Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

August, 2019

Defending Democracy Against Voter Suppression

SHINE A LIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

Speaker

Alice Smith

Founding Member of National Voter Corps

Saturday • August 24 • 10:00 A.M. - Noon

Los Gatos United Methodist Church

111 Church Street, Los Gatos

Co-sponsored with the Social Justice Committee of the United Methodist Church

A presentation on how states increase or decrease access to voting, including the recent Supreme Court ruling on the case Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina.

A Free Event

For questions, phone (408) 598-1842 or email lwv.swscv@gmail.com.

Further details on page 4.



Presidents' Letter



As we begin our year as copresidents', we look forward to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters in

2020. The League is the only organization dedicated to universal suffrage that was founded before the 19th Amendment (giving women the vote) and is still in existence today. Why has the League endured? Since 1920, the League (LWV), a citizens' organization, has fought to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact them. League has long held that government of the people, by the people and for the people cannot function without active involvement of the people.

We look to programs this year that will reflect the policies powering the League's work, promoting democracy at a critical time in our history. The League of Women Voters of the U.S. (LWVUS) Campaign for Making Democracy Work®—with its focus on voting rights, expanding the electorate, money in politics reform and fair redistricting—will be prominent among them. This message highlights a number of those important League policies.

Nationally, LWVUS has identified four general "impact issue" areas for 2018-2020:

representative government, international relations, natural resources and social policy—all with profound implications for individual citizens, our nation and our world.

Other programs will reflect the focus issues of LWV at the state and local levels. In addition to the LWVUS Democracy Campaign, California Leagues support four focus issues this year: climate change, housing/homelessness, schools and communities first initiative, and criminal justice reform.

Locally, Southwest Santa Clara Valley (SWSCV) members chose three issues for our particular focus at our annual Program Planning meeting in February: healthcare, housing and water.

Programs to address these issues are being planned for the coming year. Our League's first program, Defending Our Democracy from Voter Suppression, will feature Alice Smith, founder and executive director of the National Voter Corps, who will discuss voter rights and voter suppression through the years.

To review one of LWVUS' impact issues, its Representative Government position promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. Reflecting Making Democracy Work® goals, it includes: encouraging all citizens to vote and protecting their right to do so; supporting fair apportionment of

congressional districts based substantially on population; promoting political equality for all citizens and transparency in election financing; promoting direct popular vote in electing the President and Vice-President; protecting informed public participation in government decision-making; determining fitness of constitutional amendment proposals through the filters of protecting individual rights and making our political system more democratic (Constitutional conventions would be limited to a specific topic with delegates selected by population); protecting an individual's constitutional right of privacy regarding reproductive choices; promoting a dynamic balance of power between executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution; and ensuring transparency and accountability in transfers of assets from government to the private sector.

It is no wonder that League endures; we care deeply about issues that are vital to our functioning democracy and its future.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the members of Southwest Santa Clara Valley League on these important matters. We are grateful to Eleanor Yick for her work as past president, and to all the hard-working members of our League who are dedicated to the League's principles. We look forward to the year's programs and challenges.

Meg & Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents'

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Co-Presidents'

Meg & Alan Giberson

Secretary: Katy Foulkes

Co-Treasurer:

Tom & Danice Picraux

Action: Heidi Owens

Healthcare: **Barbara Lea**Housing & Transportation:

Lian-Fang Chao

Membership: Aileen Kao

Natural Resources: Meg Giberson

Observers: Raquel Durand
Public Relations: Sophia Kao

Voter Editor: Cherri Nelson

Voters Service: Eleanor Yick

League of Women Voters

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lwv.swscv@gmail.com



LWV Bay Area

Telephone: 510-839-1608 Fax: 510 839-1610

http://lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org

LWV California

Phone: 916-442-7215 Fax: 916 442-7362 http://ca.lwv.org

LWV of the United States

Phone: 202-429-1965 Fax: 202-429-0854 http://www.lwv.org

Board Bytes - Meeting of June 5, 2019

Discussed

• President Yick and Sophia Kao gave highlights on the LWVC Convention. Areas of focus are reforming elections,

redistricting, money in politics, *Proposition 13*, and climate change. Motions passed by concurrence on Criminal Justice Reform and a Fresno League Study on Charter School Accountability.

President Yick suggested that we send three delegates in the future in spite of the expense. We need more coverage of the workshops. The next LWVC Convention will be in San Francisco.

- The PayPal \$5 fee for membership dues is significant. Tom Picraux suggested that paying yearly may help, though not by much.
- Details and changes were made to the Programs' Calendar for the next year.

