

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOLANO COUNTY

January 2020 <https://my.lww.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.

Please watch for updates to these events, as things can change from time to time.

January 11th, Saturday, 10am: **LWVC Advocacy Teach-In & Tune-Up 2020**, California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento. Visit <https://my.lww.org/california/orange-coast/event/lwvc-advocacy-teach-tune-2020> for details.

January 14th, Thursday, 1pm, **Voter Service Committee Meeting**, Fairfield. Please contact Gayle Vaughn for details, vonwindgayle@gmail.com.

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, **Great Decisions**, first meeting at the Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Room, 150 East L Street, Benicia CA. Topics will be *Climate Change and the Global Order*.

Jan 29th at 7:00 pm, **Benicia Candidate Forum** Candidates Forum for District 1, Board of Supervisors, Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street, Dona Benicia Room, Benicia. Co-sponsored by the Library and AAUW.

Jan 30th from 6:30 to 8:30pm, **Candidate Forum for District 5 Solano County Supervisor Candidates Vacaville**, Solano County Library, 1 Town Square, Vacaville

February 3rd at 7:00 pm, **Great Decisions**, second meeting at the Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Room, 150 East L Street, Benicia. The topic will be *India and Pakistan*.

February 10th at 7:00 pm, **Great Decisions**, third meeting at the Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Room, 150 East L Street, Benicia. The topic will be *Red Sea Security*.

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

February 24th at 7:00 pm, **Great Decisions**, fourth meeting at the Benicia Public Library, Dona Benicia Room, 150 East L Street, Benicia. The topic will be *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*.

February 28th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm **Annual Meet Your Local Officials Benicia Event**, Estey Real Estate and Property Management, 216 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510

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

Hello Leaguers and Friends! We hope you all have had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. As we greet the New Year we are hitting the ground running.

There is a lot going on this month and a lot on the horizon heading our way. Beginning with our Annual Program Planning session on the 14th (look for the details in this newsletter), all members are encouraged to attend. Craig Paterson and his subcommittee will review with us the priorities of the League at the national level and solicit members' views on them, as well as identify the priorities of our members on more local issues. It will be interesting and important as the priorities you set will guide our focus in the coming year.

We are getting busy as we approach our new early Primary Election date of March 3rd.

The Voter Service and the Program and Events Committees are cosponsoring a number of Candidate Forums for the public to hear local candidates' views on topics of import. Check the Calendar for your city's Forum. [Just a little note here: Our goal is to have Forums in all cities and all elections. Some municipalities and candidates are not familiar with the League and have yet to see how their presence in our forums can increase interest and participation in the functioning of local government. We will show them over coming elections.]

The Great Decisions Series begins at the end of the month (look for details in this newsletter)

Pace yourself, Democracy is not a spectator sport!

Niles Medders
President



VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Youth Voter Registration



Our YVR teams continued to register voters right into the holidays. THANK YOU! Before Thanksgiving, 12 volunteers traveled out to Rio Vista to give a presentation to 100 students. Within 35 minutes we had 82 completed forms to drop off at the Registrar of Voters Office on the way home!

Last week two different teams, spent two mornings at the Vallejo Adult School giving multiple presentations to both people earning their GED and those learning English and citizenship. We registered a few and were thanked multiple times for coming.

This month we will start going to schools in Vallejo, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Dixon, for example:

January 14th, Tuesday, 8am-2:25: Youth Voter Registration at Vallejo High School

January 23rd, Thursday, 11am: Voter Registration at Fairfield Adult School

If you have been trained on how to do this, expect to receive a call or an email from one of our area coordinators. You can always email vonwindgayle@gmail.com to volunteer. We hope to finish with in-class registration for the Primary Election by the end of January.

DMV Voter Registration Problems: Check your registration.



As recently reported in the San Francisco Chronicle (SF Gate), the Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters has discovered that voters choosing to automatically renew or register through the DMV have had their party preference changed from a specific party to “no party preference” (NPP) through a computer glitch. This has apparently affected thousands of voters there. It is a major problem before a presidential primary, as those listed as no party preference (NPP) will receive a ballot with no presidential candidates. Those listed as NPP can REQUEST a ballot for the Democratic, Libertarian, or American Independent at their local Registrar of Voters Office or at the polls. However, those registered as NPP will NOT be allowed to vote for presidential candidates in the Republican, Green, or Peace and Freedom Party candidates.

Although the recent report was about Contra Costa County, and before going to press we have been unable to verify with Solano County that this is a problem here, it would be a good idea to check/change your own registration status. This is easily done by going to <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov/> and filling out a simple form. You will receive an immediate response.

