genuine access to government that values and works to strengthen the public's trust and confidence, as well as their participation in government

Upon approval of the League board, the Observer Corps will publish its Action Plan, including the identity and timeline of the first Bond Oversight Committee review.

If this work interests you, please feel free to contact any member of the Observer Corps or leave a message on the League's office phone, 650-342-5853.

The Observer Corps members: **Marie Baldisseri, Marta Bookbinder, Nicole Niederer, Diana Stephens, Kathy Wheeler**



Marie Baldisseri



Voter Girl Project Needs You!

We will need many volunteers on Saturday, October 5, 2019 for our first Voter Girl event– would you like to help? This is a one-day event where League members will lead classroom activities for 200 Girl Scouts to earn their Civic Engagement badges.

We will hold classroom training sessions this summer to review curriculum and plan the activities in each class. The Voter Girl team meets regularly with Girl Scout leaders to plan this event. (Contact Susie Raye for meeting dates.)

We are looking for volunteers to be:

Classroom Leaders – we need 10 people to lead the activities for each Girl Scout level:

Daisies: Grades K- 1	1 class (morning)
Brownies: Grades 2-3	2 classes (1 morning, 1 afternoon)
Juniors: Grades 4-5	4 classes (2 morning, 2 afternoon)
Cadettes: Grades 6-8	1 class (morning)
Seniors: Grades 9-10	1 class (morning)
Ambassadors: Grades 11-12	1 class (morning)

Classroom Assistants – we need 22 people to assist in the classrooms, including 1 Girl Scout leader in each classroom.

In addition, we are looking for volunteers to staff:

- 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 Susie Raye if you are interested in helping: [email](#) to the League office.

Supplies for Voter Girl Project

Each of the Voter Girl classrooms needs supplies for their activities and we are looking for donations, loans, and recycled goods.

Donate: pencils, crayons, washable markers, glue sticks, sticky notes (Post-it)

Loan: rulers, staplers, scissors (small sizes)

Recycle: brown paper grocery bags, paper towel rolls or wrapping paper rolls

**Donations
welcome at our
Annual Meeting!**

Email Notifications

Thank you to the members who responded promptly to dues renewal notices. The survey asked how you prefer to have your *Voter* delivered, by hard copy or by email. If you chose email but have previously unsubscribed to 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. You may also receive emails from the LWVUS and the LWVC and can unsubscribe separately from these if you choose.

If you want to continue receiving the Voter or other messages from our League but have previously unsubscribed, please let me know. Send an [email to the League office](#), leave a message on the League phone, 650-342-5853, or use my contact information in the Member Handbook. You will receive an email from Constant Contact asking you to confirm that you want to re-subscribe.

Jackie Jacobberger, Treasurer

Wanted

We would love to have your old laptop for voter registration and for the census!

Contact us at 650-342-5853 or lwvnscmc@sbcglobal.net

June Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday June 3	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting All members welcome	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday June 8	9:30 a.m. - Noon	Annual Meeting	Congregational Church of Belmont 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont 94002

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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