



VOTER

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League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County

Message from your Co-Presidents



Co-President Ann Havlik

Here we are at the beginning of a new election cycle. The June 5th Primary elections are coming up quickly with mid-term elections following closely behind. Our League has been engaged in so many activities in preparation for this busy period. **Julie Rodewald** and her team continue their amazing work with the [High School Voter Registration](#) program throughout our county.

This year more than ever women are in the forefront of political activism and social change. We will encourage voter registration at the Women's March Rally at Mitchell Park on March 24. We have a great team getting ready for our work on *Voter's Edge* and are



Co-President Marilee Hyman

seeking a half dozen ladies and men with phone skills to join us.

Very exciting news is an upcoming regional moderator training for Candidates and Pros and Cons forums scheduled for April 7th put on by **Tom Carson** from LWVC. The SLO City Concierge program is going strong and is well received, and **Carrie Pardo** is as dedicated as ever to her Observer duties at the Board of Supervisors' meetings.

These are all great opportunities for you to volunteer for any of these programs that encourage and educate voters. Here's your chance to be an active League member.

Get More Women in Public Office

Marlys McPherson

Do you know a good woman who is active in her community? Ask her to run for office. And then support her. There are over 100 public offices in our county up for

[Cont. "Women," p. 14](#)

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“Make it Fair” to Reform Prop 13

The League of Women Voters of California has joined other non-profit advocacy groups to support the “*Make It Fair*” Campaign to reform Proposition 13. For decades, Prop 13 has been the third rail of California politics – untouchable. That is changing as Californians face budget crises in healthcare, housing, homelessness, infrastructure, education and environmental protection. Every year major corporations avoid paying nearly \$9 billion in California property taxes. That money could help provide healthcare to families, educate our children, build affordable housing, train workers, feed our seniors, tend our parks, and so much more.

“*Make It Fair*” is a constitutional amendment to reform commercial property taxes, while guaranteeing existing protections for residential property and agricultural land. It will close the millionaire, billionaire, and big corporation tax loophole by requiring all commercial and industrial properties to be assessed at fair market value, putting California on a par with how most of the rest of the country assesses

It will close the millionaire, billionaire, and big corporation tax loophole by requiring all commercial and industrial properties to be assessed at fair market value....

these properties. California’s commercial property taxes will still be among the lowest in the country because of Prop 13’s lim-

LWVSLO Calendar		
Mar. 2	LWV Board Meeting 2-4:30	550 Dana St., SLO
Mar. 6	Civil Discourse Concierge Service	SLO City Hall
Mar. 10	Women’s Hall of Fame Luncheon	Madonna Inn
Mar. 13	Cayucos Advisory Council Election	Cayucos
Mar. 20	Civil Discourse Concierge Services	SLO City Hall
Mar. 22	Voter Registration	Nipomo High School
Mar. 24	“March for Our Lives”	SLO
Apr. 3	Civil Discourse Concierge Services	SLO City Hall
Apr. 6	LWV Board Meeting	550 Dana St., SLO
Apr. 7	Regional Moderator Training	French Hosp. Aud.
Apr. 14	“Civil Discourse to Go” Workshop	Union Bank, SLO
Apr. 16	“Meet Your Mayor”	SLO
Apr. 17	Civil Discourse Concierge Services	SLO City Hall
Apr. 18	Voter Registration	Morro Bay H. S.
May 1	Voter Registration	Pacific Bch. High Sch.
May 1	Civil Discourse Concierge Services	SLO City Hall
May 4	LWV Board Meeting	550 Dana St., SLO
May 9	Voter Registration	Lopez High School
May 10	Candidates Forum	Oceano CSD
May 15	Civil Discourse Concierge Services	SLO City Hall
May 21	Voter Registration	AG High School

its on property tax rates, which “*Make It Fair*” does not change.

“*Make It Fair*” guarantees that Prop 13 remains in effect with no changes for homeowners, residential renters and farmers.

“*Make It Fair*” also benefits small businesses by exempting owner-operated small businesses from

reassessment until they are sold and eliminating the property tax on fixtures and equipment for all small businesses.

