



VOTER

Winter 2020 Volume 62 Number 1
League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County

Message from your Co-Presidents



Cindy Marie Absey and Ann Havlik

Forever Voters Issues Call to Action

Julie Rodewald

Many of you were at our Annual Meeting where filmmaker Sky Bergman previewed the trailer for *Forever Voters*, a short documentary about the League's High School Voter Registration efforts and the students and teachers affected by our efforts. It is really inspiring to hear the students talk about what issues are important to them and why everyone needs to vote.

[Cont. "Forever," p. 4](#)

The New Year is always a time of reflection about the past coupled with creating a vision for the coming new year. The LWV Float's theme in the 2020 Tournament of Roses Parade "Years of Hope, Years of Courage" describes this perfectly. While we can all take pride in the formation and achievements of the League of Women Voters this past 100 years, we must keep up our work in promoting Voters' rights along with providing the education and information about candidates and issues that arise in our elections. Our local League Centennial Committee is organizing a number of events for 2020 to celebrate the 100th year of the passage of the 19th Amendment and the es-

tablishment of the League of Women Voters. We hope that you can join us.

2020 is also an election year and always a busy time for us. We begin the election cycle with California's first primary on March 3. Our dynamic Voter Service Team is organizing pros and cons forums, candidate forums, work at the polls, voter registration, and maintaining our online election information platform Voter's Edge. Volunteers are always welcome to participate.

At the LWVC convention last spring members voted to contin-

[Cont. "Co-Presidents," p. 4](#)

Inside This Issue

- [Message from Co-Presidents](#)1
- [Forever Voters](#)1
- [Voter Services](#)2
- [Climate Change](#)2
- [100th Celebration](#)3
- [Climate Change Forum](#)5
- [Program Planning](#)6
- [Thank You!](#)7
- [Giving Tuesday](#)8
- [Rose Parade](#)8
- [Calendar](#)9
- [Concierge Service](#)10
- [National Education Fund](#)10
- [Board of Directors](#)11
- [League Application](#)11

Voter Services Ramps Up for 2020 Election Season

Julie Rodewald

As I write this recap of Voter Services activities, the March 3rd Primary election is just a little over 30 days away. This is definitely a frenzied time for elections office staff and candidates as the reality of so little time sets in so soon after the holiday season. It has also been a busy time for our voter services subcommittees as they have been preparing for what the next two months will bring. 2020 presents many opportunities for our members to be involved in voter services and put the October training to good use.

ADOPT-A-POLL- LWV of SLO County is once again committing to staffing 2-3 polling places for the March 3rd election. This is not only a great fund raiser for the League as the county pays a minimum of \$52 per precinct, but it also provides our members an op-

portunity to be involved in this most important part of our democracy. It is so rewarding to see the smiles on the faces of first-time voters and receive the heartfelt thanks from voters as they cast their ballots on Election Day. Our League typically staffs a polling place in Morro Bay, with **Patti Dale** as inspector, and two in San Luis Obispo, with **Marilee Hyman** and **Julie Rodewald** as inspectors. While the inspectors must work all day, there are many opportunities for working 6-8 hour shifts as well. Don't worry if you have never worked at a precinct before; training is provided. If you are interested in being part of the Election Day Team, contact Patti Dale at [pati-caake@gmail.com](mailto:paticaaake@gmail.com).

CANDIDATE FORUMS—Co-chairs **Marilee Hyman** and **Valerie Steenson** have been contacting the Latino Outreach Council, Chambers of Commerce, Cal Poly and Cuesta to schedule candidate forums for the three supervisorial, congressional, and assembly seats up for election in March. See the Events Calendar on page 9 and watch for new alerts and calls for volunteers. The League assisted Sunrise Terrace Homeowner's Association with their candidate forum on Monday, January 6th and a big thanks to all who have volunteered to help with this event.