Reports

- Due to an error, further instructions will be sent for members paying dues with the new software system.
- The Finance Drive reached 90% of it's goal.
- Sophia Kao gave instructions on how to access and use the new Google Drive set up for storage of our League's documents. Access by appropriate Board members will be given to folders for their positions on the Board.

Approval Vote

- The May 2019 Board Minutes were approved after minor edits by President Yick.
- All Job Descriptions were voted approved after noting of couple new positions and minor edits by Board Members.
- The Board voted approval of request to co-sponsor a Silicon Valley Youth July event in Campbell on climate change.

2019 Annual Meeting

Discussed

- New membership software was transitioned to this year for saving costs.
- 2019 Reading Committee are Heidi Owens and Kati Foulks
- Program Planning and LWVC Convention goals and focus will be on Healthcare, Water, Housing, 100th Anniversary, and the Voters Choice Act.
- Sophia Kao implemented a Google Drive and training for storing of all official League documents.
- The Helga Ruby Award was presented to Hana Itani and a special acknowledgement made for all Gail Nishimura's contributions besides being a Board member.

Reports:

- Sue Cooney presented reported on Voters Service events: Candidate Forums, Pros & Cons, the registration of new citizens and students with a first-time bilingual English/Chinese Pros & Cons facilitated.
- Work with Santa Clara County ROV is happening to implement the Voter Choice Act for the March 2020 Primary.
- Finance Drive donations totals were given by Tom Picraux.

Voted On:

- The 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes adopted.
- A budget proposal was adopted for the 2019-20 year
- Program Planning goals were presented and passed.
- Edits to the Policies and Proceedures, Job Desciptions and By-Laws passed.
- A unanimous vote for new Officers and Board of Directors passed.

Sophia Koa, Secretary

Defending Democracy Against Voter Suppression

SHINE A LIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY



On **August 24**, Alice Smith, founder of the National Voter Corps will discuss voting rights, voter suppression, and how states increase or decrease access to voting. Ms. Smith, an attorney, has been active



in civil rights organizations. The National Voter Corps mission is to see that every eligible citizen votes and that all votes are counted.

We are holding this program in response to the League of Women Voters of the U.S. (LWVUS) call to celebrate the 54th anniversary of the *Voting Rights Act* (VRA) passage on August 6, 1965. However, because a number of the VRA protections have been lost through subsequent years and court decisions, LWVUS is also asking that Congress restore the protections of the *Act*. Commenting on a recent court

decision, Rucho v. League of Women Voters of North Carolina, LWVUS noted the Court "did not take a stand for voters."

Ms. Smith will cover the history and current status of the *Voting Rights Act*, including the League's *Rucho* case. With voter participation at an unacceptably low level—the U.S. ranked 28 among the 35 members of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development—it is vital that all efforts be made to increase voter turnout.

The Los Gatos United Methodist Church is in downtown Los Gatos. Church Street is off Main street with the Church being behind Los Gatos Recreation and Masonic Hall buildings. There is ample parking next to the Church.

Come hear the latest on what's happening with the *Voting Rights Act*. This is also a **Free Event**!

Meg Giberson, President

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: No Report This Month **Los Gatos:** – No Report This Month

Saratoga: July 3 – An *Environmental Impact Report* was accepted in the process of annexing the Mountain Winery property which is currently in an unincorporatated part of the County.

Tom Picraux, Treasurer of the local LWV, presented recommendations on Campaign Expenditures with incentives for candidates to run for City Council and School Boards. After discussion, the Council announced \$2000 set aside for candidates with a further \$1 per registered voter contribution, possibly half

City & Town Councils

Campbell City Council
1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 7:30P.M.

Los Gatos Town Council 1st & 3rd Tuesdays – 7:00P.M.

Monte Sereno City Council 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 7:00P.M.

Saratoga City Council 1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 7:00P.M.

the cost, for the 400-word Candidate's Qualifications Statement and Agenda.

Monte Sereno: Observer Needed! Raquel Durand, Observer Chair

Education Charter Schools



LWVC Convention 2019 – Approved: Update Pre-K Education Position to Include Charter Schools Accountability

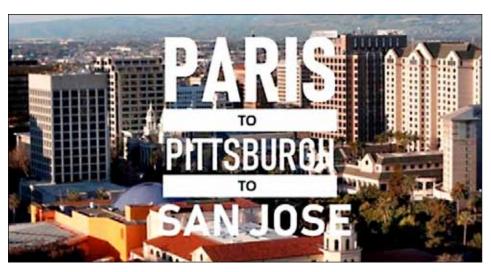
This motion was passed by delegates on the last day of the convention; since this was a "not approved" item, this motion required a 3/5 vote for approval. (This was in the "not approved" category because LWV Fresno, the initiator of this motion, had not gotten its local study on charter schools to LWVC in time for regular concurrence consideration by the LWVC board.)