For more information on the “*Make It Fair*” Campaign go to <https://lwvc.org/take-action/action-alerts> or <http://makeitfairca.com/>



LWVSLO Participates in “Hear Our Vote” Rally

Julie Rodewald

Our local League joined 38 other organizations in Call to Action Alley on January 20, 2018, for the “Hear Our Vote: Voices of Resistance Rally.”

Although Co-President **Ann Havlik** arrived at the event early, we were assigned the last possible space which happened to be in the shade of a large tree on a rather frigid day. However, the cold did not dampen the spirits of our League members or those who stopped by to discuss voter registration, League membership, and to thank LWV for our work and support of voting rights.

Thanks go out to **Patti Dale, Julie Rodewald, Mary Beth Armstrong, Ann Havlik, Deb Humphreys, Gary and Vallerie Steenson** for staffing the booth and the many other League members who stopped by to offer support. We handed out numerous membership brochures and civil discourse pamphlets and we registered ten voters, mostly Cal Poly students just turning 18.

The highlight of the day was seeing our “Future Voter” stickers on the many children attending the rally. Although most of us working the booth missed the speeches and entertainment, it was a worthwhile effort for our League’s visibility, and we were proud to be a part of this empowering event.

League’s Own Sharon Kimball a Finalist for Women’s Hall of Fame Award March 10

Nancy Welts

Sharon Kimball was recently honored as one of the finalists for the Women’s Hall of Fame awards given annually by the San Luis Obispo County Commission on the Status of Women and the South Bay Women’s Network. These awards recognize women in San Luis Obispo County who give above and beyond for the betterment of others. Women from our county were honored for their work in three categories: Business, Service, and Volunteer.

Sharon was nominated for her volunteer work with the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County in promoting



Sharon Kimball

civility and civil discourse in the public arena. Sharon has been active in community and civic involvement for years. This past

[Cont. “Kimball,” p 10](#)

Everyone seemed to be having a great time at the “Hear Our Vote” Rally!



What Happened to the Fake News Forum?

Marilee Hyman

Simply, the original forum lost its focus.

As the number of sponsors grew, the original idea of an educational forum on fake news shifted focus and became a partisan event. Our League's nonpartisan policy precluded further participation.

The student Republican party invited a controversial speaker which offended the Muslim community and the student Democratic party; whereupon the Dems along with their panelist withdrew their participation. With the perception of a one-sided partisan presentation, another panelist withdrew. The replacement speaker proposed by the Republican party, also controversial, caused other sponsors to withdraw participation and the police chief to declare the staffing plan could not be adjusted in time to assure a safe event.

Fake News remains a major issue of today's democracy. As we were quoted in the *Tribune* (2-10-18), "The cancellation was regrettable because the League of Women Voters was looking forward to a robust, educational, and civil discourse on the important timely topic of fake news."

We are in support of reinstituting the original intent of the forum through a Cal Poly Journalism Department event anticipated in October of 2018.

Note: One of the original panelists was Alicia Shepard, who researched and wrote *FAKING NEWS: Fraudulent News and the*

Fraudulent News – What Is It and What Can Be Done About It?

A PEN America Study

"The proliferation of false information and rising distrust in the established news media, due in part to a deliberate campaign of denigration, pose a looming crisis for American democracy and civil life."

Faking News: Fraudulent News and the Fight for Truth, a study published in October 2017 by PEN America, makes this point clear. PEN America, an affiliate of PEN International with more than 5,000 members—novelists, journalists, poets, essayists, playwrights, editors, publishers, translators and other writing professionals—is dedicated to the protection of open expression in the United States and worldwide.

PEN defines fraudulent news as demonstrably false information that is presented as factual with the intention to deceive the public and, relatedly, erode public faith in traditional journalism. Diminished trust has far-reaching implications for American governance and society, undermining the news media's role as the fourth estate and an important check against infringements of civil liberties. A poorly informed citizenry can become apathetic and cynical; policies driven by facts and evidence cannot be implemented; public discourse can be manipulated by private and foreign interests; and government can overreach, unfettered by a discredited news media and detached public.