[Cont. "Services," p. 4](#)

Talking to Family and Friends about Climate Change

Ray Weymann

Most of us are generally inclined to avoid contentious topics when we talk with our relatives and friends. Unfortunately, climate change often falls into this category. But if we discuss this topic by really listening to and respecting each other, my experience is that such conversations can be 'a teaching moment.' With this point of view, here are some suggestions about talking to your relatives and friends about a topic high up on the LWV agenda.

Each one of us carries a "world view" and set of values and tends to feel close to and loyal to that group which shares these values. So, the first step is to understand those values and the group the person you are talking to identifies with. I find it useful to consider three different groups: a) those who strongly doubt the scientific consensus about the reality and seriousness of human caused climate change and are suspicious any governmental action to deal with it; b) those who have heard about climate change, but are not well informed, or maybe misinformed about it; c) those who accept the scientific consensus and agree that action should be taken, but are not sure what to do.

For the *first* group (the 'dismissive'), I strongly urge watching this 8-minute video by climate scientist and excellent communicator Katharine Hayhoe: "*If I just explain the facts, they'll get it, right?*" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkMIjBtdo0> . Her main mes-

[Cont. "Climate," p. 7](#)

League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County

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Cindy Marie Absey

Membership: Patti Dale

Voter Editor: David Humphreys

The *VOTER* newsletter is published by the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County, a 501(c)3 organization.



SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020

11:30 A.M.

Embassy Suites Hotel, San Luis Obispo

LET'S CELEBRATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization founded to engage **all citizens** in the decisions that impact their lives through their right to vote.*



**JOIN US FOR LUNCH with
CAROLYN JEFFERSON-JENKINS**

Past President of LWVUS and Author
plus

Winners of the local students' essay contest

Local Girl Scout Troop Flag Ceremony

A Preview of Sky Bergman's documentary "Forever Voters"

featuring local high school students
and more. . .

For more information about this event and information about event tickets, please contact either Centennial Committee co-chair: Janice Carr at jicarr@charter.net or Juliane McAdam at juliane.mcadam@gmail.com. Invitations have been mailed to League members or reservations can be made online at Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/2ttpRZB>.



“Services,” from p. 2

PROS & CONS—With only one statewide ballot measure on the ballot for the March election, (Proposition 13, a statewide bond measure for school funding), it is a slow start to this important educational function. **Sharon Whitney**, the committee chair, is preparing information to be able to conduct pros and cons for those organizations requesting this assistance from the League.

VOTER’S EDGE—**Shelly Higginbotham**, committee chair, is working with the state League to populate San Luis Obispo County’s candidates and measures. As soon as this is accomplished, the Voter’s Edge team is ready to contact candidates to encourage their participation. If you personally know any candidates for office, urge them to participate in this free resource. Shelly is planning outreach to the media and voters at candidate forums to encourage the use of Voter’s Edge. We hope that all of our members will use <https://votersedge.org/ca> as you study the candidates and ballot propositions on the March election ballot.



VOTER REGISTRATION—In addition to the four high school visits held in January, the voter registration team presented a PowerPoint and registered voters at the Villages, a senior living residence, on January 3rd and participated with a voter registration booth at the Women’s March on January 18th.

“Climate,” from p. 2

sage: Don’t dwell on the science but talk about how it affects values that you and your friend mutually share. If we’re both parents, how is it affecting our children and their health—we all want clean water and air for our kids. So why not use as much wind and solar energy as possible now that they have become cost-competitive and will also create new jobs without a lot of outsourcing. Or, maybe you share a love of recreational activity—our forests, streams, bird and wildlife habitats are all being adversely affected. Are you both being affected by more flooding in your streets, more severe wildfires, heat waves or severe storms? If you are both concerned about rising insurance costs or national security explain how climate change is impacting insurance costs and what the military is saying about how climate change impacts national security by, for example, melting arctic sea ice and the challenges faced for control of these new sea lanes. And finally, if you are persons of religious faith, point out that all the great religions of the world share the concept of “stewardship of the earth.”