Voter's Edge

Voter's Edge is a website run by the LWVC that provides nonpartisan information about candidates, propositions, and measures. Local Leagues help collect the information and enter it into the database. Our Solano VE team has begun gathering emails of potential candidates for Board of Supervisors, Judges, and Party Central Committees and will be inviting them to submit their information as soon as they are confirmed by the Secretary of State. The site should be up and running by mid- to late January.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE continued

Adopt-a-Poll

The League is adopting the poll at Club Pacifica in Benicia. Those who have expressed an interest are being contacted and their names passed on to the Registrar of Voters who will send info about training. Members from Fairfield and Vacaville have expressed an interest in participating in North County, but not enough people have volunteered YET, to adopt a poll. As well as allowing volunteers to work 4 hour shifts, instead of all day shifts, it is also a good fundraiser for the League. If you are interested and haven't yet been contacted, please email vonwindgayle@gmail.com before January 15th.

Candidates Forums

The League, in coordination with the Benicia Vallejo American Association of University Women, will be holding a forum for candidates from District 1 for Board of Supervisors on January 29, 2020 at 7 pm in the Dona Benicia Room, Benicia Library. All three candidates, Incumbent Monica Brown, K. Patrice Williams, and Rochelle Sherlock have confirmed. The forum debate will be moderated by Belinda Smith. We hope to see you there! Come early as seats usually fill up fast.



The League is also setting up a candidates' forum in Vacaville, on Jan. 30. As of this writing, the current location is the Vacaville City Library, but that may change. We may combine the Vacaville forum with one in Fairfield since candidates for District 5 for Board of Supervisors include parts of both cities. Keep a look out for an email later in the month with the full details.

Currently we are working with several groups in Vallejo, attempting to partner together to set up a forum for the candidates for District 2 of the Board of Supervisors, which includes all of Vallejo north of Georgia Street. District 1 candidates would also be invited as that district include all of Vallejo south of Georgia Street.



Vote Signs

The Voter Service volunteers will begin distributing VOTE! Yard signs in late January or early February. Please contact the area coordinators below if you would like a yard sign, and one of our volunteers will bring you one and pick it up again after the March 3rd election. Should you wish to keep a sign from February through the November election and beyond that can be arranged with a small donation to the LWV Benicia (the final changes to our name are still in the works).

Voter Service Leadership, Gayle Vaughn, Chair and Becky Cecena, Deputy Chair
Voter Service Area Coordinators

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

Carole Paterson: Fairfield: vjocarole@yahoo.com

Barbara King: Fairfield: bking2520@comcast.net

Becky Cecena: Vacaville: redmustang502001@aol.com

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

Debra Schwab: Dixon/Rio Vista: debra15933@yahoo.com



TALES FROM OUR LEAGUE

In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the county-wide expansion of our local League, Marilee Scholl, who handles PR for our League, is collecting member stories. Here's the first of what we hope to be a collection of many. If you have a League story to share, we encourage you share it with Marilee. You can contact her at:

mail4marilee@yahoo.com.

For fifteen years, the Benicia chapter of the League of Women Voters has worked to increase democratic participation, plan and host events, and research local and regional issues, and inform voters. "The League has been a part of my life since I was a child," says Benicia chapter member Susan Street. "My mother was the League's State Treasurer, and she came to share her expertise with us when we formed the Benicia chapter. I was so proud to introduce her!" Since then, the Benicia League chapter has hosted events, registered voters, researched issues and provided nonpartisan information to voters on local, state, and national issues and candidates.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Share your League story! Details about this exciting project are above: Tales from our League.

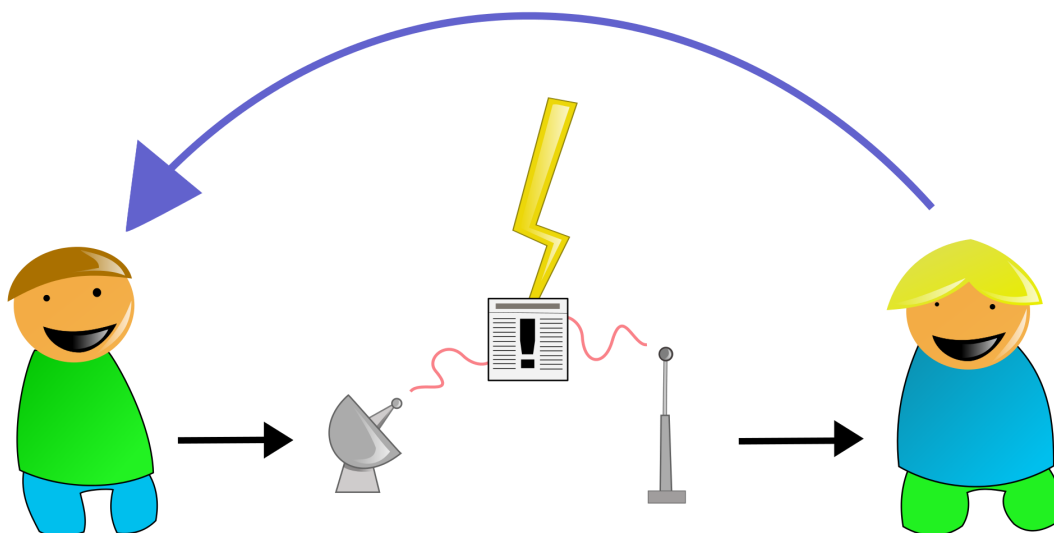
For information on joining our committee, please contact Sandy at sandycoury@gmail.com.

