



League of Women Voters of Solano County

VOTER

November 2019

<https://my.lwv.org/california/benicia>

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



November 6th at 7 P.M. will be a **New Voter Informational Presentation** sponsored by the League of Women Voters Benicia and the Solano Community College Student Life Office. It will be held at 1400 Student Center on the main campus in Fairfield.

November 9th 10 A.M to 12 P.M. **League Members Mixer** at the Solano County Office of Education, 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534

November 12th Tuesday, 7:00 PM **LWVSC Board Meeting**, Niles Medders' home, 200 Brighton Drive, Vallejo, CA

Nov 21st 6:30 – 8:30 P.M **Meet Your Local Officials Vacaville**. At the Town Square Library in Vacaville.

November 25th Monday, 7:00 PM **Great Decisions Extension**, Nancy Lund's home, 200 Marina Drive, Benicia, CA

January 27th 2020 **Great Decisions Program** Starts in Benicia

January 14th 7pm **League of Women Voters Solano County Program Planning Meeting** at Solano County Office of Education

Jan 29th 7 pm **Benicia Candidate Forum** Benicia Public Library

Jan 30th 6:30 – 8:30 P.M **Candidate Forum Vacaville** Town Square Library

February **Annual Meet Your Local Officials event in Benicia** Date and Time TBD

February 14th **LWV 100 Year Anniversary**

March 3rd Primary Election Day

May 14th **Annual Membership Meeting** Time TBD

June 20th **Garage Sale, Clock Tower, Benicia**



From the President:

I hope all members can come to our **League of Women Voters of Solano County** mixer on **Saturday, November 9, from 10:00 am to noon** (details inside). It will be a great opportunity to meet the other members of our League and to learn a bit more about what we will be doing in the future. There will be snacks (!) and brief orientations from our standing committees. You'll probably find just the thing you've been interested in!



In case you missed it, the national League of Women Voters has approved our application for a name change and expansion of our service area. We are now officially **The League of Women Voters of Solano County**! The last step left is to get all the paperwork straightened out with the State of California and the IRS, so you may still see our old name on things for a little while longer, but we are now the League for the whole County!

Niles Medders

President

League of Women Voters of Solano County

Voter Service Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers who have expressed an interest in working on Voter's Edge, Adopt-a-Poll, Get Out the Vote or candidate forums will be contacted this month to confirm their commitments and set up work times. If you are interested in volunteering or want more information please contact Gayle Vaughan at vonwindgayle@gmail.com.



GREAT DECISIONS 2020 TOPICS AND DATES SET

The League of Women Voters Benicia / Solano County will again co-sponsor **The Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions program with the Benicia Public Library**. Members and the public are welcome and encouraged to participate in this discussion program which focuses on international affairs. The group uses materials prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. We view a documentary on the topic of the week, participants are encouraged to read a chapter in the Great Decisions Briefing Book that covers material related to the video presentation and then we discuss the issues presented.



We will order a classroom set of briefing books that will be available at a discounted price. If you would like a book, please email Niles Medders at nilesmedders@gmail.com. The discounted books will be distributed on a first come first serve basis to those who sign up. The books will be available sometime after the first of the year. Once the discounted books have been spoken for, books will need to be purchased individually from the Foreign Policy Association. We are not sure what the cost will be because they are not yet available. Last year the discounted books were \$25 each including shipping. Books can be paid for when you receive it or pick it up. The League purchases 3 books which it

provides to the Benicia Library. The library places these books in their reference section.

Meetings this year will again be on **Monday evenings beginning January 27, 2020**. We will meet in the Dona Benicia meeting room 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. We will also meet February 3rd, 10th and 24th and March 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

The topics for 2020 are: Climate Change and the Global Order, India and Pakistan, Red Sea Security, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, U.S Relations with the Northern Triangle, China's Road Into Latin America, The Philippines and the U.S., and Artificial Intelligence and Data. For more information about these topics go to the Foreign Policy Association website at www.fpa.org. To receive ongoing information about the Great Decisions program email nilesmedders@gmail.com and ask to be added to the Great Decisions email list.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in January at the library!!!

Judy Potter judy.potter@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is a dynamo! To build and diversify our membership, our committee members continue to leverage their deep, county-wide connections via dozens of calls, organization meetings, local events, and our strengthening relationship with Solano Community College. We also work hand in hand with our Voter Service and Program Planning and Event teams to support their efforts and build our membership.