For the *second* group “the disengaged,” much the same approach is helpful. But you can augment this by explaining the basics of climate science. In a nutshell, it is simply this: By burning fossil fuels we’ve drastically changed the amount of heat-trapping gases in our atmosphere, mainly carbon dioxide. This basic idea has been understood for more than 100

Cont. “Climate,” p. 7

“Presidents,” from p. 1

ue to work on Voter’s Rights and Services and also on issues such as Climate Change, Housing and Homelessness and Criminal Justice reform. These are issues that we can take up on our local level. Our Program Planning meeting was held on January 25th when we discussed and decided what issues we as a Local League would like to work on and emphasize in San Luis Obispo County ([See the article on the meeting page 6](#)).

“Forever,” from p. 1

As part of the documentary there is a call to action for viewers to get involved and/or donate to the League’s efforts. Sky and her team have created a website where you can watch the trailer (in case you missed it), find information on how to get involved, how to donate to our efforts locally and nationally, and how to register to vote. Sky is hoping the film will be screened at film festivals around the country. Sign up for the Forever Voters newsletter at www.ForeverVoters.com to keep informed of upcoming screening dates.

"Among 18 - 25 year olds, voter turnout was only 36 percent in 2018."
- U.S Census Bureau

To view the trailer, click on the screen above and then scroll down and click on “Play Trailer.”





Central California Climate Change Forum

**Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara
Jefferson Hall**

1535 Santa Barbara St
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Saturday, Mar 28, 10:00a – 3:00p
Doors open at 9:30

- Meet League members from Central California
- Learn what other Leagues are doing
- Learn about state legislation
- Learn how you can collaborate

All are welcome!

Register at tinyurl.com/centralcaliforniaclimatforum



LWVC CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE



Program Planning Meeting – January 25, 2020

Vallerie Steenson

Twenty-one members and prospective members attended Program Planning for the 2020 – 2021 League program year on January 25 at the United Methodist Church in San Luis Obispo. 2nd Vice President and program organizer **Deb Humphreys** welcomed everyone. Co-President **Ann Havlik** explained the purpose of Program Planning – to set priorities for the year ahead, hear updates on ongoing projects, and identify national and state issues to follow. We reviewed the status of the Program adopted by the membership at last year’s Annual Meeting and planned what we want to do next Program Year, beginning in July 2020.

Voter Service Director **Julie Rodewald** reviewed the highlights of the 2019 – 2020 Program Year so far. The Program adopted at last year’s Annual Meeting emphasized Voter Service and Civil Discourse. Ms. Rodewald described voter registration, candidate forums, Voter’s Edge, and Adopt-a-Poll activities that we are currently engaged in. We held a successful Voter Service training last October and have been pleased that so many members have volunteered to work on the Voter Service activities. Ms. Humphreys reported on Civil Discourse and the Democracy Concierge Service at SLO City Council meetings. There is a need for more volunteers at these meetings.

We discussed the League’s non-partisanship position. **Eric Greening** raised a question about working a Candidates Forum if you have endorsed or donated to a candidate. Ms. Rodewald explained

that we have to protect the League’s reputation and public face from perceptions of bias. Someone who has endorsed or donated to a candidate should not work a forum in which that candidate is participating. **Marilee Hyman** explained an issue with regard to the Brown Act that we are facing with a forum scheduled for February 11. The sponsor, NAACP San Luis Obispo County, has invited all six incumbents and challengers to participate. We are investigating with the County Attorney’s Office how this should be handled. **Sharon Whitney**, Chair of the Rules Committee, reported that her committee is reviewing and proposing changes to our current nonpartisanship policy to update it and make it clearer.

