

LWV[®] Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

October, 2019

How to Lower Health Care Costs for Individuals and Families

Saturday • October 19

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga



Speaker

Henry Abrons
M.D., M.P.H.

Member, LWV Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville
Member Board of Directors, Physicians for
a National Health Program



What Are the Options for Health Care Reform?

Free and Open to the Public

Co-sponsoreds

League of Women Voters of San Jose/Santa Clara & the Saratoga Library



Futher Details on Page 4

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters is a diverse, nonpartisan political group of women and men, influencing public policy through education and advocacy and encouraging informed and active participation in government.



Presidents' Letter: League Programs and Issues

Our League programs this year and next continue to focus on issues that members at local, state and national levels of League have identified as priorities for our communities. These include voter issues, of course—such as Voter’s Choice Act, Communities and Schools First (Prop 13 revision), voter disenfranchisement and gerrymandering—as well as the League’s 100th anniversary.

Health care, identified by our League as an additional issue for emphasis, will be featured in our program at the Saratoga Library on October 19. It will consider the implications of major health care reform. The LWV’s national position remains: “promote a health care system for the United States that provides affordable access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health, that is integrated with and achieves parity with the physical health care system.”

Natural Resources, the third pillar* of LWVUS Impact Issues for this biennium, gains new importance with the climate change menace—and League’s identification of it as an emergency—along with current federal threats to limit California’s ability to control air and water pollution in our state. The national League’s natural resources position seeks to “promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.” The LWVUS position further states the belief that “natural resources should be

managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health.”

As you read three more specific parts of League natural resource policies below, think of how extraordinarily relevant they are to today’s pressing issues: climate change, “forever drought” that looms because of poor water management, species disappearance, fossil fuel extraction and burning with resulting pollution, rivers and groundwater polluted by chemicals, and parts of California that have air that ranks worst in the nation (according to the American Lung Association, 2019)

League remedies include:

1. Resource Management and Protection: promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems; promote resources conservation, stewardship and long-range planning; preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem with maximum protection of public health and the environment. Air quality: promote measures to reduce pollution. Energy: reduce energy growth rates, emphasize conservation and encourage renewable resources. Land use: manage land as a finite resource. Water: support measures to reduce pollution; protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water; and evaluate water transfers. Waste management: reduce generation and promote recycling. Nuclear: promote maximum protection of public health. Climate change: support climate goals and policies consistent with best climate science to ensure future stable climate.
2. Public Participation: promote public understanding and participation in decision making for responsible management of resources.
3. Agriculture: support environmentally and economically sound farm practices.

!Welcome!

New Members

Lavonne Hardy

Julie Hua

Julie & James

Jin

Melissa Stanis

Hueling Su

Amy Vu

Carol Whelan

Janice Yeh

Henry Yin

Martin Yu

Herman Zheng

We’re so glad you have
joined the League!

Two easy things new members can do for further participation:

1. Sign up for LWVC newsletters and action alerts, lwvc.org/stay-informed.
2. Like us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/LWVofCA.

Continue to join with the Leagues at all levels as we strive to inform the public and to encourage full participation in democratic government.

* Other “pillars” are representative government, international relations, and social policy.

Meg & Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

Native American Proverb

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Co-Presidents:

Meg & Alan Giberson

Secretary: **TBD**

Co-Treasurers:

Danice & Tom Picraux

Action: **TBD**

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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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 August 7, 2019

Discussed

- Different ways to promote the paper, *One Vote Matters* compiled by President Meg Giberson, such as in newspapers, TV, and interviews demonstrating why a single vote can matter.
- Various ways to introduce members to the League were suggested such as the new brochure and social gatherings.



Reports

- LWVC is supporting the controversial Revision of Proposition 13, which is being opposed by businesses and some local school boards.
- We will have exhibits at the Saratoga Library and the Los Gatos Town Council Chambers celebrating the League's 100th Anniversary.
- 2020 Census Information will be disseminated soon. Eleanor Yick will combine the Census information with the new VCA voting and post to the Google Drive.

Approval Vote

- *Facts for Voters* will not be published as the Board will explore other ways to provide the information on how to Vote and how to contact local officials.
- There are Board positions, Secretary, Action Director, Information Technology Director, and Monte Sereno Observer, still needing to be filled.

