



January—February 2023 <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

Please watch for updates to these events, as things change from time to time. Most LWV Solano meetings are currently taking place on Zoom unless otherwise noted.



Observer Corps Training. Saturday, February 4th 10-am to Noon at Suisun City Hall. See details on our website at:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/lwv-solano-observer-corps-updates-reports-and-guidelines>

Great Decisions 2023. The new 2023 meetings start Monday, February 6th. See details for the 8-session program on our website at <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/2023-great-decisions-program> (Details page 5)

LWV Solano League 103rd Birthday Celebration & Program Planning Meeting. Thursday, February 16th 5:30pm via Zoom. Details at <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/event/league-103rd-birthday-celebration-2023-program-planning-meeting>

League of Women Voters of California Convention 2023. Friday, May 19, 2023 - 10:00am to Sunday, May 21, 2023 - 12:45pm. For more information visit:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county/event/league-women-voters-california-convention-2023>

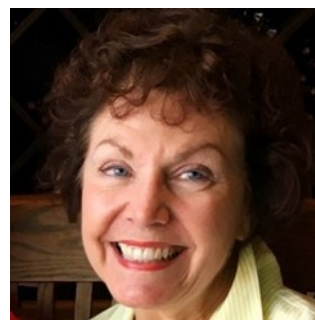
Bay Area League Events.

<https://my.lwv.org/california/bay-area/calendar>

Board, General, and Committee meetings are being held via Zoom at this time. Members always welcome. Email LwvSolano@gmail.com for Zoom information.

Note from our President

Carole Paterson



Greetings and Happy New Year!

As we see the end of January 2023 approaching, I would like us to turn our sights on the months ahead. I like to think of 2023—what's left of it---as the year of “**P**”s. The board of directors adopted a proposal from the Program Planning Committee to present to the membership at our general meeting on February 16th a list of options for our program priorities. Your participation in this important gathering (via Zoom) is critical. Why? Because we want your active participation during this year and the three priorities we choose for our action and advocacy need to resonate with your “I’m in!” interest.

Participation is key to our league’s success. And your participation is necessary now more than ever. Yes, we are very pleased you support our organization with your dues and donations, but now as we prepare for 2024, this year of planning needs everyone to take an active role. We have committees that need your ideas and enthusiasm. We have a board of directors that will see 6 vacancies this June. Time to step up.

Planning for the 2024 elections starts now. We have about a year to do this planning and there are already ideas bubbling up that would welcome your support. As you have heard so often “Democracy is not a spectator sport!” and this is your time to live that pronouncement.

Our **Purpose** as a vital organization in Solano County is to educate citizens about their voting rights and understand their role in making democracy work. Young people need to understand their role as an active citizen in our society. Join with others who are working to see success in this area of interest.

I look forward to hearing that you have joined a committee or said “yes, I’ll serve” when someone from the board’s nominating committee calls.



HELP US CELEBRATE THE LEAGUE'S 103RD BIRTHDAY & SET 2023 PRIORITIES AT THE PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING!

You are cordially invited to the **League of Women Voters 103rd Birthday Celebration** and to **provide your input on our League's 2023 program priorities.**

WHEN: Thursday, February 16th from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

HOW: Use the zoom link below to join us for this important meeting.

Join via Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88088357046?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88088357046?pwd=WIBIR0NydTJUYjc1QmJ3dWtNU1ZjQT09)

[pwd=WIBIR0NydTJUYjc1QmJ3dWtNU1ZjQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88088357046?pwd=WIBIR0NydTJUYjc1QmJ3dWtNU1ZjQT09)

Meeting ID: 880 8835 7046

Passcode: 313901



WHAT: A virtual meeting to celebrate, meet, and reconnect with members of the League of Women Voters Solano and to identify our program focus for the next two years.

WHY: It's Our Birthday!

February marks the celebration of 103 years of the League empowering voters and defending democracy!

Re-commit to encouraging citizen participation and advocate for public policies that grow our communities and sustain the well-being of our democracy.

We are seeking your input in identifying the program focus areas for advocacy and education.

We are happy to continue this work that started over a century ago.

Please join us for this important work.



You will have the opportunity to present your own ideas and vote on the priorities for our League.

FULL DETAILS: <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/event/league-103rd-birthday-celebration-2023-program-planning-meeting>



LWV Solano's New Mug! The mugs are used as a thank you for guest speakers and they are also available to members at a cost of \$8.00 each. Please email us at lwvsolano@gmail.com Att: Mug if you are interested in purchasing one.



Live to Learn, Learn to Live

How Being WOKE Went from lack to Bad

By Alice Fried

According to the dictionary and Wikipedia, **woke** or **awake** is a legitimate, useful word that means: to show signs of life; stir up; activate; stimulate; lift; boost; come alive. A derivative—the term **stay woke**—was first used in the 1920's when Marcus

Garvey made the call, Wake up Ethiopia! Wake up Africa! in a plea for black people across the world to open their eyes to systemic racism and get involved in politics.