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 this year!)

We're looking to grow our fledgling team, to find out more please contact Sandy Coury at sandycoury@gmail.com.



PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE



As you can tell from the events calendar, the PP&E Committee is very active bringing educational and Committee Meetings to our members and communities, such as:

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

All members are encouraged to come and participate. We'll be sending informational materials before the meeting.

Jan 29th at 7:00 pm, Benicia Candidate Forum Candidates Forum for District 1, Board of Supervisors, Benicia Public Library, 150 East L Street, Dona Benicia Room, Benicia. Co-sponsored by the Library and AAUW.

Jan 30th from 6:30 to 8:30pm, Candidate Forum for District 5 Solano County Supervisor Candidates Vacaville, Solano County Library, 1 Town Square, Vacaville

February 28th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm Annual Meet Your Local Officials Benicia Event, Estey Real Estate and Property Management, 216 1st St, Benicia, CA 94510

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



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee is focused on expanding our League to match the rich diversity of Solano County and thanks to its committed and vigorous efforts and the support of other committees, our League's goal of increasing the diversity and inclusion of our membership and community affiliations is yielding good results. Here are the latest updates:

Our activities at Solano College continue to grow -- weekly tabling at the Fairfield campus, building relationships with the administration, faculty, and student organizations. Headed by Marilee Scholl, we are expanding our student membership and introducing the League and our initiatives to campus organizations.

Margo McGlone along with League members and deep community connections are forming important new ties to local churches, the Hispanic and Black Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, and other service organizations such as the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Solano Alumnae Chapter.

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

Knowing that keeping members in good standing is as important as outreach to new members, in January, we'll be reaching out to members to remind them to renew their memberships.

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

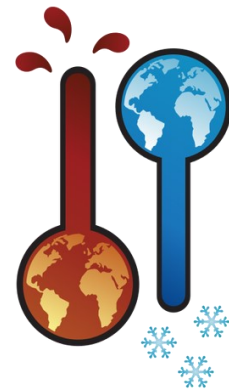
GREAT DECISIONS 2020 -- Signup for a *Great Decisions* Briefing Book



Great Decisions will have its first meeting of 2020 on **Monday January 27th** at the Benicia Public Library. The Foreign Policy Association's international affairs discussion group is jointly sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the Benicia Public Library. Weekly meetings will continue on Monday evenings 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM through March 23rd. There will be no meeting on February 17th because the library will be closed for the President's Holiday. The meetings are in the Dona Benicia meeting room at the Benicia Library at 150 East L Street in Benicia.

Books have been ordered for those who requested a book. They should arrive sometime after the first of January. When they arrive, we will contact those who have requested a book with instructions for picking up the books. If you would like a book but have not yet requested one please email nilesmedders@gmail.com and ask to be added to the book order list. We have ordered a few extra books and will be able to let you know if we can accommodate your request. Books will be \$25.

The topic for January 27th is *Climate Change and the Global Order*. On February 3rd we will discuss *India and Pakistan*. February 10th's topic is *Red Sea Security* and on February 24th we will learn more about *Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking*. Everyone is welcome. No expertise required. We view a documentary prepared by the Foreign Policy Association and encourage attendees to read the accompanying chapter in the Briefing Book. You are welcome to come if you would just like to watch the video and listen to the discussion. Hope to see many of you at the Benicia Library Monday night January 27th at 7:00 PM. If you have any questions please feel free to email me at judy.potter@gmail.com.



Foreign Policy Association





Ready to get involved? Help us build out our capacity to match the fast growth of our Solano league. Important Volunteer activities are available to suit your skills and time – 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. Check out the opportunities below and contact Sandy Coury at sandycoury@gmail.com for information.

Social Media. Speak Facebook and Twitter? Help us bring our social media presence back to life!

Just post 2-3 times per month on our new LWV Solano County pages on your schedule.

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

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

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

Membership Committee Volunteers Needed

We're now 110 strong but 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 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 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.** We are often looking for volunteers to greet and check in people at events and hand out name tags. We often need volunteers to bake cookies or sweets to hand out at events and to staff tables. There is always a need for volunteers to set up and clean up before and after our events.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President, Niles Medders: nilesmedders@gmail.com

Vice President, Julie Hartford, and PP&E Co-Chair: juliehartford@gmail.com

Treasurer, Judy Potter: judy.potter@gmail.com

Secretary Alice Labay

Program Planning & Events Co-Chairs

Julie Hartford: juliehartford@gmail.com

Craig Paterson: craig_paterson@yahoo.com

Membership, Margo McGlone: margowmc@comcast.net

Communications, Sandy Coury: sandycoury@gmail.com

High School Civics Competition, Alice Fried: alicefried89@gmail.com

Voter Service

Gayle Vaughn, Chair: vonwindgayle@gmail.com

Becky Cecena, Deputy Chair: redmustang502001@aol.com



Voter Newsletter

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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