The problem of disinformation and fraudulent news is real, fa-

cilitated by social media—Facebook, Google, Twitter and others – and aided by traditional journalism with partisan reporting, the blurring of fact and opinion, and a lack of transparency about policies and procedures. What can be done to restore faith in the media and respect for facts and evidence-based reporting? What can be done to prevent Americans from being duped by fraudulent news and falling victim to disinformation?

The PEN study presents possible solutions and ways for technology



Report Cover for the PEN America Study

and social media platforms, traditional news media, policymakers, educators, and civil society to confront false information through fact-checking programs, transparency, accuracy and clarity of content, and most im-

[Cont. "Pen Study." p. 8](#)



Ask Before You Sign —Think Before You Ink

With the 2018 elections approaching, signature-gatherers will be circulating petitions for initiatives and referenda to be placed on the November ballot in shopping centers and other public places. The League of Women Voters encourages the public to be cautious when asked to sign any petition, even if it is “just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it.”

Remember your signature is valuable, perhaps even more valuable than your vote. Why? Because far fewer signatures are required to qualify a measure for the ballot than votes needed to pass it once it's on the ballot.

Sign a petition for an initiative or referendum only if you

believe it belongs on the ballot. The League suggests six questions to ask:

1. Is it complex? Some issues can be decided by a simple yes or no vote. More complex issues are better handled by thorough examination and debate in a legislative arena.

2. Is it confusing? Some initiatives are not well written or contain conflicts that may require court resolution or interpretation.

3. Does it belong in the Constitution? If an initiative amends

[Cont. “Ask,” p.14](#)

“The Elections are Coming!” Voter’s Edge Training

Ann Havlik

League members who volunteer to help work with Voter’s Edge this election cycle have the responsibility for contacting candidates and inviting them to participate by sharing their biographies, priorities and photos on the site and then inputting the information.

In preparation for this work, League volunteers attended a regional training session on Voter’s Edge conducted by Sharon Stone from LWVC at the Union Bank Community Room in San Luis Obispo, a thorough and informative day. Working with Sharon Stone is always a pleasure.

The eleven participants of the all day training were, Cindy Marie Absey, Cindy Betonte, Ann Havlik, Shelly Higginbotham, Julie Rodewald and Vera Wallen from San Luis Obispo County, Virginia Souza of Santa Maria Valley, Jacquie Canfield from Fresno and Dale Simmons, Terry Cornelius, and Freda Keezell from Tulare.

In the next few weeks our LWV SLOCO group will be getting together to plan strategies for our section of Voters’ Edge. Actual work will begin in mid-March

[Cont. “Voters’ Edge,” p. 12](#)

Membership Memo

Patti Dale

Since my last *VOTER* report our membership has increased from 100 to 115, and the New Member Mentor Program has become a reality. Fourteen current members were assigned 27 new members to keep in contact with throughout their first year, making sure they receive the correct information about League projects and meetings, helping them decide where to focus their energies, even meeting for coffee or lunch to discuss League traditions and opportunities for participation. We still have a need for mentors as new members are appearing with regularity. Let me know if you are interested. A good start is essential to being a productive member.

We are happy to welcome two former members—**Bruce Gibson** and **Heidi Harmon**, back on our active roster. **Karen Coffey**, **June Minikel**, and **Ellen Edwards** (San Luis Obispo), **Susan McDonald** (Cambria), and **Phetsy Dutchko** (Bradley) have also joined in 2018. Recent League activities have been instrumental in recruiting new members. June and Phetsy made contact with the League through our table at the *Women’s March—Hear our Vote Rally* in January and Ellen, a resident of Chumash Village, became aware of our good services through the HOA election in which we monitored voting and counted ballots. Congratulations to you all! It is a pleasure to welcome you into the League.

Contact Patti Dale, Membership Chair, at 805 772-3701 or paticaaake@gmail.com.



It's Here! My League Online (MyLO) Launches in March

Nancy Welts

This month marks the soft launch of our new website: My League Online (MyLO). We have been working for the past several months on converting content from our current website to this new Drupal-based website platform for easy content sharing, syndication, accessibility, and mobile viewing across various devices, as well as using standardized League branding.