In 1938, Blues musician Lead Belly, (Huddie Ledbetter) recorded the song "*Scottsboro Boys*," a ballad that tells the true story of four black youths falsely accused and later freed for raping a white woman in Scottsboro, Alabama. Lyrics in that ballad, *stay woke*, were an advisory to blacks to be careful when down south, and were used again in 1962 in a *New York Times* article titled If You're Woke You Dig It: No Mickey Mouse Can Be Expected to Follow Today's Negro Idiom Without a Hip Assist. The black author, William Arthur Kelly, wrote the piece pandering to the 1950's and 60's beatnik social movement stressing self-expression highlighting Black American slang appropriated by white people who often missed or distorted the original meanings...

[Click here to read the Full Blog Post and see Origins and Timeline for the word "Woke"](https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/lwvsc-blog-live-learn-learn-live-how-being-woke-went-black-bad) <https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/lwvsc-blog-live-learn-learn-live-how-being-woke-went-black-bad>

TEST YOUR LEAGUE KNOWLEDGE

Who was Maud Wood Park?

Answer on page 8.



GREAT DECISIONS 2023 LAUNCHES FEBRUARY 6TH



Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs and has been one of the most popular programs offered by **the League of Women Voters Solano County**. Once again, our League and the Benicia Public Library will be co-sponsoring the Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Program.

Full details at:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/2023-great-decisions-program>

Meetings are Monday evenings 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in the Dona Benicia Room at the Benicia Library starting Monday February 6th. A virtual option is planned

Great Decisions briefing books are currently available for purchase from the League at the discounted price of \$25 per book.

Interested in participating? Email lwvsolano@gmail.com Att: Niles to be added to receive information about meetings, topics, and the Zoom link for meetings.

Hear what our members say about Great Decisions at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qm6ZuRoLmfQ>

TOPICS

February 6th Energy Geopolitics
Feb. 13th War crimes: what are they?
How can they be prosecuted?
February 27th - China and the U.S.
March 6th - Economic Warfare and U.S. Policy
March 13 th – Political Trends in Latin America
March 20th -Global Famine,
March 27th – Iran at a Crossroads
April 3rd – Climate migration



VOTER SERVICES AND ELECTIONS

The Voter Services team is refreshed after the 2022 election activities and is seeking additional members for this core League committee. All are invited to our monthly meetings. For more information, contact Carole Paterson, LWVS President at mvjocarole@yahoo.com.

Are
You
Ready?

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE —Volunteers needed!

Chaired by our VP, Rami Muth, the Membership Committee connects with members, opens doors for our League and for our other committees. We continue to work to engage diverse communities throughout Solano County, raising awareness of the League and all we have to offer.

The committee is also focusing on improving our new and renewing membership tracking and onboarding process to provide members with engaging messaging and volunteer opportunities.

The committee meets monthly and we invite you to join us. For more information email lwvsolano@gmail.com Att: Rami.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Thank
You!

A big **THANK YOU** to Marilee Scholl who has organized and spearheaded our Publicity efforts for over 3 years! Marilee forged relationships with our local media and expanded our release distribution to include local officials thereby raising awareness of LWV Solano in our county and beyond.

Our team is responsible for our League's press releases, emails, newsletters, social media, our website, blogs, and more. We welcome your participation, feedback, and suggestions, please email us at lwvsolano@gmail.com Att: Communications.

Current team members are Sandy Coury (Chair), Alice Fried (Co-Chair), KC Nash (PR), and Linda Stewart (Social Media). We are also working to bring on new members to help expand our efforts.

GET INVOLVED

Many important Volunteer activities are available to suit your skills and time – from just an hour or two a month or more. **To volunteer, please email lwvsolano@gmail.com Att: Rami.**

**Get Involved.
Have Your Say.
Make A Difference.**

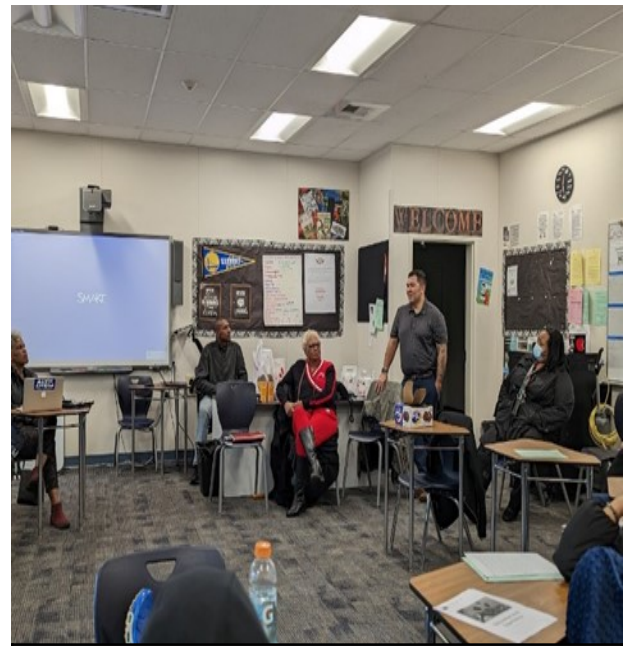
2023 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS KICK OFF