Next Steps: The approved motion will be taken up by the LWVC board, perhaps at their July board meeting. That board will begin their discussion of the process for how to utilize this motion. What was described to delegates on the floor is that the board will solicit local Leagues for their input. The state board will create explicit positions regarding this accountability provision regarding charter schools. (It was noted that the current Pre-K Education position for traditional public schools includes "accountability.") The board may utilize the local study of LWV Fresno to inform its work. As is normal, these new positions will be voted on and approved by the LWVC board at an upcoming board meeting and will be activated at that time. Note that the standard LWVC norm is for all positions to be voted on at future LWVC conventions in their standard "re-affirmation of positions" segment during a plenary segment.

Notes by Ellen Wheeler, LWV Los Altos-Mountain View Area, member and delegate. Ellen is the chairperson of the LWV Santa Clara County Education Committee.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Melson Mandela



Fighting Climate Change One City at a Time!

Cambrian Branch Library

Community Room • 1780 Hillsdale Ave, San Jose

Tuesday • August 13 • 6:30-9:00P.M.

Space is limited • Register (www.lwvsjsc.org/paristosanjose)

This Is A Free Event!

The League of Women Voters San Jose/ Santa Clara invites you to an informative evening sharing best practices on how you can fight climate change. Leaders in an illuminating evening that will highlight how our local communities are taking important actions to fight this climate crisis.

The evening will include a special screening of the acclaimed documentary film Paris to Pittsburgh. This film brings to life the impassioned efforts of individuals battling the most severe threats of climate change in their own cities and backyards.

A panel discussion will start at approximately 7:45, with an opportunity to ask questions afterwards. The panelists are:

Kerrie Romanow, Director of Environmental Services, City of San Jose

Julie Hutcheson, Director of Impact, Committee for Green Foothills

Angel Ibanez, Office of San Jose Mayor, Policy Analyst: Housing, Environment, Energy, Immigration

Natural Resources – Climate Change & Killer Heat; Action Needed

Climate change may bring "killer heat" worldwide, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), www.ucsusa. org/global-warming/global-warming-impacts/killer-heat-in-united-states?_ga=2.190439467.1069447091.1563314732-1496282420.1506026286. "Extreme heat is poised to rise steeply in frequency and severity over the coming decades, bringing unprecedented health risks for people and communities across the country" UCS noted. In fact, extreme heat was already the deadliest form of extreme weather in the United States last year,

www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hazstats.shtml.

"Changes in temperature and precipitation are increasing air quality and health risks from wildfire and ground-level ozone pollution. Rising air and water temperatures and more intense extreme events are expected to increase exposure to waterborne and foodborne diseases, affecting food and water safety", according to the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4) report of 2018, https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/?wpisrc=nl_powerup&wpmm=1.

Actually, recent temperatures in Europe broke all-time high records: 108.7 F in Paris, 105.2 in the Netherlands and 108.7 in Germany. Near-record temperatures have baked the U.S. East Coast in July. Earth's highest average temperature ever recorded occurred in June this year; July may beat that record.

Still, "[g]lobal action to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions can substantially reduce climate-related risks and increase opportunities for ... populations in the longer term" according to the NCA4 report. That is action we all can take.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources Chair

Progress & Action

We are working hard to pass ACA 6, the Free the Vote Act, https://lwvc.org/news/democracy-needs-everyone-support-our-free-vote-movement, which restores voting rights to every person on parole.

We support AB 849, the Fair Maps Act, which has passed out of the Assembly and is on its way to the Senate. This bill will combat partisan and racially-discriminatory gerrymandering.

We support **SB** 139, the *People's Maps Act*, which has also passed out of the Senate, and is one step closer to giving people–not politicians–the power to draw the lines.

Schools & Communities First

This measure will reclaim \$11 billion every year for our schools and local communities by ensuring that corporations and wealthy property owners pay their fair share. Make your voice heard and add your name now, https://actionnetwork.org/forms/i-commit-to-vote-for-schools-communities-first-in-2020.





LWVC Convention Report

League Members, Sophia Kao and Eleanor Yick, attended the recently held LWVC Convention in San Diego, as voting delegates from our League. The 68th Convention of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC), was host to 213 voting delegates representing 55 local Leagues, 3 inter-League organizations (ILOs), and the LWVC board. The total number of attendees was 243.