Raquel Durand requested a list of Monte Sereno members to recruit an Observer for that City's Council meeting.

Sophia Kao has agreed to be and create a job description, for the IT Director.

Barbara Lea, acting Secretary

New Citizens Voter Registration

Thanks to the volunteers who have joined in the National Voter Registration Day events at the Campbell and Saratoga Libraries on September 24: Pat White, Jane Voigts, Eileen Barnes, Jackie Costanzo, Ginny Balch, Virginia Carpio, Dan and Wendy Hendry, Claudia Aden, Barbara Lea, Sue and Phil Shoff.

At our July 25 New Citizens' Ceremonies, here is the number of new voters registered during the four sessions that day:

Total New Voters: 522

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com



Can Health Care Costs Be Lowered?

How can we lower our health care costs for individuals and families? Come to our October program to learn about options for health care reform.

Speaker

Henry Abrons, MD, MPH

Saturday • October 19

10:30 A.M. – Noon

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Short Film:

Fix It: Health Care at the Tipping Point

You, along with other voters, probably see health care as one of our top concerns. Insurance premiums, deductibles and co-pays, prescription drug costs, hospital charges, and other medical expenses are squeezing the middle class. America spends over twice as much per capita on health care as the average developed country. And yet we still see medical bankruptcies

and residents of our country with no health coverage.

Our speaker, Dr. Henry Abrons, will discuss options for health care reform. He is a retired physician from Berkeley. His clinical practice focused on critical care and chronic lung disease. He was previously Assoc. Professor of Medicine at West Virginia University and an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. He holds a medical degree from Case Western Reserve University and a master's degree from the University of Illinois. Dr. Abrons has served as president of the California Chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program and is currently a member of



the PNHP Board of Directors and the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville.

Co-Sponsors of the program are the Saratoga Library and the League of Women Voters of San Jose, Santa Clara.

This event is free for the public.

Barbara Lea, Health Care Director

Schools & Communities First Forum Everything You Need to Know

A Special Forum for LWV Members

Saturday • October 5 • 1:00–3:00 P.M.

Crittenden Middle School

1701 Rock Street • Room 703 • Mountain View

Presentation & Discussion Led by:

Helen Hutchison

Interim Executive Director of LWV of California

This Forum covers important information on the most recent changes and issues regarding the 2020 Ballot Measure **Schools and Communities First 2020.**

League Presidents, Action Chairs, key leaders, and members are urged to attend this forum.

Voter's Service



Last year, our League decided to focus on a program of registering high school students to vote. This year, thanks to Superintendent Bravo's invitation to meet with the Campbell Union High School principals and vice principals, the program is going great. The administrators are urging their history, civics, and government teachers to contact me to schedule classroom presentations.

Our League Team was at Leigh High School 2 days last week and registered 78 students. Then, the League Team was at Branham High School September 10 and 11 and registered 64 students. The plan is to visit the Campbell Union District high schools and then move onto the Saratoga and Los Gatos high schools!

Claudia Aden, Student Registration

Register TODAY! Seating is limited. Register HERE

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDWblanHbLE7kVGYnWJO_7Ckz15loqtFUwE1d1utdsTaPZoA/viewform

Park at the large lot on the right near the end of Rock Street, next to the bus parking area. Walk through the two black gates behind the auditorium. You can also park in the parking lot next to the Sports Center off of Middlefield Rd. The room is just past the lunch tables.

City & Town Council Observers

Saratoga: The Council announced that the Mid-Peninsula Open Space organization will contribute funds to the progress and future maintenance of the Skyline to the Sea Trail.

Concerning *Money in Politics*, the Council discussed a staff report on Campaign Expenditure Limits. Tom Picraux gave public comment for the League of Women Voters based on our League's previous *Local Election Finance Study*. After extended discussion, a motion passed directing staff to prepare a report on a proposed city survey on voluntary campaign expenditure limits, campaign contribution limits, city payment of a portion of the candidate statement, and the length of the candidate statement.

