

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOLANO COUNTY

**April 2020** <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties. We encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and action.



## LWV SOLANO COUNTY CALENDAR

Please watch for updates to these events, as things can change from time to time particularly as we adjust to Covid-19 safety guidelines. Updates are posted on our website at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/calendar>

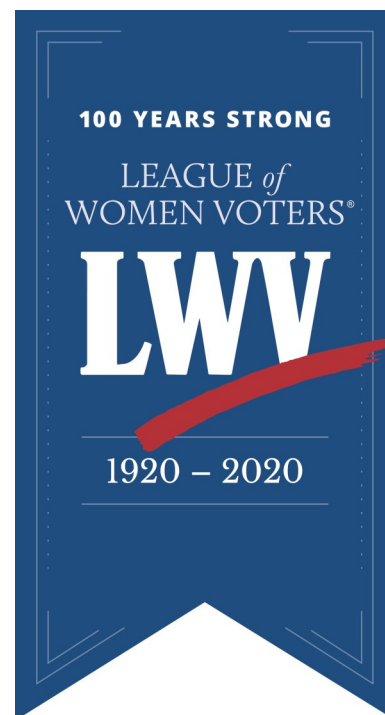
### Great Decisions

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup> Great Decisions meetings were postponed. We'll alert you to the new dates when they are available.

### LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation Presentation

**Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> Rio Vista** Presentation at City Council meeting.

**May Annual Membership Meeting**, details to come.

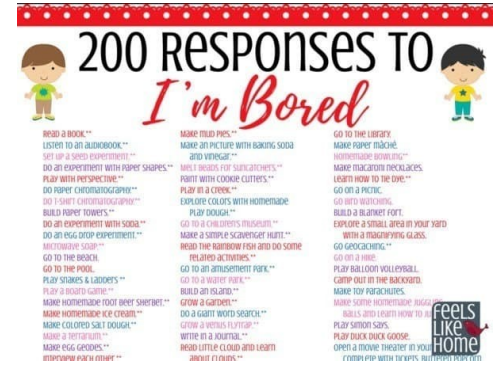


## From the President

Hello Leaguers and Friends,

I hope everyone is well. We're in the midst of a challenging period, 'best practices' in relation to the corona virus are prompting major changes in our daily lives. The League's Bay Area Monitor's weekly email (see the link below) has some interesting ideas for 'things to do' from home while we're maintaining "social distancing."

<https://mailchi.mp/45e9d836df3b/monitor-notes-stay-safe-stay-busy?e=e1fd441b82>



In alignment with the National and State League guidelines, we are recommending that all of our meetings be cancelled or changed to a video conferencing format for the foreseeable future. All of our committee meetings as well as our Annual Membership Meeting in May will be held via our Zoom video conferencing account. A number of our standing committees have already been using Zoom to save on transportation time, mileage, and improve our carbon footprint. It's easy to participate and we'll show you step-by-step how to join a meeting.

Conducting the Annual Membership Meeting in a video conference format is a little complicated on our end so we will email you instructions once we've worked out the details. Our guest speaker is Benicia's Mayor Elizabeth Paterson who speak about the state of housing in our area. We will also have voting on officers and board members and on a number of bylaw changes (name change, types of member, etc.) that will require a quorum to approve, so we are hoping everyone can 'login'.



The Women's History Month Luncheon, scheduled for March 27th, which is honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League, has been rescheduled to Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Those who paid directly should be receiving an email from the Luncheon organizers.

Thanks to all of you who contributed so much time leading up to the California Primary. The Candidate forums in Benicia, Vallejo, and Vacaville we're great! A fantastic start to our first election as a countywide League.

Take Care

Niles Medders  
President  
League of Women Voters Solano County

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



The Committee is planning now for “in person” events so we’re ready to launch them once we can again meet in the real world and not just virtually.

**2020 Priorities.** With its successful 2019 outreach to Solano College and diverse community organizations and churches, the committee has committed to expanding and building on our 2019 Goals and Priorities:

**Develop and execute a plan and processes for building influencer relationships with values-based community organizations, in particular with Solano Community College (SCC). Build strong mutual community engagement in government/elections.**

**Build awareness and recognition of LWV as a resource for unbiased information.**

**Keep Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** at the core of our targeted outreach to expand our membership base with the goal of creating a base that reflects the broad diversity of Solano County’s population.