President Helen L. Hutchison welcomed the delegates and guests to Convention 2019. She introduced LWVUS representatives present: President Chris Carson; Chief Executive Officer Virginia Kase; and Fundraising Trainer Amy Hjerstedt. She noted the large number of first-time attendees in the audience and urged more experienced convention goers to assist them as needed. President Hutchison noted, "We'll also learn from and be inspired by a variety of speakers. We all will leave with a renewed sense of why we joined the League—and particularly why we continue to commit our time and energy to the League."

LWVC Program - 2019-2021: Delegates voted to retain current positions as follows:

- Government, including campaign financing, constitution, election systems, intergovernmental relationships, public libraries, redistricting, state and local finance, and voting rights.
- Natural Resources, including agriculture, air quality, energy, hazardous materials, land use, solid waste, transportation, and water.
- Social Policy, including children and family issues, child care, community college system, education: prekindergarten through 12, housing, juvenile justice/dependency, legal aid, mental health care, and public higher education.
- Delegates adopted the recommended Issues for Education and Advocacy for 2019-2021:

- Making Democracy Work in California
- Schools & Communities First Campaign
- Climate Change
- Housing and Homelessness
- Criminal Justice Reform
- Delegates adopted the recommended new positions by concurrence:
 - Criminal Justice
 - Electoral Process (replaces the current position on Election Systems).
- One Not-Recommended Program item approved by the delegates:
 LWVC update of the PreK-12 Education position to include charter schools' accountability.
- LWVC Budget for 2019-2021: The delegates adopted the LWVC budget for 2019-2021 totaling \$1,097,088. The per member payment (PMP) will not increase.
- LWVC Bylaws Amendments
 Two bylaws amendments were approved by the delegates.
- Election of LWVC Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

Officers:

President: Carol Moon Goldberg (LWV Sacramento County)

1st Vice President: Jacquie Canfield (LWV Fresno)

2nd Vice President: Gloria Chun Hoo (LWV San Jose/Santa Clara)

Secretary: Caroline de Llamas (LWV East San Gabriel Valley)

Treasurer: Open

Directors:

Director: Maxine Anderson (LWV San

Francisco)

Director: Amanda Berg (LWV San Diego)

Director: Christina Dragonetti (LWV San Francisco)

Director: Tracey Edwards (LWV Cupertino/ Sunnyvale)

Director: Debbie Fagen (LWV Pasadena Area)

Director: Helen L. Hutchison (LWV Oakland)

Director: Aisha Piracha-Zakariya (LWV Palo Alto)

Director: Lori Thiel (LWV San Diego)

"Will of the Convention" Resolutions for 2019

The delegates approved two "Will of the Convention" resolutions:

- Resolution Motion No. 550: Resolved that the LWVC statewide convention ask our elected representatives in the US Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Senator Kamala Harris, to take all measures within their power to move forward the passage of the provisions of HR 1 in the Senate.
- Resolution Motion No. 551: Resolved that we as delegates of California local Leagues assembled at the 2019 LWVC Convention call upon the LWVC Board, Action Committee and local Leagues to advocate for 'Climate Emergency Declarations' and urgent relevant action by state, county, and local governments.

Our two delegates found attending the convention, including the early morning and late evening workshops as well as the caucuses, very informative and worthwhile.

Eleanor Yick, Voter Services Director

Women's Suffrage History

Did you know that August is really important for the League? On August 18, 1920, the last of the necessary 36 states (Tennessee) voted for ratification. And on August 26, 1920, the Secretary of State made it official: women's suffrage at both state and national levels was finally in the U.S. Constitution.

Our League's 2019 Annual Meeting

Our League's second most important membership meeting of the year, our Annual Meeting, was held on Tuesday, June 18, at the Foothill Club in Saratoga. With 45 members in attendance, along with speaker Karen McNeill, it was one of our best-attended Annual Meetings.

After completing the formalities related to the opening of an Annual Meeting, Committee Reports were given on Membership recruitment and retention, adoption of a new Membership Management Program, Voters Service, public Programs hosted by our League, the Financial Report including an update on the Finance Drive (which netted \$4596 this year) including adoption of the proposed 2019-2020 Budget.

The membership also approved our continued alignment with both LWVUS and LWVC's "Making Democracy Work" along with the following areas of emphasis our League voted upon at our Program Planning: Healthcare, Water under Stress, Housing, participation in the 100th Anniversary of the League, implementation of the Voters Choice Act here in Santa Clara County starting with the 2020 Primary, support for Schools and Community First Campaign, promoting a full count for the US



Helga Ruby Award winner; former President Hana Itani, presented by President Eleanor Yick



A Special Acknowlegement was given to Gail Nishimura, presented by President Eleanor Yick.