The conversion to MyLO was approved by our League board last fall and was driven by feedback from our League members to communicate more within our League and with a wider audience and to increase the visibility of our League. In the coming months we will be adding additional functionality and multimedia content (such as videos and social media badges) as well as payment processing for accepting membership dues, donations, or paying for events. **Dave Humphreys** and **Nancy Welts** have



created a [“how to video”](#) that will walk you through navigating our new MyLO website and its features. Our current site www.lwvslo.org on the League Easy Web (LEW) platform is still being updated with calendar events and the latest news. Eventually, that site will use our vanity URL and will direct you to our new site. We will announce that

later this spring.

Bookmark our MyLO site:
<https://my.lwv.org/california/san-luis-obispo-county>



[Click on this icon for the MyLO Tutorial](#)

Civil Discourse: We've Come A Long Way!

Sharon Kimball

We've come a long way since the 2013 Program Planning Meeting when we decided to do a formal League Study on Civil Discourse. Our concern with Civil Discourse was aroused by the polarization and incivility seen on the national level after the 2012 Presidential Election. As these concerns have increased in all areas of our lives, we've been busy expanding our efforts to combat incivility in San Luis Obispo County and beyond. Here's what we've been doing to further the cause.

Outreach to elected officials and staff. We've contacted all 40 elected officials and staff in the seven cities of our county and worked with them to develop Civility and Civil Discourse Resolutions, which they have adopted and added to their agendas for public meetings.

Civil Discourse Observer and Ambassador Corps. Our Observer Corps attends meetings where controversial issues might raise the level of incivili-

ty. Our Ambassadors speak from approved scripts at public comment to remind elected officials and the public to use the best practices of civility and civil discourse.

Civil Discourse workshops. We designed workshops utilizing the world café model on topics such as “Team Development: Strengthening Working Relationships”, “New Leader Transition Support:

[Cont. “Civil,” p. 7](#)



"Civil," from p. 6

Building Rapport Quickly", and "Collaboration and Consensus Building: Working Efficiently despite Differences."

Civil Discourse Concierge Service. This service is now in place with the San Luis Obispo City Council where League members assist the public to make comments during bi-monthly meetings of the City Council. We would love to have you help us with our Concierge Service at the San Luis Obispo City Council in April and May – on either the 1st or 3rd Tuesday at 6 pm. We hope to expand this service to other government bodies.

Civic Education Program in the high schools. To reach young people, we developed a three-week Civil Discourse/Civic Education Pilot Program for Paso Robles and Morro Bay High Schools. The program was a success and our team—Civic Education Committee Chair **Glenn Silloway**, League member **Barbara Hawkins**, and Government Teachers at PRHS and MBHS Geof Land and Laura Van Zee—is now collaborating on the next three-week version of this pilot program.

"Civil Discourse to Go." This workshop for League members is designed to develop the skills we all need to foster civility in our

"The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which other rights are protected. To take away this right is to reduce a [wo]man to slavery, for slavery consists in being subject to the will of another, and [s]he that has not a vote in the election of representatives is in this case."

Thomas Paine

public dealings. A team of presenters will teach us how to build trust and respect in our communities. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 14. The location and exact time will be announced later. Please save the date and plan to attend.

Support for other Leagues.

We've been inundated with requests from other Leagues across California and in other states for help in setting up their own Civil Discourse Programs. We will

hold a workshop for Leagues from Fresno, Kern and Tulare Counties in Visalia on June 16. For Leagues wanting to adopt our CD Study by concurrence, we created an online eBook, *A Handbook on How to Promote Civility and Civil Discourse in the Public Arena*.

Want to join us to make democracy and civil discourse thrive in San Luis Obispo County? Contact **Sharon Kimball** at sharon.e.kimball@gmail.com.

LWV League of Women Voters of the United States
53RD NATIONAL CONVENTION

CREATING A
MORE PERFECT DEMOCRACY

Thurs., June 28 – Sun., July 1, 2018 at Hilton Chicago - 720 S. Michigan Ave.



