

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County
www.lwvstanislaus.org



**2025-2026
Board of Directors**

President
Amy Wolfe

Vice President
Angelina Ceja

Secretary
Anita Bruce

Treasurer
Ellen Meyer

State Action - Water
Seena Rhine

State Action - Health
Terry Shanahan

Local Action
Colleen Preston

Membership
Colleen Norby
Laurie Carley

Finance Drive
Theresa Kiehn

Voter Service
Jennie Sweeney
Marsha Waggoner

Public Relations: Membership
Marie Bairey

Public Relations: Public
Vivian Lopez

Voter Editor
Jane Manley

Website Manager
Stella Berattis

Nominating Chair
Vivian Lopez

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Amy Wolfe
LWVSC President

Election season is upon us and I am deeply grateful for the energy, support and effort by our members to lean into our goals around civic education. Last month we pulled together a webinar focused on what a yes and no vote for Proposition 50 means. We made our resources available in both English and Spanish, working to ensure more members of our community are able to access these resources.

League members also distributed copies of the LWVC Easy Voter Guide across the county, taking English and Spanish booklets to senior centers, community groups, and civic organizations. All said, we stepped up to ensure that voters across our community have a greater understanding of the implications of this Special Election.

Thank you to those that have renewed your membership for the year. As many of you recall, we have embarked on a new membership renewal journey with LWVUS! We've entered the digital age and are endeavoring to have all members renew online using ChapterSpot. Details on how to navigate this process, along with commonly asked questions, are detailed on page 5 of this newsletter. If you're unsure, do not hesitate to reach out for help! We are here to ensure this is a smooth process for you.

As we enter the holiday season, I encourage you to join us for our annual Holiday Social for a deeply moving and impactful presentation from Daren Williams. This powerful overview of his father's world-renowned art collection centered on the Holodomor will move you and serve as a welcome reminder of our collective capacity to shine lights into the dark corners of the world. See flyer on page 7 for details.

Never hesitate to reach out if you have questions, suggestions or feedback to provide: amy@mujeres-poderosas.com or 209-499-4091.

In service,

Amy

LWVSC Board Meeting Highlights October 2025

The LWVSC Board of Directors met on October 8, 2025, to conduct its regular business. Highlights are below.

- Our investment CD was renewed.
- 23 people participated in the Zoom seminar, "Ins and Outs of Prop 50." Spanish and English presentations were posted on our website.
- Daren Williams will share on his father's Ukrainian genocide arts collection for our Holiday Fling.
- Denise Nordell is organizing a LWVSC book club, to begin meeting in January.

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County Proposition 50 Outreach

On October 7th, LWVSC hosted a live webinar in English explaining what a Yes and No vote means for Proposition 50, using the League of Women Voters of California's Easy Voter Guide as our main resource.

We've now also translated and recorded the presentation in Spanish to make this information accessible to more voters. You can find both recordings and related materials here:

👉 The Ins and Outs of Proposition 50 – Webinar Recordings (English & Spanish)

<https://my.lww.org/california/stanislaus-county/event/ins-outs-prop-50>

We shared the link with Mike Dunbar, from Representative Adam Gray's office, and he included it in the representative's newsletter "Valley Solutions." Mike reported back to us that, "according to my early diagnostics (first five hours), your YouTube video was the most-clicked site from my Valley Solutions posting yesterday — outperforming the Modesto Bee and other sources. That shows just how valuable and engaging these voter education resources are to our community!"

Submitted by Jennie Sweeney, Voter Service

LWVSC Meet and Learn Recap

On October 16, 2025, League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County welcomed Marijke Rowland during our monthly lunch session at Gather.

She is the founding editor of *Modesto Focus*, a free digital news source funded by the Central Valley Journalism Collaborative (CVJC). Its goal is to provide readers with local news that deepens their understanding and connection to the community, with a focus on local government, education, health care, the bilingual community, and the arts. *Modesto Focus* began publishing in January of this year.