**Special outreach to youth** to ensure they have a voice in democracy and build future League leaders.

**Leverage, Support and facilitate** activities by other committees



**New Bay Area League Board Representative.** At the March 10, 2020 LWV Solano County board meeting, the board recommended that **Margo McGlone** be the LWVSC representative on the *Bay Area League Board*. The LWV Bay Area has approved the recommendation and Margo has enthusiastically accepted and looks forward to participating and working with them and the other Bay Area Leagues.



**A BIG “Thank You” to Judy Potter** who has been our representative on the LWV Bay Area for several years.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE continued

### Team Member Activities Updates



**Marilee Scholl** our Solano Community College liaison is working on a questionnaire for SCC student LWV members, asking about gigs with LWV that could fit their needs. *Free* membership by itself means little in terms of real political involvement and shaping future political activism. A lot of the work that we thought they could do isn't suited to the realities of community college life. For example, helping out with voter registration in high schools sounded great, but requires detailed scheduling that's not easily

managed! Marilee has heard some suggestions, but *meaningful* work that fits their schedules is what we need and she is creating a laundry list of activities we can use to engage students and others. Contests, online events, forums, etc. are in the mix.

**Margo and Alice** are working with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to expand our working relationship with this dynamic and well-established organization. They have already co-sponsored a forum with LWVSC, helped us register Vallejo high school students, and are very interested in leveraging their existing youth programs to support our new high school civics competition.

**Community Church Connections.** Margo is networking with Common Ground a group of Catholic churches, the Homeless Alliance, and Benicia Liberty Church pastors to provide LWV information online and in person.

**On Hold for Covid-19.** Several planned outreach activities such as to Vacaville Eventide Rotary, Napa LWV on hold, and Rio Vista Democratic Club are on hold due to Covid-19.



**Member Renewals.** Knowing that keeping members in good standing is as important as outreach to new members, we will contact members quarterly as their membership expires to remind them to renew. This is an ongoing effort.

The Membership Committee meets monthly. For more information and/or to join us, please contact Margo McGlone at [margowmc@comcast.net](mailto:margowmc@comcast.net).

# VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

## Primary Election Day, March 3, 2020

During this year's Presidential Primary the League sponsored an Adopt-a-Poll at Club Pacifica in Benicia and had over a dozen other members working at different polls around the county. It was a very interesting experience. This election was a little different, more special.

First, it was the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women gaining the right vote, so expectations for women coming out to vote was high.

Second, it was a primary, which only happens every four years.

Third, the laws about registering to vote, changing parties, and changing addresses on Primary Election Day at the polls were passed just two weeks before Election Day, making training materials obsolete while they were still being used.

In addition, candidates for the Democratic Primary dropped out the day before the election, confounding a lot of voters, and finally, Covid-19 was just beginning to make itself known in Solano County.

The seventeen workers at Club Pacifica did their best to take everything in stride. We opened and closed on time; we didn't turn away any voters; clerks did incredible work to reregister folks and make sure they used the desired ballot to vote; we kept our lines short. We had hand sanitizer, wipes, and gloves provided by the county. We regrouped frequently to review the newest rules, stretch, and wash our hands. We wiped down every pen used to mark a ballot right after use.

The best part of the day was cheering first time voters, some of whom were the same young people that we had registered to vote last fall. We made democracy work, for sure!

Thanks to all of those who helped out at the polls. You did a tremendous job!



**Adopt-A-Poll Set Up Equipment**

## VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE continued

### Campaign Finance Reform in Benicia

Campaign finance reform has been one of our local League's priorities since before 2018. In previous years we had City Clerks and City Attorneys speak to our group about how the current system worked and what needed to be changed in their view. The League has had a member, June Meijas, working on the Open Government Ad Hoc Committee for Campaign finance review for more than a year.

