



League of Women Voters of Solano County

VOTER

December 2019

<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

January 14th at 7pm, **Program Planning Meeting** at Solano County Office of Education; 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534

January 27th at 7:00 pm, **2020 Great Decisions Benicia**, first meeting at the Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Room, 150 East L Street, Benicia CA. Topic will be Climate Change and the Global Order.

Jan 29th at 7:00 pm, **Benicia Candidate Forum** Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street, Benicia

Jan 30th from 6:30 to 8:30pm, **Candidate Forum Vacaville**, Solano County Library, 1 Town Square, Vacaville



February Annual **Meet Your Local Officials Benicia** event, date and details to come.

February 14th **League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary!**



March 3rd **California Primary Election Day**

May 14th **Annual Membership Meeting**, details to come.

June 20th **LWVSC Garage Sale**, Clock Tower 1189 Washington St, Benicia, details to come.



From the President

This month has been busy! Your board and virtually all the committees have been burning the candle at both ends. You'll hear more about what they've been up to in other parts of the newsletter so I won't duplicate their reports. I do want to acknowledge our first Mixer (in my time at least). It was a great event. Meeting folk and putting faces to email addresses. Hearing our committee chairs describe the work they, and you members, are doing. Having a discussion about what

'nonpartisan' means. Not to mention those donuts and muffins! It was fun.

It also highlighted how much has changed in the last 7 months. In May of 2019 we had 2 standing committees, Voter Service, and Program Planning. At the mixer members heard from the Voter Service Committee, which now has 3 subcommittees; the Program Planning and Events Committee, now with 2 subcommittees; High School Civics Scholarship Committee (new); Communication Committee (new); and Membership Committee (new). We've gone from about 40 members in May to over 110 today. That's a lot of growth in a short period of time.

Our growth is impressive. I think we may need to remind ourselves to slow down and make sure there is air in the tires and gas in the tank before we get on the freeway; to address our infrastructure needs and insure we can adequately support our committees and their members during what promises to be a lively primary and general election year. It is very exciting and a little daunting!

Niles Medders, President

Great Decisions, The Foreign Policy Association's international affairs discussion group is again being sponsored jointly by the League of Women Voters and the Benicia Public Library. Weekly meetings will take place on Monday evenings from January 27, 2020 through March 23, 2020 in the Dona Benicia meeting room at the Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street, Benicia. We meet from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.



We have ordered a classroom set of Briefing Books and can order additional books at a discounted rate. We are charging \$25 per book. If you are interested in purchasing a book please email nilesmedders@gmail.com and ask to be added to the book order list. It is likely that there will be an e-book option available for purchase from the Foreign Policy Association sometime in January. If you prefer not to order a book we will again have 3 copies of the book available for library use only in the reference section of the Benicia Library.

The lead off topic this year will be Climate Change and the Global Order, followed by India and Pakistan, and Red Sea Security. We would like to welcome everyone to come and view the excellent weekly documentaries and participate or just observe our discussions of the issues presented. No expertise necessary and participation in discussions is totally voluntary. If you would like more information on the series topics you can go to the Foreign Policy Association website at www.fpa.org and click on [Great Decisions Topics 2020](#).

Any questions feel free to contact Judy Potter at judy.potter@gmail.com.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Youth Voter Registration Project

Our wonderful team of over 30 volunteers is finishing up this year's youth voter registration project. We have visited seven high schools, presented our power point presentation on civics and voting rights, and helped register or preregister around 450 students. Many were already registered through the DMV, but both students and teachers have expressed gratitude for our help. In addition, volunteers at Solano Community College, Fairfield Campus have been staffing a table for registration and membership once a week.

We will resume our registration efforts in January, 2020, when we visit five more facilities. We have applied once again to the national League for another \$1000 grant to help fund our program.

Voter's Edge

As our Voter Service Team moves on from registration, we are beginning to work on *Voter's Edge*, the League's public website for candidate and election information. Five volunteers have been trained and are beginning to get basic information about who is running for what. We will start entering data in late December and will have most posted by the end of January or early February.



Candidate Forum

The Voter Service team is working with the Benicia-Vallejo AAUW and Benicia Library to hold a candidate's forum on Jan. 29th at 7 pm, at the Dona Benicia Room, at the Benicia Library, 150 East L Street, Benicia. We hope to be hearing from each of the candidates for Board of Supervisors, District 2 and learn about any measures that will be on the March 3rd Primary Ballot. Belinda Smith will be the moderator.

Adopt a Poll



The Voter Service team has committed to staffing an election poll at Club Pacifica in Benicia on March 3rd. Those who have indicated an interest will be contacted this month so that they can sign up for shifts and start the training process.

Other volunteers have expressed interest in working at the polls in Vacaville and Fairfield, but we will need more if we are to "take over" an entire polling site.

Not only is Adopt a Poll, a successful way to find poll workers and help in the election process, it is also a way to raise money for the League. Poll workers have the option of keeping the money they earn taking training and working the poll or donating it back to the League. Last election we collected about \$1000 for our League. If you are interested in volunteering please contact: Gayle Vaughan at vonwindgayle@gmail.com.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE Continued

Get Out the Vote > “Vote!” Yard Signs

In February, we will begin to distribute VOTE! Yard signs. They will be distributed and collected by our volunteers under the auspices of our area-based coordinators. You can contact one of the people below if you want one for your yard. If you want to keep your sign from March through November, you can, with a donation to the League to cover the cost of the sign.

Get Out the Vote >Texting

On March 1st or 2nd, volunteers will gather for texting parties, where they will send group texts to those high school students who have signed up for reminders to vote. To participate please contact one of our area coordinators.

