

Greetings Members and Friends,

Another LWV Solano year is ending. And what a year it has been! Following the 2023 Annual meeting the newly elected board of directors met at the Cordelia Library to focus on goals for the 2023-24 year. Also, at that meeting we learned about our role as advocates from Gloria Chun Hoo, who joined us from the San Jose League and is a member of the LWVC board of directors. We anticipated that these skills will be very important during the 2024 election cycle.

Gathering no dust under our feet, we, under the excellent organizational guidance of Dr. Sarah Chapman as chair, began planning for the visit of our Secretary of State, Dr. Shirley Weber. Held at Solano Community College's Performing Arts Theater, those in the audience were treated to a wonderful presentation by Dr. Weber who spoke of her growing up years and her current role as our Secretary of State. It was a very personal and heartwarming experience.

Wanting to bring our membership together for some socializing and to also meet one of our Board of Supervisor members, Mitch Mashburn, we gathered at the lovely Green Valley winery Rock Creek for the event. Hosted by owners Carolyn and Tom West, we enjoyed Supervisor Mashburn's presentation, sipped wine, vied to win the door prizes, and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company—in person, not Zoom, so refreshing!

The March Primary saw us conducting candidate forums in Fairfield, Benicia and high school senior classes were visited by members to help them register to vote. The Program Committee launched a banned book discussion series via Zoom. We discussed podcasts from the "Velshi Banned Book Club" podcast series, produced by MSNBC. On each of the three weeks, sessions were held to discuss 2 podcasts, covering a total of 6 podcasts. We included members and community friends.

Our LWV Solano discussion series caught the attention of the "Velshi" production team... and Ali himself. Subsequently, Alice Fried and Rami Muth were interviewed by Ali Velshi recently. Their recorded conversation will be aired sometime soon on the MSNBC Velshi Show. It's exciting for LWV Solano to put our county on the national map in this way!

It has been an honor to serve as your president for the past three years. I am looking forward to continuing as a member of the board—it is a team of excellent leaders that I have grown to admire and respect. I look forward to rolling up my sleeves in a different capacity with our board, always with the goal of making democracy work.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole A. Peterson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.