Monument to Theodore Roosevelt and the Environmental Movement Proposed in SLO

John Ashbaugh

I am currently working with several colleagues and with ARTS Obispo to create a monument to Theodore Roosevelt in San Luis Obispo. In 1903, our 26th President spoke to a crowd of 10,000 in Mitchell Park—at a time when the entire population of the town had just reached 3,000!

Our TR Monument Committee includes local historians, arts advocates, and graphic artists. Paula Zima, a well-known artist with deep roots in our community and a great love for Theodore Roosevelt, has designed a statue that will serve as the central feature of the monument. Paula's concept may be seen here, and at her Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/paulazimastudio/>.

In addition to the statue, the monument will include interpretive signs listing Roosevelt's achievements in preserving natural resources, including 260 million acres of National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Monuments, and National Forests.

We've launched a campaign to raise funds for the Theodore Roosevelt Monument, which will recognize not just Roosevelt, but the conservation movement that he helped to launch and the many local individuals who devoted their lives to preserving our open space, our forests and



streams, our farmlands, and our overall quality of life.

To date, we've raised over \$40,000 toward a \$150,000 overall goal. League members interested in this project are invited to visit the web site

www.artsobispo.org/tr-monument, write me at john@johnashbaugh.com, or call (805) 550-7713.



"Pen Study," from p. 4

portantl, through news literacy education. The power of fraudulent news lies ultimately in the minds of news consumers. Measures to address the crisis of truth must center on educating the public, enabling and equipping people to access information in

Measures to address the crisis of truth must center on educating the public, enabling and equipping people to access information in ways that guard against the influence of fake news

ways that guard against the influence of fake news. News literacy education should be taught in schools and reinforced on social media, in traditional media, and through public policies that protect free expression and rely on facts and evidence.

The PEN America report includes the following recommendations:

Adopt news literacy education as core curriculum in schools, teacher training programs and graduate education schools.

Insist on transparency by social media and traditional media regarding sources of information, reporting methods, corrections and conflicts of interest.

Develop fact-checking services and partnerships and expose those who deliberately purvey fraudulent information or baselessly foment distrust of what is true.

Support press freedom, respect for journalists, and public policies based on evidence supported by facts.

To read the complete report *Faking News: Fraudulent News and the Fight for Truth*, go to <https://pen.org/faking-news>.



LWVSLO's World Café Develops 2018-19 Programs



Vallerie Steenson

Introduction: Co-President **Marilee Hyman** noted that our country is currently facing challenges to the fundamentals of our democracy. The League has an important role to play in defending our constitutional institutions and principles. Today we will review the status of the program adopted at last year's Annual Meeting and plan what we want to do next program year beginning in July 2018.

2017–2018 Program Review: Co-President **Ann Havlik** reviewed program highlights and positive outcomes of our activities this year to date, including the voter registration and “Issues of the Day” programs at local high schools, civil discourse efforts at the Board of Supervisors, the concierge program with the San Luis Obispo City Council and ongoing workshops, and increased exposure for the League in print and social media. She noted the upcoming regional

“Voter’s Edge” training set for February 24 and the need to reestablish our contact with Latino Outreach.

Website Update: **Nancy Welts** discussed MyLO, the new League of Women Voters’ Web platform. We are switching from the old site and should have the new one up and running in February. She then reviewed our current Website and Facebook page.

Café Dialogue: **Deb Humphreys**, the facilitator for the café format discussion, explained the process and introduced the table hosts: **Mary Beth Armstrong, Carol Courcy, Charles Feltman, Dave Humphreys, Sharon Kimball, and Nancy Welts**. She announced the purpose of the exercise: to provide an opportunity for members to contribute suggestions for the 2018–2019 program, and the question for discussion: “What

special role does our League of Women Voters have to protect and strengthen democratic institutions and, in our community, make democracy work?” We broke into small groups for three rounds of dialogue on this question, facilitated by the table hosts. We summarized the results of our discussions on flip charts, spokespersons from each table reported on the results of the discussion at their tables, and we voted with small, colored dots to register our support for the issues and programs presented.

