

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SOLANO COUNTY

May 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.

LWV SOLANO COUNTY CALENDAR



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

Great Decisions

Great Decisions has been learning to Zoom! The Foreign Policy Association has provided our group with digital downloads of the video episodes for this year's topics. This has enabled us to complete the two topics which we had not yet viewed and discussed. Along with the eight original episodes the Foreign Policy Association has sent several additional episodes. There is an episode just completed mid-March on Global Health. We will likely discuss this episode the first Monday in May. If you are interested in joining our 7:00 pm Zoom discussion but are not currently receiving information from Niles please send him an email at nilesmedders@gmail.com.

Annual Membership Meeting, June 11th, 7:00pm via Zoom teleconference, see information below in the Program Planning & Events Committee report. More details to come.

All committee meetings are being held via Zoom at this time.

zoom

From the President

I hope you are all well.

It is difficult to decide what to share during these times so I'll err on the side of being brief.

Due to the corona virus we are postponing our Annual Meeting, which typically occurs in late May, until June 11th. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Our bylaws do not provide for the extraordinary circumstances we are in so your board is developing an interim plan. You will receive an email in a few weeks with the procedures the board has devised to handle the election of officers, adoption of Program and Budget for the forthcoming year, as well as some suggestions for bylaws updating. When it is safe to do so a General Membership Meeting will be held, hopefully in the fall, to formally ratify the decisions made following the interim procedures that will be decided on at the June 11th meeting.

There's good reading in this newsletter and on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) pages, as well as at [LWVC.org](#) and [LWV.org](#), to help stay informed and to while away the hours.

Take Care

Niles Medders
President
League of Women Voters Solano County

p.s. – If you are wondering how Solano County is doing on the 2020 Census, check out this link: <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>



Voter's Edge Update

Voter's Edge is a website that assists voters in getting information about candidates for office as well as info about the measures and propositions on the ballot. It is a statewide program, serving several million people, and is advertised in our voter registration programs with a bookmark explaining how to use it.



The information on Voter's Edge is inputted by volunteers in each county. There is a formal, established system for contacting candidates and getting their data. This fall there will be approximately 150 candidates running for office in Solano County: mayors, city councilmembers, school board members, and others. We will need a lot of volunteers to help with this important resource to the public. The LWVC Voter's Edge team will be offering a webinar training in July (date TBD). That team is very helpful and can guide us well with our own county endeavors. We will start entering data in late August or early September and continue until November. It's a short term, intense job that is satisfying to do. Please consider being a part of this team and contact vonwindgayle@gmail.com to get more information.

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER, Judy Potter



DUES and Tax Deductibility

Unless you have paid your dues recently **it is time to pay annual dues** which come due each year at our Annual Membership meeting. As noted above, our annual dues is \$70 for a single membership and \$105 for two members in one household. The simplest way to pay this is to write a check to the League of Women Voters Solano County or go to our [website](#) and use PayPal to pay. If you would like to receive a partial tax deduction the LWV US has determined that half of the payment we send to them is eligible for a tax deduction and the LWV CA has determined that a quarter of the payment we send to them is eligible for a deduction. You could write two separate checks. If you are a single member you can make one check out to *LWV Solano County* for \$47.00. This amount is not tax deductible. You can make a second check out to *LWV Solano County Education Fund* for \$23. This is the tax-deductible portion. If you are a two-member household make out one check for \$70.50 to *LWV Solano County* and a second check for \$34.50 to *LWV Solano County Education Fund*. The \$34.50 check is tax deductible. Send checks to: LWV Solano County, PO Box 83, Benicia, CA 94510.

Donations to the LWV Solano County

Any time is a good time to make a donation to the League of Women Voters Solano County. Our annual membership dues, \$70 for a single membership and \$105 for two members in the same household goes mostly to support the extensive educational, advocacy, lobbying and legal action to further the educational and advocacy goals of the LWV US, LWV California and the LWV Bay Area organizations. **Only 10% of the money we collect supports the work of our local organization.** Our organization's activities are greatly enhanced by the donations and grants we receive from members and organizations.

Adopt-A-Poll: Many members and friends worked at polling places during the primary election in March. This is an important service that our members provide to the community. Many members donate the money they earn to the League of Women Voters Solano County. These donations are greatly appreciated and help fund our voter registration and educational events. If you would like to donate all or part of your earnings from working the Polls you need to deposit the check you receive from the Registrar of Voters' office and write a check for the amount you would like to donate to either the *League of Women Voters Solano County*, (this is the non-tax deductible option) or to the *League of Women Voters Solano County Education Fund* (this is the tax deductible option.)

501 (c)(3)s and 501 (c)(4)s. Our local chapter of the League and the federal and state chapters are tax exempt 501 (c) (4) organizations. Known as Social Welfare organizations they are allowed to advocate and lobby for their exempt purpose although they may not participate in a campaign for or against a particular candidate for office. Donations to these organizations are not tax deductible. Examples of well-known 501 (c) (4) organizations are the Sierra Club, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Club for Growth, the National Rifle Association, the California League of Conservation Voters, and AARP. The League of Women Voters has a distinct organization which is a 501 (c) (3). Its purpose is solely to provide educational and voter services programs. None of its funds can be used for advocacy. We have an account with this organization, the League of Women Voters Solano County Education Fund. Checks deposited in this account are tax deductible for the donor and are restricted in use.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Committee is focusing on outreach via calls and Zoom and planning now for “in person” events 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.

Bay Area League Board. Margo McGlone is now our Board Member on the *Bay Area League Board*. The LWV Bay Area is focused on advocacy initiatives, find out more at: <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-bay-area>.