Census 2020 and continued follow up on our local study "Money in Politics."

The membership approved edits to our League's By-Laws and the proposed slate of Officers and Directors for 2019-2020.

A highlight of the meeting was the announcement of this year's Helga Ruby Award recipient: Hana Itani. The prior recipients selected Hana for this award for all that she has given to the community over many, many years in addition to serving as president of our League for 4 years!!

The meeting concluded with a wonderful talk by Karen McNeill, an historian based in Oakland and an expert on the architect Julia Morgan. Morgan was a prolific architect having designed over 700 buildings, including the Foothill Club in Saratoga, as well as Hearst Castle and many YWCA buildings in California. Morgan was also a participant in the Woman's Suffrage Movement in California. As we approach the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the League, it seemed fitting to hold our meeting in a beautiful building designed by a famous and highly esteemed California woman architect!

Eleanor Yick, President 2018-19



New LWVSWSCV Board Members: L-R, Heidi Owens, Lian-Fang Chao, Sophia Kao, Katy Foulkes, Co-Presidents Alan & Meg Giberson, Cherri Nelson, Aileen Kao, Raquel Durand, Eleanor Yick



Eleanor (President) and Dave Yick beside a bust of Julia Morgan architect of the Foothill Club.

Civil Discourse: A House Divided Workshop An Official Invitation!

Sunnyvale Prebytarian Church · Saturday · September 21 · 1 – 5 P.M.

728 W Fremont Ave. Sunnyvale



Our country is having trouble making important decisions and solving problems in the United States. Americans find it harder and harder to even talk with one another.

Join the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women for a stimulating conversation about our current political system. This workshop is a community event intended to bring diverse ideas and opinions from a wide segment of the Bay Area about how we might bridge the polarization in our country.

Employing the principles of civil conversation, we will explore options for changing our current system. Please share this invitation with your family, friends, and colleagues and with people with whom you disagree.

Our committee is looking for additional sponsors to help publicize this event - so please send us contact information for groups and organizations you think would be interested in participating. There is a \$10 fee. Register at:

https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eggrw4k82a39fa51&oseq=&c=&ch=

For questions contact LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale at: Ph 408-730-4413 or **info@lwvcs.org**

Support LWV SWSCV Supporters!

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals! Please remember to mention seeing these ads when you utilize these businesse's services.

THE STORE FOR NATURE LOVERS



Los Gatos Birdwatcher
Lisa Myers Owner

Kings's Court Shopping Center

792 Blossom Hill Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95032 408-358-9453 fax 408-358-4673 info@losgatosbirdwatcher.com Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm Sun 5pm



Comprehensive Ophthalmology and Cataract Surgery 212 Oak Meadow Drive, Los Gatos, CA 95032

p 408-354-4740 f 408-354-8161 www.bashameye.com

Mail this coupon with your dues to: LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Curtis L. Pontynen. DDS
19020 COX AVENUE
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
408.252.4570

Join	the	League	of	Women	Voters
		Car.			

or Give a Gift of Membership

Date:	Saratoga		
Check#	\$	Individual	\$80.00
No	\$	Household	\$120.00
	\$	Student	Free
	\$ <u>-</u>	_ Voter Mailed to You	\$20.00
	\$	_ Total Enclosed	
	s	Donation to LWV-SWS0	`V Ed Fund
	Ψ		
_	Check#	Date: Saratoga Check# \$ No	Check# \$ Individual No \$ Household \$ Student \$ Voter Mailed to You \$ Total Enclosed

Membership year is from July 1 to June 30. **Members joining after January 1 shall pay one-half the annual dues amount.** Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:

County, Bay Area, State, and National. Financial assistance is available; please address questions regarding membership to the LWVSWSCV at, lwv.swscv@gmail.com. Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published *Membership Directory*.

Board Meeting, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station Wed Aug Fighting Climate Change, 6:30-9:00 P.M., Cambrian Branch Aug 13 Tue Library, 1780 HIllsdale Ave., San Jose **Defending Democracy Against Voter Suppression** Sat Aug 24 10:00 A.M. - Noon, Los Gatos United Methodist Church, 111 Church Street, Los Gatos 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote Aug 26 Mon Santa Clara County Rally & March, 10:30 A.M. Martin Luther King Library, San Jose

Save the Date <</p>

Sep 21 Sat **Civil Discourse Worksop, 1**-5:00 P.M. Sunnyvale Presbytarian Church