Co-President **Cindy-Maire Absey** reported that the LWVC Climate Change Task Force has encouraged us to ask LWVUS to add “Climate Emergency” to the proposed National Program focus for 2020 – 2021. The current LWVUS focus is the Campaign for Making Democracy Work. As part of the planning process, local Leagues are asked to make recommendations to LWVUS. Mr. Greening noted the possible unintended consequences of calling the climate situation an “emergency.” Such a designation may invite government interventions that weaken environmental standards, restrict individual decision-making, and might even suspend civil liberties. Ms. Absey requested that we discuss this today as part of our Program Planning. She also encouraged

everyone to attend the Central California Climate Change Forum organized by the state task force on March 28 in Santa Barbara. We will arrange for car-pooling down to the event.

Ms. Humphreys introduced the Café Dialogue format used for the meeting to generate a proposed Program which will be presented to the Board for their approval. The Board recommended Program will then go to the membership for adoption at the Annual Meeting on May 30. She explained the process and introduced the table hosts: **Patti Dale, Richard Moore, Nancy Welts, and Sharon Whitney.** **Carol Courcy** served as a back-up facilitator. The emphasis of our discussion was on local issues, the issues that we care about personally and that we would like to see our League involved in locally. We focused on the question: **Recognizing our commitment to support current State and National League Programs related to Healthcare Reform, Voting Rights, Election Support, the Environment, the Census, and Immigration Reform, what other critical local issues make sense for us to address?**

We broke into small groups for three rounds of dialogue on each question, facilitated by the table hosts. We summarized the results of our discussions on flip charts

[Cont. “Planning,” p. 7](#)





Our sincere thanks to these generous members and friends of our League. You make it possible for us to do what we do. Thank you!

Jennifer Alton, Alton & Allen, Inc.

Anonymous

Valerie Barboza

Sue Boritz

Virginia de Laval

Estero Bay Newcomers Club

Patt Fuller

Patricia Golden

Sallie and Craig Harlan

Deb Humphreys

Marilee & Tony Hyman

Elinor Kogan

Peggy Meniece

Melissa & Remzi Mertogul

Pamela Nichter in honor of

Wilda Rosene

Judith Resnick

Marta Peluso

Cay Pooley, Mosaic Business Services

San Luis Coastal Unified School District

San Luis Obispo Guild Hall

Kenneth E. Schwartz Family Trust

Glenn Silloway & Marlys

McPherson

Adele Stern

Patricia Stevens

This wonderful support from such dedicated members is greatly appreciated.

“Climate,” from p. 2

years and about 29 of 30 climate scientists agree.

For the *third* group, “the engaged and concerned,” encourage them to become even better informed, and to participate in organizations such as the Citizens Climate Lobby. This group has initiated a bipartisan effort in Congress to promote policies, such as a revenue-neutral carbon tax, in order to encourage switching to renewable energy. Additionally, you can explore the LWVC Climate Change Task Force to obtain resources and advocacy tips.



Most important and for all groups, emphasize that we already have the ability to solve the problem of climate change, both individually and collectively. As individuals we can insulate our homes more effectively, walk more and drive less, buy low emission cars and install solar panels where possible. Collectively we can generate low emission power and switch to, more public transportation and low emission vehicles which result in clean air and water and provides good paying jobs. And, preserve the only planet we have. A win-win situation for all of us.

“Planning,” from p. 6

and a spokesperson from each table reported on the results of the discussion at their table.

Issues and Actions that emerged from our discussions:

We agreed by consensus that we need to modernize our outreach and engagement with members and the community at large. We agreed to propose to the Board that we establish a Modernizing Outreach & Engagement Committee which will introduce **new** (to us) methods of communicating, increase League exposure to voters 18 – 44 years of age and other politically ignored voters, give us greater access to north county members and voters, and make participation in League activities easier. The Board will act on this immediately. It is a process and will not be part of the Program for 2020 – 2012 as such.

