



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 2017



Celebrate the Holidays with the League!

Holiday Potluck Dinner & Program Planning Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

6:00-8:00 PM

Condo Clubhouse (near pool)

845 Woodside Way, San Mateo, CA 94401

Program Planning Discussion Leader: Marie Baldisseri

LWVC Management Training Advisor, Past President LWVNCSCMC

Join us for a glass of wine and a potluck dinner to celebrate the Holidays with your fellow League Members!

Potluck: Please bring a dish to share

After dinner, Marie will lead a discussion of what we would like to see on the League's agenda during the next two years. This is your annual opportunity to choose the issues on which you believe the LWVUS and our local League should focus our time, talent, money, and reputation.

The program planning process is an opportunity to think strategically about the work of the League on the national level. We should consider where the need is greatest, where we will be most effective, and what activities best serve our mission. We should consider the indirect impact of these choices, particularly on membership recruitment and retention, fundraising, and our reputation--all of which are crucial to the future of LWVUS as well as our local League.

Please prepare for this meeting by reading the outline of our League's county and local positions found in your Handbook and the LWVUS Impact on Issues 2017-2018 Positions in Brief on the National League website at <http://lww.org/content/impact-issues>.

Please contact Susie Raye, Program Director, for more information: program@lwnvncsmc.org or leave a message at 650-342-5853 (League office).

Directions: (1 block west of the LWV office)

Hwy 101 South – exit at Poplar Ave, turn right at Delaware, turn left at Peninsula Ave, turn left at Woodside Way (just before the railroad tracks), 845 Woodside Way is on the right and the Clubhouse is near the Pool.

Hwy 101 North – exit at Peninsula Ave, turn left at Woodside Way (just before the railroad tracks), 845 Woodside Way is on the right and the Clubhouse is near the Pool.



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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



We are now in the midst of the holiday season and even though we are all swamped with festivities, shopping, cooking, eating, and other things, I hope that many of you will join us at the pot luck dinner on December 5. The first League meeting that I attended was a program planning meeting and I remember leaving in a very excited state of mind after discussing a wide range of issues with some very bright, articulate people.

I would like to welcome **Jackie Jacobberger** to our Board of Directors. Jackie is no stranger to the Board as she has served about five terms as Board president since 1973 for North San Mateo County and for North and Central San Mateo County in addition to serving as president of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC). It's hard to keep track of everything that Jackie does for our League because she does so much. Currently, she is our office manager, creates all our digital correspondence that you receive, organizes the revenue-enhancing election balloting we do for homeowners' associations, oversees the bylaws at the local and state level, and so much more. Not only is she this League's rock, she is a rock star.

In early November, the Voter's Choice Act committee had its first meeting. The committee includes **Joyce Delyani, Pedro Gonzalez, Gayle Hardt, Susie Raye, Pat Smith**, and me. Our first objective is to create a working relationship with the San Mateo County Elections Office. We will also form partnerships with different community groups with whom we can work to ensure the successful implementation of the Voter's Choice Act. We will continue to work with Dora Rose from the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) who conducted our September meeting on the VCA along with Jonathon Stein and Fred Nisen. If you are interested in working on this committee, contact me at president@lwvnscmc.org or just come to our next meeting on Saturday, December 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the League office.

Last summer, **Shirley Des Marais**, president of LWV South County, sent me an email suggesting that we work together on a program. We got together with our program directors **Susie Raye** and **Suzanne Fouchet** and started planning. Our headquarters was Applebee's in Redwood City. When the San Mateo Public Library agreed to sponsor our event, we were off and running.

Our November meeting on *San Mateo County Perspectives on Immigration* was a great success. Our speakers were articulate and knowledgeable and together provided a range of perspectives for a solid grasp of what is happening in San Mateo County. They were Sheriff Carlos Bolanos, Marco Chaves representing the school district, Kayla Ladd from the International Rescue Committee, Aracelli Martínez-Olguíns an immigrant rights attorney, and Reverend Dr. Penny Nixon of the San Mateo Congregational Church. With all the controversy on the national level, it's sometimes hard to know what is happening in our own back yard. But what is also significant is that we had a turnout of almost 75 people, mostly members of the public, who cared enough to come to this forum on the Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving. I felt that for two hours we created a community of people who shared an interest in learning more about their community and perhaps taking some action to improve our community in a way that brings us closer together.

I would like to thank **Jean Johnson, Diana Stephens, Shirley Roberson, and Betty Fleming** for volunteering to work as ushers, sorter, and greeter for our League at the immigration meeting. But the real star of the day, next to the speakers, was our moderator **Margie Gater**. Margie has moderated several candidate forums, but this was a little different. Most of the questions went to one speaker, but Margie made sure that all the speakers had the opportunity to comment on any of the questions and that she selected questions that gave each speaker sufficient microphone time. Her professionalism, coupled with humor was a credit to us all.

Our condolences to Kathee Tyson whose husband, Ben Tyson, died November 7, 2017. He leaves behind a strong family united in love, faith, and humor as he will be remembered by his jokes, the good, the bad, and the corny, as well as for his love and loyalty.

At this writing, it is a few days before Thanksgiving, our national day of gratitude. I leave you with a quote by Henri Nouwen:

Gratitude flows from the recognition that who we are and what we have are gifts to be received and shared.