Local Program for 2018–2019: The dialogue process resulted in agreement on the following priorities for our League in 2018–2019. The overriding consensus was that we should focus on the strengths of the League, the programs that are working, and refine and expand them. We will concentrate on the following priorities: and efforts:

[Cont. “Planning,” p. 13](#)



Youth Voter Registration Continues

Julie Rodewald



Julie Rodewald

Since the beginning of the calendar year our team of volunteers has visited two of our area high schools and registered 54 students, which comprises more than 95% of the eligible students in the classes. Return visits are scheduled for San Luis, Lopez, Morro Bay and Nipomo High Schools. The

team will be presenting to Arroyo Grande High School for the first time this school year on May 22 and will be speaking to more than 250 students on that one day alone. In addition, the LWV of SLO will be offering voter registration at the March for Life on March 24, where we are looking forward to registering students that we have not been able to reach in our class presentations.

If you are interested in joining the voter registration team, please contact me at julie0513@sbcglobal.net

Click on the icons below to hear how Julie makes her presentations to the students.



[Voting History](#)



[Voter Resources](#)

["Kimball," from p. 3](#)

year, she lead our League's civil discourse teams that provided various workshops, trainings, focus groups, and outreach both in our county and throughout our state. The latest examples of our League's work directed by Sharon are our two pilot programs: Democracy Concierge Program that launched with the City of San Luis Obispo, and the Civic Education & Civil Discourse pilot program at Morro Bay and Paso Robles High Schools.

Cindy Marie Absey Rejoins the LWV Board



Cindy Marie Absey

We are delighted to welcome Cindy Marie Absey back to the Board of the League of Women Voters SLO. Cindy Marie brings with her a lifetime of service to our community. With a master's in counseling, she has provided leadership as Victim/Wellness Director for the District Attorney's Office and served as Executive Director of the Rape Crisis Center in SLO.

She has been active in a number of professional organizations dealing with criminal justice and has served on the SLO Symphony Board of Directors four times. Currently she is president of her home owners' association board of directors and volunteers with the Marine Mammal Center. She is also a ten-year member of the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo.

We're happy to have you "on board" again, Cindy Marie!



Like Us on Facebook!

Check us out at "LWVSLO" at www.facebook.com

Stay up to date on League activities and matters of importance to all of us here in San Luis Obispo County.



And the Survey Said.....! Results of the Survey Monkey Poll

Marilee Hyman

Number of Survey Participants: 38

How active are you? (self defined)

- 55% Active
- 13% Inactive (for now)
- 44% Willing to serve on Board or Committee
- 42% Will work a one-time/event

Most appealing Committees:

- 66% Voter Service
- 44% Civil Discourse
- 35% Speakers Bureau

Least Favorite Committees:

- Financial (Budget, Fundraising, Audit)
- Administrative (Rules, Membership, Nominating)

Favorite Activities:

- 51% Voter Registration
- 45% Forums (Candidate, Pro & Con)
- 31% Working with Youth
- 34% Public Speaking

Passionate Issues:

- 94% Voting Rights
- 54% Improving Government/Natural Resources (water, climate change, environment)
- 34% Social Issues (immigration, gun safety, criminal justice reform)

Want to Mentor? 29%

Want to be mentored? 33%

We are gratified to learn of members offering their special talents to help us provide services to our members and help us reach out to the community. (Telephone candidates, call members, host a meeting, be a greeter, do event planning, help with creative writing, graphic design, and social media.)

Note: 35% of members participated. It's not too late. We encourage all members to take a few minutes to answer the 11 questions in the survey.

Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5S7PTVC>

State League Adopts Positions for June

Helen Hutchison, LWSVC

Announcement to Local Leagues: June 2018 ballot measures

The LWVC board took final positions on the measures scheduled for the June ballot. We'll have a **The League Recommends** (a.k.a. Vote With the League) by early April. Meanwhile, here's a quick summary of the League position on each measure:

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1)

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions. **The LWVC opposes this measure.**

Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5)

If passed, this measure would raise excise taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel, provide for regular increases to those taxes based on inflation, establish a new fee on zero-emission vehicles, and raise vehicle registration fees. The new revenue from these taxes would be used for transportation-related purposes—repairing streets and bridges, addressing deferred maintenance on highways and local roads, improving public transit, and investing in needed

[Cont. "Positions, p. 12](#)