In compliance with the Mills Act Agreement, preserving historical sites, the Parks and Recreation Commission presented a detailed study on the historical importance of No Name Park, at the corner of Quito and Pollard Roads. The Council then unanimously adopted the recommended new name of Friendship Park. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a display of vintage photographs on the history of the park.

A detailed report from the Landmark Designation Commission was presented concerning the property located at 20331 Orchard Road. At the September 4, Council Meeting, the completed report

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.

was presented with the property being unanimously designated as an Historic Heritage Home.

Campbell: No Report This Month

Los Gatos: No Report This Month

Monte Sereno: Observer Needed!

Pick Your Poison: PFAs, Plastics, Synthetics

Even if we somehow manage to deal with the climate change emergency—a big if—other threats will persist. Increasingly, substances we have introduced into our societies are harming our world, our ecosystem, our drinking water—and us.

Among chemicals recently recognized as potentially harmful is the class of organic chemicals known as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water, and can be used in clothing, furniture, adhesives, food packaging, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces and the insulation of electrical wire, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Of particular concern, many “do not break down in the environment, can move through soils and contaminate drinking water sources.” Exposure can come through “food, food packaging, consumer products, house dust and drinking water.”

Another contaminant—hard to see, but perhaps even more pervasive—microplastics form a new, but less understood, form

of pollution. Found virtually everywhere on earth now—in the air, in water (even Lake Tahoe), on mountain tops, in the Arctic—these tiny particles result from the breakdown of plastics such as plastic bags or Styrofoam, including even from fleece and other synthetic clothing when it is washed. A single garment can produce over 1900 fibers from polyesters and acrylics per wash, according to the American Chemical Society (ACS). An ACS study published in June estimated that an average American may eat up to 50,000 microplastics per year. Breathing may almost double that number, as we take in microplastics delivered by air. Water bottled in plastic may deliver an additional 90,000 microplastics annually, according to the study.

Wastewater treatment plants around San Francisco Bay aren't able to remove microplastics, so their discharges put microplastics into the Bay. Microplastics have been found to “preferentially absorb toxic pollutants such as pesticides, dioxins, flame retardants [PFAS] and PCBs”, according to an SFEI scientist. “Those



A Beach in Malasia

molecules actually glom onto the plastic so they become little poison pills” said a Clean Water Action representative.

What to do? We can be more conscientious about the plastics we use and make sure they are recycled, reused—or, better yet, not used at all. Natural materials, fibers and non-plastics are better for us and the earth.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources

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Web:

Instagram

Name: lwv.swscv

Annual Fiscal Report

Audited Financial Statement For Fiscal Year 07/01/18 – 06/30/19

Category	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME			
Finance Drive	4,670.38	4,900.00	-229.62
Contributions	485.98	300.00	185.98
Dues	8,169.84	9,420.00	-1,250.16
Fund Raising - Business Card Ads	400.00	1,200.00	-800.00
Interest and Misc.	1,442.24	500.00	942.24
Total Income	15,168.44	16,320.00	-1,151.56
EXPENSES			
A. Administration			
1. General Supplies & Fees	889.66	440.00	-449.66
2. Officers' Reimbursements	106.27	50.00	-56.27
3. Finance Drive	220.00	350.00	130.00
4. Membership	120.06	1,050.00	929.94
5. Directory and Handbook	0.00	300.00	300.00
6. Public Relations	119.88	400.00	280.12
7. Website Maintenance	16.49	350.00	333.51
8. Board Meeting Room	200.00	220.00	20.00
9. Liability Insurance	695.00	679.00	-16.00
B. Service and Educational Activities			
1. VOTER Newsletter	194.98	550.00	355.02
2. Voters Service	664.27	500.00	-164.27
3. General Meetings, Program	746.14	300.00	-446.14
4. Annual Meeting	514.11	50.00	-464.11
5. Study Materials	0.00	25.00	25.00
6. Voter's Edge	0.00	500.00	500.00
7. Position Support (Advocacy, Action)	0.00	30.00	30.00
C. Delegates/Travel			
1. Bay Area Council	49.37	150.00	100.63
2. Convention	3,617.58	2,627.00	-990.58
D. Financial Support			
1. Santa Clara County Council	100.00	100.00	0.00
2. LWV Bay Area Per Member Payment	235.00	119.00	-116.00
3. LWVC Per Member Payment	3,346.00	3,318.00	-28.00
4. LWVUS Per Member Payment	3,824.00	3,792.00	-32.00
5. Dues Assistance	380.00	320.00	-60.00
E. Helga Ruby Award	96.58	100.00	3.42
Total Expenses	16,135.39	16,320.00	184.61
LEAGUE ACCOUNTS		7/1/18	6/30/19
Wells Fargo Bank - Checking		\$22,377.24	21,894.79
Fidelity Investments - Cash Fund		\$3,424.82	3,485.55
Education Fund		\$5,631.36	5,146.86
Accounts Receivable		\$500.00	
Balance		\$31,933.42	\$30,527.20