Finally, on March 3rd, a proposal for campaign finance changes came before the City Council for a vote. After much discussion among the Council members and with the two city attorneys, the proposal was sent back to staff for more amendments and adaptations. Most of these involved how PAC's are asked to report their support of candidates, what penalties could be used if they refused, the use of persuasive polls, and negative advertising. The proposed changes would allow for Open Government to conduct more than one candidate forum per election season to address negative ads. There is no information available about when this item will appear on the City Council agenda again. Hopefully, the changes can be made before fall election filing deadlines in August.



**A heartfelt “Thank You” to Gayle Vaughan.** Gayle will be resigning as Chair of Voter Service effective May 21st. Gayle has found the work compelling and necessary to make democracy work, and for that reason she will continue to be a part of the Voter Service Team, just not lead it. The effort and dedication of volunteers who have been working steadily, and often behind the scenes, has been inspiring to her. Over the last six years the position of Chair has grown from one of just calling a volunteer or a teacher to set up an event in Benicia, to one of coordinating dozens of volunteers, teachers, and candidates with the help of area representatives to serve the whole county. “It’s been a great learning experience, but it’s time to make way for others to volunteer in leadership positions.” Gayle said.

The LWVSC board and the VS leadership are working together on a committee redesign to make sure that all activities of Voter Service continues and thrives.

## Communications Committee

Check out our new LWVSC social media pages:

**Facebook** <https://fb.me/LWVSolano> and **Twitter** <https://twitter.com/LWVSolanoCounty>

**“Make a Stir”!** Communications is working with other committees to develop “Make a Stir” activities to keep our members and communities interested and active between elections. More on this next month.

**LWV-AV** We’re researching how to access the facilities and talent at the Solano Community studio with the goal of making PSAs to support voter education and League activities.

**Tell Us Your League Story** Marilee continues to gather our members’ *most memorable* stories and impressions of the League in a paragraph or so. These are perfect additions for our press releases. If you have a *bright memory* please share it with Marilee at: [mail4marilee@yahoo.com](mailto:mail4marilee@yahoo.com).

For information on joining our committee, please contact Sandy at [sandycoury@gmail.com](mailto:sandycoury@gmail.com).

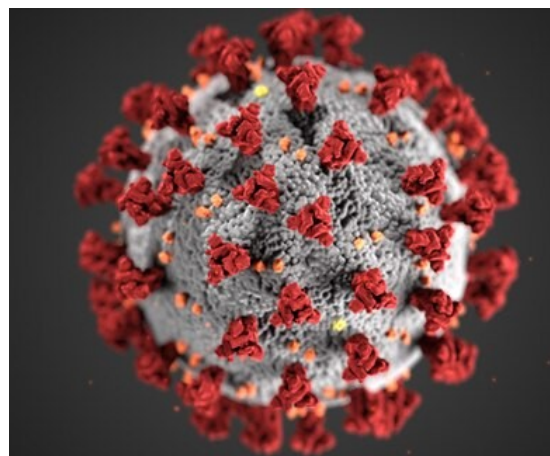


## PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

In order to keep our League members, friends of the League and their extended contacts safe in light of the Covid-19 virus, all upcoming events for the League of Women Voters of Solano County have been postponed indefinitely. The League, locally, state and nationally care about our community and plan to see this situation through responsibly.

As of this writing, (3.18.2020) the Program Planning and Events Committee will now be working on planning for remote, electronic meetings for the foreseeable future.

If you have ideas, suggestions, or any willingness to help, please email [juliehartford@gmail.com](mailto:juliehartford@gmail.com)



# LWVSC VOLUNTEER WANT ADS



**Ready to roll up your sleeves and get involved?** Important Volunteer activities are available to suit your skills and time – from just an hour or two a month or more. **Contact the committee chairs to find an opportunity that works for you!**

## Communications Committee Volunteers Needed

Exciting volunteer work is available for a few hours or more a month. Contact [sandycoury@gmail.com](mailto:sandycoury@gmail.com) for information.

**Website.** Have some website savvy and 5-6 hours per month to volunteer? We need you.

**Event Flyers.** Exercise your flair for copy and/or graphics with just a few hours each month.

**Member Welcome Kits.** Reach out to new / renewing members with informational emails and calls.

## Membership Committee Volunteers Needed

Help us continue to grow and diversify our Solano County League! For more information, please contact Margo McGlone at [margowmc@comcast.net](mailto:margowmc@comcast.net).