Democracy Matters: LWVSC/SYC and Golden Hills Community School Partnership

For the second year, LWV Solano has been asked to work with the Solano Youth Coalition and Golden Hills Community School to provide students with hands-on civics learning experiences. The LWVSC program leader, Alice Fried, is building on the success of our first year program and activities.

In January at their invitation, LWVSC presented a series of five Democracy Matters learning sessions at **Golden Hills Community School**. These interactive sessions covered:

- 1) **Political Knowledge** Understand local government structure and leaders, showing the difference between federal and state and local.
 - 2) **Common Good** Students learn democratic practices on how to communicate and engage with elected and appointed officers representing them. Three elected city council members Jeanette Wylie, Sarah Chapman and Jason Roberts, Vacaville City Council Members presented.
 - 3) **Critical Thinking** Skills and tools on How to ascertain information on issues and elected and appointed officers representing students and their communities. **Presenters included** Ana Petero, Fairfield/Suisun School Board Representative **and** Princess Washington, Suisun City Council Member.
 - 4) **Citizenship Interactive session with students, LWVSC and the Golden Hills staff.**
- Friday, 1/20: Culminating Exercise**
- 5) **Voter Registration and Voting Training** with John Gardner, Solano County Voter Registrar and his team. Hands on training with real voting equipment on how to register, how to vote, and how to work at a poll.



Golden Hills Community School City Council Member Session

GET THE LATEST ON THE LWV SOLANO COUNTY FACEBOOK PAGE AND BE SURE TO "LIKE" US AND "SHARE"!



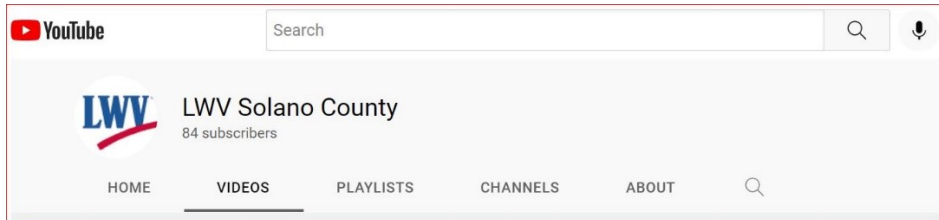
No need for an account or login, just click here or visit our homepage:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/solano-county/article/visit-lwv-solano-facebook-page-right-here>

Discover the LWV Solano YouTube Channel Video Library and Subscribe!

Discover the LWV Solano YouTube Channel Video Library and Subscribe!

If you missed one of our events, want to watch it again, or share a recording with friends and community, be sure to visit. Here is a sampling of the videos you'll find:



TEST YOUR LEAGUE KNOWLEDGE

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League leader to rise to that challenge. She had steered the women's suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two years before ratification and liked nothing better than legislative work.



LWV BAY AREA BOARD BRIEFS & MONITOR

Sherry Smith, President, League of Women Voters of the Bay Area invites all League members to attend LWVBA Board meetings and subscribe to the Bay Area Monitor newsletter. LWVBA website <https://my.lwv.org/california/bay-area-league> Access the Bay Area Monitor Notes at bayareamonitor.org

OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEES

To contact our Officers, Board, and Committee
Coordinators please email: lwvsolano@gmail.com.

Officers

President, Carole Paterson
Vice President, Rami Muth
Treasurer, Judy Potter
Secretary, Kathleen Savage

Board Directors and Committee Chairs

Janice Adams, Board & Fundraising Chair
Sarah Chapman, Board Member-at-Large
Sandy Coury, Board & Communications Chair
Alice Fried, Board & Civics Program
Barbara King, Board Member-at-Large
Rami Muth, Membership Chair
Craig Paterson, Board & Program Planning Co-Chair
Margo McGlone, LWV Bay Area Representative for
LWVSC



Voter Newsletter

Leslie Lessenger, Sandy Coury, Alice Fried

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS GUIDELINES

Due by the 23rd 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.

Committee meetings are being held via Zoom at this time. Meetings and updates are posted on our website .

League of Women Voters Solano County website: LWVSolano.org

Facebook [@LWVSolano](https://www.facebook.com/LWVSolano) **Be sure to Follow and Like Us!**

YouTube [Subscribe to our LWV Solano County Channel](#) **Be sure to Subscribe!**

Email us at: lwvsolano@gmail.com