We agreed by consensus that the request from LWVC Climate Change Task Force to add “Climate Emergency” to the LWVUS program will be handled by the Board. It will not be in-

Cont. “Planning,” p. 8



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Facebook!**

**Check us out at
LWVSLO at**

www.facebook.com



Giving Tuesday Holiday Spree

Julie Rodewald

HumanKind, a fair-trade store, opened its doors to the League on Tuesday December 3 for members to gather and shop with 20- 25% of the night’s sales going directly to the League. Refreshments were provided by **Ann Havlik, Julie Rodewald, and Susan Devine.** Over 30 members gathered, along with their family and friends, and the League received \$766 from the shopping frenzy.

The League is thankful to HumanKind and its Board of Directors for offering this opportunity to local non-profits and hope our members will continue to support the non-profit store throughout the year. A great start on holiday shopping and our fundraising efforts!

Rose Parade Float Honors Women’s Suffrage



Based on the theme “Years of Hope, Years of Courage,” the float celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment won the trophy for best presentation of the Rose Pa-

“Planning,” from p. 7

cluded in our local Program for 2020 – 2021.

We agreed to maintain all current local positions. No new studies were recommended.

To support the broader issues of combating climate change, protecting the environment, advancing economic justice, and making democracy work, the local issues we want to focus on are:

Land use issues, including the decommissioning of Diablo Canyon, the Cal Poly Master Plan, approval for quarries in the county, use of the Oceano Dunes for vehicular recreation, concerns with CEQA and the permitting process.

Water issues, including local conservation efforts, water quality, and county ground water policy.

Homelessness, including defining homelessness, increasing awareness of the nature of homelessness, projects to support safety, sanitation, and mental health services for the homeless population.

Renewed and strengthened civil discourse activities to ensure the safety and protection from harassment of elected officials, candi-

dates, and others participating in public life.

rade theme. The float included 18 descendants of the original suffragettes or others who have worked for civil rights and 100 out walkers dressed in period costume.

The float was built by the National Women’s History Alli-

Continued emphasis on voter outreach, education, and motivation.

We will support these issues through public education efforts, advocacy for particular programs or projects, and cooperation with other organizations and groups that are also committed to these issues.

Janice Carr, Co-Chair of the Centennial Celebrations Committee, presented an update on activities for the 2020 anniversary celebrations. She noted that the yellow & purple suffragist sashes are available for a recommended donation of \$8.00 and vintage signs stating “A woman living here is registered to vote” for a recommended donation of \$5.00.

Ms. Humphreys and Board Secretary Vallerie Steenson will consolidate the results of the discussion and present them to the Board for approval. A proposed program for 2020 – 2021 will be included in the Annual Meeting packet to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 30, 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

ance. “[The National Women’s History Alliance](#) formerly, the National Women’s History Project, is a leader in promoting Women’s History and is committed to the goals of education, empowerment, equality, and inclusion.”



LWV SLOCO—Events Calendar		
February 2020		
February 6—6:00 TO 8:00 PM	Centennial Celebrations Presentation	Progressive Women’s Club, 1645 Trilogy Pkwy. Nipomo julianne.mcadam@gmail.com
February 7—1:30 TO 4:00 PM	Board Meeting	550 Dana St. SLO info@lwvslo.org
February 11—6:30-8:30 PM	Candidates Forum, 1st, 3rd, & 5th Supervisory District candidates	Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 2201 Lawton Ave, SLO marileehyman@gmail.com
February 12—8:00-9:30 AM	Voter Registration	Templeton High School, 1200 Main St., Templeton voterregistration@lwvslo.org
February 18—5:30 TO 7:00 PM	Democracy Concierge Services	SLO City Hall deborahumphreys@hotmail.com
February 19—5:30-7:30 PM	Candidates Forum, 1st & 5th District candidates	Paso Robles Unified School District Board Room, 800 Niblick Rd. Paso Robles marileehyman@gmail.com
February 22—11:30 AM	Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters	Embassy Suites, 333 Madonna Rd. SLO jl carr@charter.net
March 2020		
March 3	Primary Election	Adopt-a-Poll sites in SLO & Morro Bay voterregistration@lwvslo.org
March 3	Democracy Concierge Services	SLO City Hall deborahumphreys@hotmail.com
March 6—1:30-4:00 PM	Board Meeting	550 Dana St. SLO info@lwvslo.org
March 17—5:30-7:00 PM	Democracy Concierge Services	SLO City Hall deborahumphreys@hotmail.com
March 28—10:00-3:00 PM	LWVC Climate Change Task Force Forum,	Santa Barbara Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St. Santa Barbara Cindy Marie Absey president@lwvslo.org
April 2020		
April 3—1:30-4:00 PM	Board Meeting	550 Dana St. SLO info@lwvslo.org
April 7—5:30-7:00 PM	Democracy Concierge Services	SLO City Hall deborahumphreys@hotmail.com