**Tabling at Solano Community College (SCC), Fairfield – On hold until the campus reopens.** If you can help, please contact Marilee Scholl our SCC liaison at [mail4marilee@yahoo.com](mailto:mail4marilee@yahoo.com).

**Outreach to New Members.** Set your own hours and help us onboard and involve our members with friendly calls, emails, and other outreach.

**Diversity and Inclusion Outreach.** Help our vigorous efforts to build a diverse and inclusive membership and community connections that reflect the diversity of our county.

**Membership Committee.** Help us continue to grow and diversify our league as part of our committee. If you don't see an opportunity that fits your interests or time resources, give Margo a buzz, there are many other important tasks where we can use your valuable help.

## Program Planning & Events (PP&E) Volunteers Needed

There are **so many ways to volunteer with the Events Committee** now and even more once the Covid-19 restrictions are no longer in place. We are often looking for volunteers to:

- greet and check in people at events and hand out name tags
- bake cookies or sweets for events
- staff information and registration tables
- set up and clean up before and after our events
- help us with logistics and planning.

**Special Request:** *We would love to have a photographer to take pictures at our events.*

Please call Julie Hartford 925 786-5531 to volunteer.

## Voter Service Volunteers Needed

Interested in helping register new high school voters, working on Voter's Edge, Adopt-a-Poll, Get Out the Vote or Candidate Forums for the General Election in November? Please contact Gayle Vaughan at [vonwindgayle@gmail.com](mailto:vonwindgayle@gmail.com) for more information.





President, Niles Medders: [nilesmedders@gmail.com](mailto:nilesmedders@gmail.com)  
 Vice President, Julie Hartford, and PP&E Co-Chair: [juliehartford@gmail.com](mailto:juliehartford@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer, Judy Potter: [judy.potter@gmail.com](mailto:judy.potter@gmail.com)  
 Secretary, Alice Labay

### Directors At Large

Membership, Margo McGlone: [margowmc@comcast.net](mailto:margowmc@comcast.net)  
 Communications, Sandy Coury: [sandycoury@gmail.com](mailto:sandycoury@gmail.com)  
 High School Civics Competition, Alice Fried: [alicefried89@gmail.com](mailto:alicefried89@gmail.com)

## Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Area Coordinators

Program Planning & Events Co-Chairs

Julie Hartford: [juliehartford@gmail.com](mailto:juliehartford@gmail.com)

Craig Paterson: [craig\\_paterson@yahoo.com](mailto:craig_paterson@yahoo.com)

Voter Service Leadership

Gayle Vaughn, Chair: [vonwindgayle@gmail.com](mailto:vonwindgayle@gmail.com)

Becky Cecena, Deputy Chair:

[redmustang502001@aol.com](mailto:redmustang502001@aol.com)

Voter Service Area Coordinators

Gayle Vaughan: Benicia/Vallejo:

[vonwindgayle@gmail.com](mailto:vonwindgayle@gmail.com)

Carole Paterson: Fairfield: [vjocarole@yahoo.com](mailto:vjocarole@yahoo.com)

Barbara King: Fairfield: [bking2520@comcast.net](mailto:bking2520@comcast.net)

Becky Cecena: Vacaville:

[redmustang502001@aol.com](mailto:redmustang502001@aol.com)

Mona Whitney: Rio Vista:

[mona.whitney@yahoo.com](mailto:mona.whitney@yahoo.com)

## Voter Newsletter

Leslie Lessenger, Sandy Coury, Niles Medders

### NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

Due by the 17th of the month

Email submissions to Sandy Coury,  
[sandycoury@gmail.com](mailto:sandycoury@gmail.com)

**Content must be League Business Only**

Include What, Where, When, and Why in first paragraph.

Length should be 200 words or less.

Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt. is preferred.

Simple formatting only.



Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LWVSolanoCounty>



<https://fb.me/LWVSolano>

Subscribe to the **Bay Area Monitor** magazine to be sent directly to you 6 times a year! It's free!

Just send an email with your mailing address to:

Alec MacDonald, Editor of Bay Area Monitor

[editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org)