

August 2020

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IN MEMORIAM: REPRESENTATIVE JOHN R. LEWIS

WE HONOR AND ARE INDEBTED TO JOHN R. LEWIS (1940-2020)
AN HONORABLE MAN, AN AMERICAN ICON AND FIGHTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE!



In his words, which so exemplify his core beliefs and echo the League's mission, on introducing a bill to restore the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in 2019, "Voting access is the key to equality in our democracy. The size of your wallet, the number on your Zip code shouldn't matter. The action of government effects every American so every citizen should have an equal voice... We all count! It doesn't matter whether you're black, or white, Latino, Asian-American or Native American. We are one people. We are one family. We all live in the same house—the American house." R.I.P.

Article on introducing the VRA: <https://abcnews.go.com/amp/Politics/civil-rights-icon-rep-john-lewis-democrats-introduce/story?id=61334369>

LWVUS: STATEMENT ON RACIAL EQUALITY: June 27, 2020

The League of Women Voters of the United States advocates against systemic racism within the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive use of force and brutality by law enforcement. The following resolutions were passed and adopted at the LWVUS 2020 National Convention:

We Resolve First, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism and the harm that it causes;

We Resolve Second, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Click on this link to read LWVC's statement on Solidarity with the Black Community:

<https://www.lwv.org/blog/standing-solidarity-black-community>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the League of Women Voters. Many remembrances and celebrations have been held, and others will continue to be held because they needed to be rescheduled due to the shelter-in-place quarantine.

Our League, through the incredible work of Gail Nishimura who researched and created a collage of posters detailing the League's 100-year history, planned many celebrations using her work. They were initially displayed at the Saratoga Library. Then, on the very evening they were scheduled to be recognized at a Los Gatos Town Reception, the California pandemic shut down began! Later events needed to be cancelled but Gail has very generously shared her work with fellow Leagues in the county. LWV Cupertino/Sunnyvale has organized it into an incredible narrated film. Please take a walk through 100 years of League history by clicking on this link, then scroll through the decades and click on the audio links below each picture for the narration: <https://my.lwv.org/california/cupertino-sunnyvale/history-100-years-league-women-voters>. Thanks again to Gail Nishimura for her fantastic work and the Cupertino/Sunnyvale League members for enhancing the program with narration and film. It seems most appropriate to me to review our history during this shelter in place time as we, the League, once again need to adapt to the many changes that will be coming our way in terms of how we do our League work. These changes will be evident in how we conduct Board meetings, schedule Candidate Forums, and how we present Pros & Cons. We are even changing the format of our *Voter* to a more electronic friendly version! We need to be open, flexible and ready... changes are coming!! We need your active involvement more than ever!!

In League, Eleanor,



MEET THE LWVUS NEW PRESIDENT

At the League's 54th National Convention (conducted virtually), delegates representing Leagues throughout the United States elected Dr. Deborah Turner, MD, JD, as the new LWVUS president. Dr. Turner is the 20th President of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and chair of the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF). She will serve until June 2022.

Dr. Turner was president of Des Moines Metropolitan League and vice president of the LWV Iowa board from 2011 until 2015. She was elected to the League's national board of directors in 2016 where she served on the Finance and Governance Committees and chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. As chair of the DEI Committee, Deborah and her colleagues focused on organizational culture changes to the League's mission work. They emphasized racial equity as well as equity for all the diverse groups in American society. Dr. Turner lives in Nebraska and has two grown children—a son and a niece.

Read further biographical details:

<https://www.lwv.org/about-us/staff-leadership/deborah-turner>

Click on this link to read her July 2nd League Update:

http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=225672.

Click on this link to read her July 16th League Update:

http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/blastContent.jsp?email_blast_KEY=225823



CANDIDATE FORUMS AND PROS & CONS

ZOOMED Candidate Forums are being planned and scheduled. Lots of logistics still need to be worked out. Some Leagues in the county have started working together to develop a unified Pros and Cons presentation that can be modified to include local issues and shown many times to many different groups.

If you are interested in working on Candidate Forums or Pros and Cons, please contact Sue Cooney at catcitysue@gmail.com or egyick@icloud.com. We need more League helpers. Also, be sure to check September's Voter for more information and dates of scheduled election events and more information on the 12 ballot propositions!