We Need You! Without the help of our committee volunteers, we'd be stuck in 2nd gear. Please check out these Volunteer Opportunities:

Tabling at Solano Community College (SCC), Fairfield. We're staffing a table 2 hours per week in 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. Wednesdays from 11am-1pm is the planned time for which we need help. If you are interested in helping staff our table, please contact Marilee Scholl our SCC liaison at mail4marilee@yahoo.com to volunteer.



Outreach to New and Lapsed Members. Set your own volunteer hours and help us onboard and involve our members in the league with friendly calls, emails, and other outreach. For more information, please contact Margo McGlone at margowmc@comcast.net.

Membership Committee. Interested in helping us grow and diversify our league? We invite you to join our committee. We have exciting volunteer work available for a few hours a month or more. For more information, please contact Margo McGlone at margowmc@comcast.net.

If you don't see an opportunity that fits your interests or time resources, give us a buzz, there are many other important tasks where we can use your valuable help.

Membership Team Members: Chair Margo McGlone, Deputy Chair **Sandy Coury**, Marilee Scholl (SCC liaison), Julie Hartford, Margie Olson, Alice Fried, Lilli Rollins, Jesse Branch, Giselle Acevedo

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

COMMUNICATION



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The new communications committee is hard at work! We're building simple, sensible processes to make sure our fast-growing league and its committees can provide 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 and Board, Internal Committee, and Great Expectations communications.

Our Goals:

Make sure the flow of information is smooth, clear and easy-to-access while following League guidelines.

Maximize the value of our existing communications:

The Voter, our monthly newsletter

Our **website**

Press Releases

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



Join Our Merry Team! Communications volunteer opportunities:

We're looking for volunteers to work collegially to help build out our capacity to match the growth of our league.

Website. Have some website savvy and 6-7 hours per month to volunteer? We need you. Our site platform is provided by LWVCA and provides lots of tools and flexibility to grow and improve our site.

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.

If you don't see an opportunity that fits your interests or time resources, give us a buzz, there are many other important tasks where we can use your valuable help. To volunteer, please email sandycoury@gmail.com.

Communications Team:

Sandy Coury (Chair), Alice Fried (Deputy Chair), Marilee Scholl (Publicity),
Susan Street and Leslie Lessenger (Voter Newsletter) – ADD YOUR NAME HERE!

Committee Meetings: Monthly, please contact Sandy at sandycoury@gmail.com for more information.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Youth Voter Registration

The Voter Service team continues to grow with new volunteers helping to register high school students and others to vote. We recently registered 5 classes of students at Mare Island Technology Academy and multiple class visitations are being scheduled for Vacaville High School and Armejo High School in Fairfield. We have several more class visits planned in January, so if you haven't been called on to volunteer it's not too late.

During our presentations some teachers have been asking us to explain the ramifications of registering Non-Party Preference (NPP), formerly referred to as "independent." It seems that many young people are resistant to joining any party. In discussions, students say they don't trust the parties because of the blind following of party policy when they don't agree with all of the party values and that there is corruption and cronyism in both major parties. Hence, they register as NPP.

During a primary election that may create a problem for voters. Ballots are given out specific to the party indicated. In California, we have an open primary, except for President, which means anyone can vote for any candidate regardless of party, except for President. Democrats would get a ballot showing only Democratic candidates for President; Republicans would get one showing only Republican candidates for President; NPP voters would get a ballot with no presidential candidates.



In past primaries, some parties allow for NPP voters to receive a party ballot if requested. The parties have to file a form with the Secretary of State to indicate if they plan to allow a modified open primary which would allow NPP voters to vote using a party ballot. Traditionally the Republicans conduct a closed primary (No NPP voters), while the Democrats and Green Party conduct a modified open primary (allowing NPP voters). As of this writing, the deadline for filing the form has not yet past, so we don't yet know what the parties intend for the March primary. We should know by the beginning of November.

The young people we talked with are anxious to take part in the Presidential Primary, but are uncertain as how to register party/no party wise. We have been advising them to register their preference (in many cases NPP) and then IF the parties choose not to allow NPP to vote in their Presidential Primary, they can easily change the party by reregistering either online, or doing a same day registration at the polls on Election Day. (A recent law and new voting equipment allow same day registration votes to be counted without being considered "provisional").