Events Calendar (Cont.)

April 17	Library of Congress Exhibit on the 19th Amendment	SLO City/County Library, 995 Palm St. SLO jl Carr@charter.net
April 21—5:30-7:00 PM	Democracy Concierge Services	SLO City Hall deborahumphreys@hotmail.com

City Council Concierge: new opportunities to serve.

Learn first hand about current local issues and those who support them. This is democracy in action as SLO residents speak their minds about needs, and potential changes, or issues related to city growth and development.

LWV Concierge services provides newcomers and seasoned citizens with a welcoming greeting, guidance about the City Council agenda, speaking protocol, and encouragement for first timers.

We always have two LWV members for each City Council meet-

National Education Fund Grant

Julie Rodewald

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County has received another National Education Fund High School Voter Registration Grant in the amount of \$500, which will supplement the \$1400 in grants received over the last 2 years. These funds will continue to provide the resources to ensure the team can reach as many students as possible.

Our high school voter registration program began in 2017, and since that time over 1600 students have been registered or pre-registered

ing. Our shift is from 5:30-7:00 or later if needed. Please con-

to vote. In addition, over 50% of these students have signed our pledge to vote and provided their contact information so they can be informed of upcoming election information.

Since the registration deadline for the March 3rd primary election is February 17, the voter registration team has already visited four high schools in January. Many of the students registering now are eligible to vote in March, and over 90% will be able to vote in November. An exciting election year for their first election!

tact [Deb Humphreys](mailto:Deborah Humphreys) for more information and training.

League Members Hard at Work at Our January 25th Planning Meeting



Board of Directors 2019-20

Ann Havlik	Co-President (2019-21)	Cindy Marie Absey	Co-President (2019-21)
Sharon Kimball	1st Vice President Civil Discourse (2019-21)	Debora Humphreys	2nd Vice President Community Education (2018-20)
Mary Beth Armstrong	Treasurer (2018-20)	Susan Devine	At Large (2019-21)
Julie Rodewald	Voter Services (2018-20)	Glenn Silloway	At Large (2019-21)
Richard Moore	Communications Director (2018-20)	David Humphreys	<i>VOTER</i> Editor (2018-20)
Mary Bianchi	Membership Director (2019-21)		

Join the League

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

(Very Important)

Do not include my information in the League Directory.

Please select your class of Membership.

A voting member is at least 18 and a citizen.

Annual Dues:

_____ **\$70.00 Individual Annual Membership**

_____ **\$120.00 Two-member Household**

_____ **\$25.00 Associate Member**
(Under 18 or not a citizen)

LWVSLO is a 501 (C)3 organization, and dues are tax deductible for those who itemize.

I want to support the work of the League of Women Voters with a donation of \$ _____.

Make Payment to:

**League of Women Voters San Luis Obispo County
(LWV of SLO County)**

P.O. Box 4210

San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

Thank You for Your Support!

Membership in the LWV of SLO County entitles you to national, state, and local membership in the League. Membership extends from July 1 of any calendar year through June 30 of the next year.

The League is nonpartisan. We do not support or oppose candidates. Join us! Add your voice to the work of the most respected and effective grassroots organization.