Team Member Activities Updates

Marilee Scholl is focusing on outreach emails:

Solano Community College, Marilee sent a questionnaire to all of our Student Members to actively engage them in LWVSC activities. Meaningful work that fits a student’s class and work schedule is challenging but once students are involved, they will be a powerful force. Marilee is also doing follow up calls to the students.

League Members, she has also developed a similar outreach email to encourage member participation in our committees and activities.

Local Organizations, Marilee is also building a general purpose email we can use for organizations which we would like to connect with and those which want to know more about our League activities.

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.

Napa League Connection. Margo and Niles had a productive Zoom meeting with LWV Napa. The current Napa League has been active for 5 years but there was a previous Napa League that started in the 1940’s and was active for 30 years. They were particularly wanted to know what we had done for membership and were very impressed by what we have been able to achieve in the last year along with our restructuring for countywide membership and our diversity efforts.

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



VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Gayle Vaughan

The Voter Service Committee is holding regular Zoom meetings.



Campaign Finance Reform in Benicia

The City Council had their second reading of the new campaign finance ordinance in early April. The meeting was supposed to be televised with an option for public comment, but there were major technical difficulties, so only audio was available with no public comment. It appears that more changes were suggested by the lawyers and the ordinance has been returned to staff for updating. Stay tuned, we may get a new ordinance in place in time for the August filing deadline for the fall election.

Voter Service: Planning for the Future

The Voter Service Committee is actively engaged in restructuring the committee, delegating the various tasks to specific positions. Area Coordinators will be taking on more responsibilities for jobs tied to their current efforts, but more volunteers will be needed to help with candidate forums, Voters Edge, and sign distribution. We hope to be able to send out a finalized copy of our structure and tasks with the Membership Packet in May.



Youth Voter Registration Project

We want to continue our Youth Voter Registration Program and expand our college and adult registration programs, but the pandemic is anticipated to restrict some of our activities into the fall. We may not be able to physically go into the classrooms once school resumes, but the LWVCA has put together a “virtual voter service visit” that we can use, with just a little tweaking. Plans for volunteer training for voter registration continues and will most likely occur by Zoom in late July or early August. On a more positive note, the parameters for the grant we received from LWVUS have been extended timewise from June through November, so we will have more time to spend the \$520 we have already been awarded and to expect another \$230 when our paperwork is completed afterward.

Adopt-a-Poll

Our March Adopt-a-Poll in Benicia was very successful. We had a good turn-out of well-trained volunteers, many of whom donated their poll worker paychecks back to our League earning us nearly \$1000. A win-win! Not only did we help with the election, we raised money to keep our League doing its good work. Other League members worked as individual poll workers at Rodriquez High and at other sites around the county.

The future of Adopt-a-Poll is uncertain because of the pandemic and also because of a statewide push for California to become a total vote by mail state. Local officials are concerned that many of the poll workers who are senior citizens will need to stay quarantined at home during the election creating a void in available workers. There is also concern about spreading disease at the polls. In the last election, various counties experimented with voting only by mail and officials in those counties determined that it was successful, efficient, and cost-effective.

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE



Annual Membership Meeting. The Program Planning and Events Committee is planning for the League's Annual Membership Meeting. Because the League, locally, state and nationally have committed to only remote, electronic meetings for the foreseeable future, our Annual Membership Meeting will be very different this year.

Here is some of what you can expect.

On May 11th you will get an email with information and links. This will take the place of much of the annual meeting. You will get information about how the League intends to move forward in the next year. You will get reports from each committee including:

- A Proposal from the Program Planning and Events Committee for the upcoming year.
- A Report from the Nominating Committee that will include nominations for the Board (officers and directors).
- A Report from the Treasurer.
- A Budget for the upcoming year to review.
- Proposed changes to the Bylaws for you to review.
- You will want to take time to review this May 11th email and the links it contains.

Then, on June 11th at 7 pm. There will be an electronic, live, meeting that you will be able to attend from your computer or smart device. It is very important that you plan to virtually attend this meeting. It will not be a long meeting; however, it is important that we have at least 30% of the membership in attendance at this meeting so we can vote on several things. During this meeting we will:

- Vote to Adopt the Program for the year.
- Get an updated Nominating Committee Report.
- Vote to elect the Board officers and directors for positions that need to be filled this year.
- Vote to elect the Nominating Committee for the next year.
- Vote to Adopt the Budget.
- Vote to Adopt the Bylaw changes.



As you can see, you should plan ahead to be prepared to vote which is why you should carefully read and follow the links in the May 11th email.

We greatly appreciate your support as we do our very best to move forward with the business of the League in these challenging times. We hope you and your loved ones are all healthy and can remain that way. If you have any questions, please reach out to me personally.

Julie Hartford Vice President League of Women Voters of Solano County

Cell 925 786-5531

juliehartford@gmail.com

Communications committee

Check out our **LWVSC social media pages** for updates from our League and from LWVUS and LWVCA:



Like us on Facebook <https://fb.me/LWVSolano>



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

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.

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

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.

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

LWVSC VOLUNTEER WANT ADS



Time on your hands? Get involved while staying at home! 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 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.

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.

Outreach to New and Existing 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?

Find out more details on Voter Service volunteering in the Voter Service Committee section or this newsletter. Please contact Gayle Vaughan at vonwindgayle@gmail.com for more information.



Officers

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

Directors At Large

Membership, Margo McGlone:
margowmc@comcast.net

Communications, Sandy Coury:
sandycoury@gmail.com

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

Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Area Coordinators

Program Planning & Events Co-Chairs

Julie Hartford: juliehartford@gmail.com

Craig Paterson: craig_paterson@yahoo.com

Voter Service Leadership

Gayle Vaughn, Chair:

vonwindgayle@gmail.com

Becky Cecena, Deputy Chair:

redmustang502001@aol.com

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