SAFE, CLEAN WATER—PARCEL TAX

On July 21, the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD, Valley Water) Board of Directors voted unanimously to put a parcel tax measure (Safe, Clean Water) on the November ballot, with no provision for a sunset clause. The new tax would continue “until ended by voters,” indefinitely extending a current parcel tax by the same name that still has eight years to run. The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County (LWVCC) requested that a sunset clause be included, in keeping with longstanding League policies.

The Safe, Clean Water tax is being promoted as a “community-preferred” program, incorporating six community “priorities.” Yet, the fourth highest-ranking category in SCVWD community surveys—“building sustainable, locally controlled water supply projects that are drought resilient”—is not included. LWVCC has asked that this important category be included among the program's priorities.

Neither of the LWVCC's requests appears in the ballot measure. The LWVCC's request is available on our League's Google Drive site, under LWVSWSCV>Committee>Natural Resources>LWVCC re Safe Clean Water item and also on the LWVSCC Google Drive.



COVID-19 & THE NEED FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

New England Journal of Medicine • by Jaime S. King, J.D., Ph.D.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the need for health care reforms that promote universal access to affordable care. Although all aspects of U.S. health care will face incredible challenges in the coming months, the patchwork way we govern and pay for health care is unraveling in this time of crisis, leaving millions of people vulnerable and requiring swift, coordinated political action to ensure access to affordable care. About half of Americans receive health coverage through their employer, and with record numbers filing for unemployment insurance, millions find themselves without health insurance in the midst of the largest pandemic in a century. Even those who maintain insurance coverage may find care unaffordable.

To continue reading this article, go to <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2000821>.
Barbara Lea, Health Care Director



VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS

New Citizen Ceremonies are not presently being held at the Campbell Community Center due to COVID-19. All naturalization ceremonies are taking place at field offices of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, where only the candidate will be allowed to enter unless the candidate is a minor or needs assistance due to a disability. I look forward to the time I can again recruit volunteers to register our new citizens to vote. I'm sure they are being offered that opportunity at the field offices.

Jackie Costanzo, Voters Service Registration



CITY & TOWN COUNCIL OBSERVERS

Campbell: July 7 – The City Council moved unanimously to allow downtown restaurants to use the public street on Campbell Avenue between the light rail and Third Street for setting up outdoor dining, thereby giving them a chance to increase their business by seating more patrons. The cross streets will remain open (First, Second and Third Street). This will be a 30-day trial, with review as needed. Staff is looking into ways to make sure traffic can be physically kept out of the dining area with barriers that are fillable with water or sand, while also making sure there is access for emergency vehicles. Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: July – Council members held several public meetings in recent weeks, utilizing the Zoom platform. Adjustments were made to the proposed, and later approved, fiscal year 2020-21 budget. Revenue is less from sales tax, transient occupancy tax (hotel tax), and business license tax, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Previous actions which help Los Gatos continue funding priorities include the voter-approved 1/8 cent sales tax, property taxes from recently annexed properties, sales of excess town-owned properties, and grants. Council members heard from the Chamber of Commerce and multiple business owners. They then approved reallocating \$1.9 million of town funds to support the Community Vitality and Economic Recovery Initiative. South Santa Cruz Avenue and parts of Main Street are affected. Businesses will be allowed to utilize outdoor space as street parking is eliminated and parklets are built. Curbside pick-up spaces will be designated. Town staff will streamline approval of business permits. Lynda Jandron, Observer

Monte Sereno: July – The Council noted strong financial reserves and a stable fiscal budget despite Covid 19 pandemic. The Council adopted five goals for the year that included quality public service, community character, enhanced mobility, community, safety and environmental sustainability.

Saratoga: July – Saratoga City Council agenda reported a term-limit proposal to be placed on the November 3, 2020, ballot. Also on the ballot would be filling a vacancy on the Council. Passed was a modified regulation to permit tree removal to reduce risks from wildfires. Staff reported stable fiscal outlook for the yearly budget as impacted by COVID-19 with reductions in revenue and planned reduction in spending and reserve funds offsetting need to reduce services for the public. Alan Giberson, Observer Saratoga & Monte Sereno



OPEN BOARD SEATS

Currently, we have **four open Director seats** on our Board: Action, Education, Housing/Transportation and Program. It's particularly critical during this Election Year that we have one of our League members taking on responsibility in each of these positions, which can be modified to better meet a volunteer's time availability. **If you have any interest and have time availability in one of these areas, please contact me at egyick@icloud.com to discuss further.**



CLIP N' COME IS NOW CLIP N' ZOOM

Clip n Come has long been a part of our League's activities. This group typically focused on discussing current news or magazine articles that attendees brought to share at a potluck luncheon meeting! But, those luncheons will need to be put on hold for a while as we shift to trying this discussion group via Zoom!