Ann Kuchins, President

Board Highlights

At the November board meeting:

- Approved the appointment of Jackie Jacobberger to the board
- Learned that we received a letter from Supervisor Dave Pine thanking the League for our article on Peninsula Clean Energy
- Heard that we participated in voter registration at the Abilities Expo
- Discussed having a workshop on The Focused Discussion Method
- Learned that we will have a booth at Seniors On the Move November 17th

Jean Johnson, Secretary



In the Spotlight

Sarah Funes, UC Berkeley student and LWVNCSMC member, organized a UC Berkeley Vote Everywhere voter registration event at the Abilities Expo at the San Mateo Event Center that ran from October 27- 29. Sarah partnered with the San Mateo County Elections office and reached out to the League for support.



Why Program Planning?

Program is the League's "reason for being," the basis for both education and action efforts. League program consists of those governmental issues League members choose for study and action. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken, as well as issues for study that could lead to a position and to possible action.

The League program process begins with selection and adoption, continues with study and discussion, and culminates in action and change. It involves members of the League and members of the community, and it cuts across government and League levels both horizontally and vertically. Local Leagues work simultaneously on local, state, national and regional program issues. Issues reflect community concerns and range from local park facilities to international trade, from child care to offshore drilling, from air pollution to arms control, from mental health to agriculture policy. Name it and the League, somewhere, is involved!

As a grassroots organization, the League of Women Voters uses the local program planning process to convey priorities for education and action to all levels of the League. Program planning originates with its members. Some ideas spring from the interests of individual members. Some grow out of previous League work. Still others come from a review of a League's community survey or from interviews with key leaders.

Once members have been motivated to think about the widest possible range of choices, Leagues collect the ideas and winnow them down before referring their program recommendation to the board. The board decides what to recommend to the annual meeting or convention as proposed program.

A local League's program is determined by members at its annual meeting; state and national programs are voted on by delegates at state and national League conventions. In the course of the program adoption discussion, members often direct the board on scope of inquiry, timing, emphasis, and ways to handle the study and/or action. The board takes this into account in planning for the year.

Our job at our December 5 program planning meeting is to put our heads together and determine priorities to move the League's agenda forward into the future. You will be asked to submit your suggestions for education, study and advocacy at the National, County, Regional and Local levels. The LWVUS has suggested Leagues continue the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® (adopted at the LWVUS 2016-2018 Convention) as their primary area of education and advocacy from 2018-2020. The LWVUS feels the Campaign still has much to do. Those areas include:

- Expanding voter access which includes expanding early voting and automatic and online voter registration
- Redistricting where apportionment should be based primarily on population and opposing partisan and racial gerrymandering
- Money in politics to put the focus back on individual voters and not big money by limiting SuperPACs and promoting more transparency on who is making donations
- Fighting voter suppression by challenging efforts and tactics that limit an individual's right to vote

Please plan on attending this year's program planning session. Our strength comes from our members. We need to hear your voice!

Marie Baldisseri, Membership Director and Ann Kuchins

Civil Discourse Training



The League's interest in civil discourse began shortly after the shooting of U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords in 2011 at a constituent meeting in Tuscon. The LWV of North County San Diego took up the mantle and proposed civil discourse/civics education for the LWV California's 2011-2012 program. The LWV North County San Diego launched a study and at the LWVC convention in 2015, conducted a *Democracy in Dialogue* workshop.

Civil discourse is defined by the LWV North County San Diego as follows:

A dialogue in which all participants have a right to speak and to be heard. Such dialogue is characterized by: Respectful participation, equally sharing the time available, attentive listening, and balanced discussion.

At our October meeting, Marieann Shovlin, LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale, facilitated a *Bridging the Divide* workshop. Marieann cited deliberative civic engagement as a core concept. Deliberation is defined as follows:

...the thoughtful and reasoned consideration of information, views, experiences, and ideas among a group of individuals, where people carefully examine a problem and arrive at a well-reasoned solution after a period of inclusive, respectful consideration of diverse points of view.

The following success factors provide the foundation for successful deliberations:

 Success Factors	Influence	The process should influence policy and decision-making, though in the beginning the scope may be information sharing for understanding.
	Inclusion	The process should represent the population's diverse viewpoints and values, with an equal opportunity for all to participate.
	Open Exchange	The process should provide open dialogue, access to information, respect, space to understand and reframe issues, and movement toward consensus.

Facilitation Training Handbook, LWV North County San Diego, 2017

When Marieann completed her presentation, she divided us into groups so that we could work on a “wicked problem,” which was drug abuse. Wicked problems “inherently involve competing underlying values, paradoxes, and tradeoffs that can be informed, but cannot be resolved by science. Any proposed solution to a wicked problem tends to create new problems. Optimal solutions to wicked problems often require adaptive changes rather than simply technical ones. Addressing wicked problems necessitates effective collaboration and communication across multiple perspectives. “

We took turns playing each of the three roles: facilitator, notetaker, and participant. When we were done, we shared our solutions, which were quite diverse. The consensus was that this was a good training exercise but we needed a topic that required more controversy. Most of us were on the same page when it came to drug abuse.

Focused Discussion Group Workshop



There will be a follow-up to our civil discourse training. LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale will provide training on the Focused Discussion Method, a Technology of Participation tool for participative gatherings. This method is designed to facilitate group discussions that result in clear and well-thought out conclusions. This workshop will be provided in a small group setting on Saturday, January 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the League office. There will be more information in the January *Voter*. All members welcome. You might find this training useful in your day-to-day work experiences.

Ann Kuchins

Check out the newly designed LWVUS website at
<https://www.lwv.org/>

December Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday Dec. 4	7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Members are always welcome to attend	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Tuesday Dec. 5	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Program Planning Meeting and Holiday Potluck Dinner	Condo Clubhouse (near pool) 845 Woodside Way, San Mateo, CA 94401
Saturday Dec. 9	10:30 a.m. - Noon	Voters Choice Act Committee Meeting	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401

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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