I consider biennial elections as a security that the sober second thought of the people shall be law.—Fisher Ames: *On Biennial Elections, 1788*



"Positions," cont. from p. 11

transportation infrastructure to benefit all Californians. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17)

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop cc would provide that an initiative would take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is—and is not—California law. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5)

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and are a key part of our state response to climate change. **The LWVC supports this measure.**

Cont. "Positions," p. 13

Creating a More Perfect Democracy

The 2018 League of Women Voters National Convention

Naomi Hoffman

Chicago - June 29 to July 1, 2018

A short "Hop, Skip and a Jump" to Chicago can make you a part of the action!

Add your voice to the clamor for preserving and improving our government. Inspire and be inspired to take up the challenge of creating a more perfect democracy.

Register for the LWV National Convention now. The "early-bird" registration is \$450 until June 1 (a \$50 savings). The LWV group rates at the Chicago Hilton are available until May 28th.

Because our League strongly believes in the value of the training

and the enthusiasm generated by attendance at the National Convention, we help defray the expenses of our three designated voting delegates: **Ann Havlik, Cindy Marie Absey, and Nancy Welts.**

All League members can participate...the more attendees, the more knowledge and enthusiasm. It's contagious!

Join us in June for stimulating workshops, exciting Chicago excursions, and the company of fellow dedicated League members. Make a difference!

For more information go to:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2018>.

"Voters' Edge," from p. 5

and continue until the primary in June.

There's plenty of interesting and important work to be done. We especially need persuasive people with good phone manners. If you are interested in helping us out, please contact Ann Havlik, annhavlik@aol.com.



Ann Havlik and the Voters' Edge

Voters' Edge is the official, replacement of Smart Voter (which partnered with Maplight). The Website displays the names of all candidates running for office in California and all measures on the ballot. The site also provides links to newspaper articles, videos, and presentations made during the campaign period and identifies polling places.



“Planning,” Cont. from p. 9

Voter Empowerment and Education: Voter registration, especially for youth and minority populations; candidate forums and information presentations on ballot measures and other issues of public policy; education on the importance of voting; efforts to combat voter suppression.

2. Civic Education and Defense of Democratic Institutions and Principles: Educational programs and a “how government works” tool box for schools and with other civic groups; use new technology to educate and increase involvement in public life; news literacy programs on how to navigate the news, process information, and debate the issues; concerted efforts to protect and defend media integrity and a free press.

3. Civil Discourse and the Reduction of Political and Social Polarization: Workshops and training in civil discourse for public officials and the public; a “civility toolbox” for members to use and share; a community event with other organizations after the November election to bring people together.

4. League Recruitment, Exposition and Exposure: Efforts to build a better understanding of the League in the community and among the membership; proactively explain League history and how the League works to promote democracy and to arrive at its positions; activities to build a more diverse League, increase member involvement through discussion groups, reach out to youth through issues that interest them;

efforts to reach out to society at large through social media; expand League exposure through local advocacy, advocate training, and involvement in local issues based on League positions.

5. LWV National Program

Planning: Ms. Hyman reported that we’ve been asked to sign on to an effort to make it an LWV priority for 2018 – 2019 to make an end-run around the Electoral College through the Interstate Popular Vote Compact. **Eric Greening** presented his concerns about the Compact proposal in an article in our September *VOTER*. **Sharon Whitney** noted that when the state League first proposed that California support the Compact in 2008, our local League opposed it. We agreed that Mr. Greening should present his views at the Board meeting on February 2, and the Board will decide on a course of action.

LWVC State Program Planning: Jacquie Canfield, LWVC Treasurer and Board Member, reported on the “Make it Fair” campaign to reform the commercial property tax as covered by Proposition 13. LWVC is playing a major role in supporting the measure, a constitutional amendment to reform commercial property taxes while protecting residential and agricultural property. She also noted that there will be four propositions on the June Primary Election ballot. LWVC has taken positions on all four. Ms. Hyman noted that the Proposition 13 reform issue is polarizing locally. We agreed to consider holding a “pros & cons” presentation on the measure, an

educational program, as part of our 2018–2019 program.