An audit of the SWSCV financial records for 7/01/18 to 6/30/19 was conducted by Maria Guldner and the records were found to be in order and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

Report submitted by Danice Picraux, Treasurer.

LWVC/LWVUS – League’s Position on Immigration

With the turmoil in our country regarding this issue, the immigration committee felt it was important to emphasize to members the League’s official position.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the United States on student visas.

All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the United States.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

To read the League’s full position on immigration, go to the **Voter Page** on our website.

Immigration Committee

LWV California – Climate Change Forum Report

We attended the NorCal California LWVC-sponsored Climate Change Forum in Sacramento on September 14, where we heard updates from many Leagues in northern California on the pressing climate issues our world is facing.

The LWVC has identified climate change as an emergency and has adopted a climate change action policy that supports actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect our state from negative physical, economic and public health effects. These actions will:

- a. Promote energy conservation and efficiency in transportation, buildings and infrastructure.
- b. Promote carbon pricing by market mechanisms.
- c. Promote a clean, low-carbon sustainable energy economy.
- d. Promote policies that mitigate impacts of climate change by adaptation in urban, rural and agricultural settings
- e. Promote research and development with a portfolio of technologies.

- f. Promote solutions to ease consequences on low- and moderate-income households.
- g. Promote public access and involvement in decision-making processes.

Members are urged to get involved. The very informational LWVC site, <https://lwvc.org/climate-change-task-force>, has links to League teams you can join that address electrification of buildings; food, soils and agriculture; transportation; smart growth; and wildfires. To join a task force or express interest in a statewide team, e-mail LWVC at climatechange@lwvc.org. See other websites for more information: <https://priceoncarbon.org> (carbon pricing), and www.calrecycle.ca.gov (information on recycling). Plan to view webinars from California, other state Leagues and LWVUS. **Join these super important activities!**

Meg and Alan Giberson, Co-Presidents

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: _____

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)

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**.

Event Calendar

- Oct 2 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Oct 5 Sat **Schools & Communities First Forum**, 10:00 A.M.
Crittenden Middle School, 1701 Rock St., Rm 703
Mt. View - with Helen Hutchison **Please Register!**
- Oct 10 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share
Home of Jane Voigts, contact patwh.athome@gmail.com
Please let hostess know you will be coming.
- Oct 19 Sat **Lowering Healthcare Costs** 10:30 A.M. – Noon
Dr. Henry Abrons, M.D., M.P.H.
Saratoga Library, 13650 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga

Politics Book Club

I would like to invite you to join this year's LWV Politics Book Club. Our first meeting will be:

Tuesday

October 22 • 7:00–8:30 P.M.

The club will meet initially at:

Wesley Manor • Campbell

at the corner of Winchester and Hamilton Avenues. Future Tuesday dates are set for **November 19 and December 17.**

The first book to be read is *Falter: Has the Human Game Begun to Play Itself Out?* by Bill McKibben. Information about the book can be obtained from Wikipedia. New, used, and

eBook copies of *Falter* can be obtained from eBay and other vendors for about \$10. Your local library may have copies as well.

Parking is along the south side towards the back on the drive that enters the property, and at the back of the church next door. Numbered and reserved parking is for residents only.

Questions have been distributed to help explore this book. To get a copy of the questions, to be included on the email list, or for other questions about the book club, phone or email **Wade Ellis**. (Please consult our LWVSWSCV *Directory* for contact information.)

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 business 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



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