Chair Pat White is not available for the next month or two. Wade Ellis has graciously agreed to step in and take the lead for the first month. If you have been a regular attendee at these meetings in the past, you are probably already on the email list used to send out notices. If you would like to participate in this discussion group and have not done so in the past, please email Wade at Wade25@sbcglobal.net?subject so that you can be added to the list and receive the Zoom invitation to attend on **Thursday August 13 at 1:30P.M.!**



THE POLITICAL BOOK CLUB

Wade Ellis has agreed to continue on as the Chair of our Political Book Club but.... the first meeting and probably a few more will likely all be via Zoom!! The first book chosen for discussion this year is the memoir: *The Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power. The first ZOOM meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22 at , 7:00-8:30P.M. If you were a regular attendee at these sessions last year, you are already a part of Wade's emailing list. If you would like to join this group, or you have questions, please email Wade at wade25@sbcglobal.net so that you can be added to the emailing list to receive the Zoom invitation and receive questions for the discussion.

Wade Ellis, Book Club Chair



BOARD BYTES: July 8, 2020

Discussion Items

- Brainstormed ideas to keep our members and community engaged during the COVI-19 quarantine.
- Keep our digital presence updated: Facebook, Next Door, LinkedIn, Twitter
- Think of programs we can continue online: documentaries like The Vote, Political Book Club, Clip N Come
- Investigate yard signs
- Confirmed that Zoomed Board meeting dates and time will continue at the usual place, time and date.
- Voter Services Report:
Monthly New Citizens' event at Campbell Community Center has been cancelled until further notice
Candidate Forums and Pros and Cons will be presented via Zoom.
- Natural Resources Report: Santa Clara Valley Water District is proposing new parcel tax for the November ballot to replace an existing parcel tax—see article page 3
- Treasurer's Report: End-of -Year Treasurer's Report was presented. *The Annual Fiscal Report* will be voted upon in August.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Wed Aug 8 **LWV SWSCV Board Meeting** via Zoom 10:00A.M.
- Thu Aug 13 **Clip 'n Come** via Zoom 1:30P.M
- Tues Sep 22 **Political Book Club:** via Zoom *The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir*, by Samantha Power 7:00P.M. (Note: no book club meeting in August)

WHO WE ARE

LWVSWSCV Board

Officers

President, **Eleanor Yick**

Vice President, **Open**

Secretary, **Victoria Zhang**

Treasurer, **Helen Wang**

Directors

County Council Co-Chairs,

Tom & Danice Picraux

Health Care, **Barbara Lea**

Membership, **Aileen Kao**

Natural Resources, **Meg Giberson**

Observers, **Barbara Lea**

Public Relations, **Sophia Kao**

Voter Editor, **Cherri Nelson**

Voters Service, **Eleanor Yick**

Elected Officials

President **Donald Trump**

www.whitehouse.gov

Senator **Dianne Feinstein**

www.feinstein.senate.gov

Senator **Kamala Harris**

<http://harris.senate.gov>

Rep. **Anna Eshoo**

<https://eshoo.house.gov>

California

Governor **Gavin Newsom**

<http://gov.ca.gov>

Senator **Jim Beall Jr.**

sd15.senate.ca.gov

Assy. **Evan Low**

<http://a28.asmdc.org>

County

Supv. **Mike Wasserman**

mike.wasserman@box.sccgov.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone	Email	Web
408-lwv-1842/408-598-1842	lwv.swscv@gmail.com	www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org
Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
www.facebook.com/lwvswscv	lwv_swscv	Name: lwv.swscv

Join the League of Women Voters or Give a Gift of Membership

Name: _____ Date: _____

Membership Renewal: ☐ New Member: ☐ Check# _____

An (Elected or Appointed) Public Official: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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, lvw.swscv@gmail.com. Your contact information will be added to our membership database and our published *Membership Directory*.

Mail this coupon with your dues to:

LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley
PO Box 2865
Saratoga, CA 95070-0865

\$ _____ Individual \$80.00

\$ _____ Household \$120.00

\$ _____ Student Free

\$ _____ Voter Mailed to You \$20.00

\$ _____ **Total Enclosed**

\$ _____ Donation to LWV-SWSCV Ed Fund
(include as a separate check)

NEXT VOTER: SEPTEMBER 2020