This may seem like nitpicking to some, but in 2020, the 18-24 demographic will be the largest in the history of the United States. If they vote, the youth could control the elections.

Voter Service team: Gayle Vaughan, chair, Becky Cecena, deputy chair, Carole Paterson, Barbara King, Mona Whitney, and Debra Schwab. In addition we have dozens of volunteers helping with youth voter registration, Voter's Edge, Adopt-a-poll, and candidate forms. Thank you all!

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The **Program Planning and Event Committee** has been busy again this past month. On September 25th (too late to make it into last month's newsletter), we staffed a table at the "Night Out on the Rocky Hill Trail" Community Event in Vacaville. A big thank you to the League members who made the hike to set up the table and supplies, and then work in the 103-degree evening heat! We were afraid that because of the heat no one would attend this event. We were happily surprised that the event was very well attended. We had several great conversations and gave out four voter registration forms. We all felt very good about the event... other than the heat. A BIG thank you to Becky Cecena and Jeanie White.



The Rocky Hill event led to a request for the League to staff a table at the Markham Elementary School Fall Festival on October 4th. Margie Olson took the lead with this event and staffed a table with Ana Petero and Jim Hardwick. They had two people fill out voter registration forms on the spot and two other people took forms. One of these people had just become a citizen that very week. What a rewarding experience for them to share with this man. It is conversations like this that make what we are doing worth it. Thank you Margie, Ana and Jim!



Mock Elections. Many League members stepped up and were volunteers with the Mock Elections held by the Registrar of Voters in eight different locations throughout Solano County on October 16th. In order to work the polls that day the volunteers had to be trained in setting up and taking down the new Ballot Scanners, Touch Writers, and eRosters. Only then, could they work the polls at the Mock Elections. Other League members helped with the election by coming out to the polls and casting their votes in fun categories such as "your favorite flavor of ice cream". The point of this exercise was to identify areas where equipment training and set up needed to be enhanced. We have not received word yet on which ice cream or cartoon characters won!

We need your help again!



New Voter Informational Presentation. On November 6th at 7 P.M. a New Voter Informational Presentation sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Solano County and the Solano Community College Student Life Office will take place at 1400 Student Center on the main campus in Fairfield. This event is open for the general public to attend as well as students from surrounding high schools. John Gardener from the Solano County Registrar of Voters will speak about our county's election process, voting security, and demonstrate the new voting machines. Register to attend on our website at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/solano-county-voters-free-community-learning-event-registration-72152856135> We are looking for volunteers to help with this event. We will need greeters and volunteers to sit at a table and register voters if anyone needs to be registered. **If you can help call** Julie Hartford at 925 786-5531

Every League Member and any member's guest who is interested in joining the League should attend the **League Members Mixer.**

(This is going to be fun!)

**November 9th 10 A.M to 12 P.M. at the Solano County Office of Education
5100 Business Center Dr., Fairfield, CA 94534**

Please **RSVP by 11/4/19** through our website at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/event/lwv-solano-county-member-mixer>

The purpose of this event is for league members to get to know one another, learn more about what the league is doing now, our upcoming events, and find out about volunteer opportunities so that you can help make democracy work for all.

Our League now has over 105 members! Come meet someone new. We have so many exciting events coming up! You will want to be informed. And we need volunteers. **If you can help with this event,** call Julie Hartford at 925 786-5531 (Did I mention fantastic door prizes?)

Meet Your Local Officials Vacaville will be **Nov 21st 7 – 8:30 P.M.** at the Town Square Library, 1 Town Square in Vacaville. This will be a meet and mingle event for Vacaville Community Members to chat with local city officials including the city council. Please join us! **If you can help call** Julie Hartford at 925 786-5531.

The Program Planning and Events Committee's November meeting has not been scheduled yet. If you would like to be invited contact Julie Hartford at 925 786-5531 or email juliehartford@gmail.com

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Newsletter

Susan Street, Leslie Lessenger and Niles Medders

Newsletter submissions:
 due by 20th of the month
 Susan Street, susanstreet240@gmail.com

League business only
 What where, when why in first paragraph
 200 words or less
 Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt is preferred.



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