Voter Service Area Coordinators:

Vacaville: Becky Cecena, redmustang502001@aol.com

Fairfield/Suisun: Carole Paterson, vjocarole@yahoo.com,

Barbara King, bking2520@comcast.net

Rio Vista: Mona Whitney, mona.whitney@yahoo.com

Dixon: Debra Schwab, DEBRA15933@yahoo.com

Benicia/Vallejo: Gayle Vaughan, vonwindgayle@gmail.com



I am very grateful for all of our voter service volunteers who allow us to do all of these activities which are vital to our mission of voter registration, voter information, and getting out the vote.

Gayle Vaughan, Voter Service Chair.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

As the newest LWVSC committee, we're continuing to build out a communications infrastructure that is simple, practical, and provides clear, reliable information to our members, communities, friends, and the media.



Our responsibility: We facilitate all General Member and Public Communications.

Outside our scope: President, Board, Internal Committee, and Great Expectations communications.

Our Goals: Make sure LWVSC's communications are accurate, accessible, and in line with League guidelines.

Maximize the value of our existing communications such as *The Voter* newsletter, our **website**, **press releases**, and member emails.

Leverage new tools to expand our capabilities, such as Zoom, Eventbrite, Mail Chimp (new E-blast email updates coming in 2020!)

We want to give a special “**Thank You**” to **Susan Street** who has been our long time and excellent **Voter** newsletter editor.

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The **November 6th New Voter Informational Presentation** sponsored by the League and the Solano Community College Student Life Office went very well. We had 24 attendees, and it looked like everyone was engaged and enjoyed it. John Gardener always provides rich information and is fun to listen to, and everyone attending had the opportunity to try out the new voting machines. Thank you to the league members who came out in support of this event.

The **League Members Mixer on November 9th** was also a success!

Thank you to everyone who helped with this event. Attendees were very engaged at the tables and during the presentation. The committee chairs generated an atmosphere of excitement about what is happening with the League. There were displays, a passport game, and the door prizes. The food was fabulous too!

League members got to know one another and learn more about what the league is doing and upcoming events.

“Meet Your Local Officials” Vacaville scheduled for November 21st was cancelled.

North Solano Great Decisions. There has been interest shown for a **Great Decisions Program** in the Northern Part of Solano County. Are you interested? Contact Julie Hartford at juliehartford@gmail.com. See the Great Decisions 2020 article in this newsletter for information about the Benicia program.

Committee Meetings: The PP&E Committee meets monthly. For more information and/or to join us, please contact Julie Hartford at juliehartford@gmail.com.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Diversity and Inclusion is our mantra! The committee is focused on expanding our League to match the rich diversity of Solano County.

Through our activities at Solano College we are expanding our student membership and introducing the League to campus organizations.

Active outreach to the Hispanic and Black Chambers of Commerce and to local churches is helping those organizations be aware of the rich opportunities the League offers.

In January we will also be reaching out to youth clubs, other Chambers, and adult service oriented organizations.

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





LWVSC VOLUNTEER WANT ADS

Join Our Merry Teams! We're looking for volunteers to help build out our capacity to match the growth of our league. Important Volunteer activities are available to suit your skills and time -- an hour or two a month or more. **Contact the committee chairs to find an opportunity that works for you!**

Communications Committee Volunteers Needed

We have exciting volunteer work available for a few hours a month or more. Contact Sandy Coury at sandycoury@gmail.com for information.

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

Event Flyers. If you have a flair for promotional copy and/or some desktop graphics skills and a few hours each month, we need you.

Member Welcome Kits. Help us build friendly member email kits and phone scripts to reach out to new and renewing members with informational emails and calls.

Social Media. Do you speak Facebook and Twitter? We're looking for a volunteer to post on our new LWV Solano County pages 2-3 times per month starting in January 2020. Time commitment 2 hours per month on your schedule.

Membership Committee Volunteers Needed

Without the help of our committee volunteers, we'd be stuck in 2nd gear. For more information, please contact Margo McGlone at margowmc@comcast.net.

Tabling at Solano Community College (SCC), Fairfield. Wednesdays from 11am-1pm staff a table at the Student Center. Our goal is to increase our student membership and volunteers, provide information about our league's events, and of course help folks to register to vote. If you can help one week or many, please contact Marilee Scholl our SCC liaison at mail4marilee@yahoo.com to volunteer.

Outreach to New and Lapsed 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 us in our vigorous efforts to build a diverse and inclusive **membership** and **community connections** that reflect the diversity of our county.

Membership Committee. Help us 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.

More LWVSC VOLUNTEER ADS

Program Planning & Events (PP&E) Volunteers Needed

We Need You! We are always seeking volunteers to help plan and execute the many events we provide for our members and community. Check out the Calendar above for a list of events. Please contact Julie Hartford for more information at juliehartford@gmail.com.

Voter Service Volunteers Needed

Interested in working on Voter's Edge, Adopt-a-Poll, Get Out the Vote or Candidate Forums? Please contact Gayle Vaughan at vonwindgayle@gmail.com for more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS]

President, Niles Medders
 Vice President, Julie Hartford, and PP&E Co-Chair
 Treasurer, Judy Potter
 Secretary Alice Labay
 Program Planning & Events Co-Chairs, Julie Hartford &
 Craig Paterson
 Membership, Margo McGlone
 Communications, Sandy Coury
 High School Civics Competition, Alice Fried
 Voter Service, Gayle Vaughn

Voter Newsletter [Update]

Leslie Lessenger, Sandy Coury, Niles Medders

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES [Update]

Due by the 17th of the month
 Email to Sandy Coury, 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.



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