Conclusion: Ms. Humphreys and Board Secretary **Vallerie Steenson** will consolidate the results of the discussion and vote and present a proposed program for 2018–2019 to the Board for approval and inclusion in the Annual Meeting packet to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 9, 2018.

Cont. “Positions,” from p. 12**How does the League make ballot measure endorsements?**

We only take positions on ballot measures based on current policy [positions](#) and [League principles](#). Positions are developed based on grassroots member [study and consensus](#).

League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County

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“Ask,” cont. from p. 5

the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs there. Is it a fundamental law that should be protected from change? Correcting a constitutional amendment later requires amending the Constitution, is cumbersome and costly, and requires another vote of the people.

4. How will it be funded? Is it an “unfunded mandate” that would require the legislature to take funds from other essential programs? Consider the effect on the overall government budget with already limited revenue. An initiative should define its own revenue source or specify what would have to be cut to fund it.

5. Before you sign, ask about who is circulating the petition.

Many initiative campaigns use paid signature-gatherers. The only requirement in California is that the petition itself have a disclaimer that it may be circulated by a paid signature-gatherer. Ask whether the person requesting your signature is paid, and if so, how much.

6. Who is behind it? It can be difficult to find out who the real sponsors and opponents of a petition are.

It can be difficult to find out who the real sponsors and opponents of a petition are. Find out.

Find out. Contribution and expenditure reports of committees organized for action on ballot measures are available through **Cal-Access**, the lobbying and campaign disclosure system sponsored by the California Secretary of State’s office. Go to

<http://cal-access.sos.ca.gov/> to read the financial reports of campaign committees. The League of Women Voters is a trusted, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. Our members do the hands-on work that safeguards democracy and leads to civic improvement. We provide unbiased information on ballot propositions. For more information contact the League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo County at (805) 782-4040 or [in-fo@lwvslo.org](mailto:info@lwvslo.org) or go to our website www.lwvslo.org.

“Women,” cont. from p. 1

grabs in the upcoming primary and general elections. The very first step in getting more women to fill them is to recruit them as candidates.

That is the main messages from a recent gathering of 120-150 women and men who want to see more women in public office. The event, entitled “Breaking Barriers: Gender Equality for Political Wins,” was held on January 25 and organized by the Women’s March, San Luis Obispo County and the SLO Progressives Club.

Your League of Women Voters was invited to attend, and three League members participated: **Marilee Hyman**, LWVSLO Co-President; **Jan Marx**, former Mayor of San Luis Obispo; and **Marlys McPherson**, current Morro Bay City Council Member.

Women sometimes find it hard to think of themselves as leaders. They often have really practical reasons not to run. Women usual-



ly assume primary responsibility for child care and the home, and often also have a career to manage. That is a lot for anyone to juggle.

The LWV is one of the best sources of good women candidates. It’s hard to imagine a better training ground than the League, with its focus on good public policy and the voting process. Participating in local community organizations is another stepping stone to public office. The networks that emerge from doing the work of an organization are a tremendous source of support when you do decide to take the plunge.

Encourage your friend to get involved. And as time and experience add up, encourage her to move higher. We cannot do this overnight, but we can start. And someday it will be true. As the tattoo I saw recently on a young woman said, “She believed she could do it, so she did.”



Board of Directors 2017-2018

Ann Havlik	Co-President (2017-19)	Marilee Hyman	Co-President (2017-19)
Sharon Kimball	1st Vice President Civil Discourse (2017-2019)	Vera Wallen	2nd Vice President Voter Services (2016-18)
Mary Beth Armstrong	Treasurer (2016-18)	Vallerie Steenson	Secretary (2017-19)
Cindy Marie Absey	At Large (2017-19)	Patti Dale	Membership (2016-18)
Boyd Horne	At Large (2017-19)	David Humphreys	<i>VOTER</i> Editor (2017-18)
Debora Humphreys	Community Programs (2016-18)	Carrie Pardo	Observer Corps (2016-18)
Julie Rodewald	At Large (2016-18)	Nancy Welts	Communication (2017-19)

Application for Membership

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)

☐ 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 of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo is a Section 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All dues and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