The *Focus* reporters seek to write in-depth, comprehensive stories that help people understand and feel connected to the community, focusing on programs and people that are interesting to us. The reporters are both veteran staff and new journalists. They offer their news coverage to other outlets as well, such as smaller local papers and radio news organizations.

Ms. Rowland also reviewed the changes in local newspapers in recent years: Since 2004, 1 in 4 newspapers have closed across the country, due to declining advertising revenue caused by the rise of Internet ads.

CVJC receives funding for its non-profit journalism outlets from the Stanislaus Community Foundation and local donations. *Modesto Focus* is **free** to anyone who wants to receive it, via email, in either English or Spanish.

<https://themodestofocus.org>.

Our next Meet and Learn is November 20, 2025, 12:00-1:30 at Gather, with speaker Marvin Jacobo from the City Ministry Network, discussing its Latino Leadership Initiative.

Submitted by Jane Manley

Welcome New Members



Linda Anderson

Karen Conrotto

LWCSC Finance Drive

Join Us in Making Democracy Work

Each fall, the League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County (LWVSC) launches its Annual Finance Drive - our primary opportunity to raise the funds that keep democracy strong and local. Every contribution helps the League inform voters, engage communities, and advocate for transparent, accountable government to make democracy work.

Your generosity supports vital, nonpartisan services that strengthen civic life across the county, including:

- Voter registration drives at schools, colleges, and community events
- Candidate forums that connect voters directly with those seeking office
- Meet & Learn programs highlighting timely issues in our community
- Public awareness efforts promoting [VOTE411.org](https://voter411.org) and election participation
- Educational resources and youth outreach that build understanding of how government works

Because LWVSC is an all-volunteer organization, your donation goes directly toward programming, materials, and outreach; every dollar has an impact. Watch for our letter soon.

Renew Your LWVSC Membership on ChapterSpot

WHAT?

ChapterSpot is the new League online membership system that provides a centralized website where anyone can join or renew their membership, regardless of which League they are joining. Dues amounts and membership categories have changed.

WHY?

LWV changed dues structure for all local Leagues to increase and diversify overall membership and LWV's ability to fulfill our mission. Funding at the state and local levels will increase. By adopting technology that streamlines membership, your League leaders will be able to focus on more substantive work.

HOW?

Earlier this year, you should have received an email asking you to log in for the first time to "claim your membership." If you didn't receive an email, check your spam folder. Or contact us at lwwstanislaus@gmail.com or (209) 324-3375.

If you have not registered online on the LWV Member Portal, do it now!

<https://portal.lwv.org/>

WHEN?

Log in to register yourself ASAP and be prepared to pay your dues on your annual renewal date. If you renewed your membership last summer/fall, your due date is July 31, 2025. Credit card is the preferred method of payment. See other option below.

MORE INFO

Visit our website for more details:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/stanislaus-county/membership-changes-2025-chapterspot>

Can I still pay by check?

This is not the preferred method - it requires more time and effort from your League treasurer, plus, more time for funds to transfer. If you do, write your check to LWVUS with the note "renewal/membership" and send to our treasurer at LWVSC, PO Box E, Modesto, CA 95352.



MEET & LEARN

November 20, 2025

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Gather, 2424 McHenry Avenue, Modesto

Marvin Jacobo
City Ministry Network

Join us as our speaker shares the journey of building the Latino Leadership Initiative, its impact to our community, and the opportunities for building the next generation of leaders.

Cost: \$30 per person

Register online at www.lwvstanislaus.org or scan:

Advanced registrations online required.

Deadline is November 17, 2025.



Upcoming Meet & Learn Luncheons

January 22, 2026: Randy Fiorini, Farmer and Water Expert
5 Most Pressing Water Issues in California

February 19, 2026: Amanda Hughes, Stanislaus 2030
Childcare Expansion

Thank you to our Meet & Learn Sponsors



Kay and Mike Christensen

Anonymous Marie Bairey Kenni and Lou Friedman Theresa Kiehn Angelina Ceja

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

Holiday Fling

DECEMBER

10

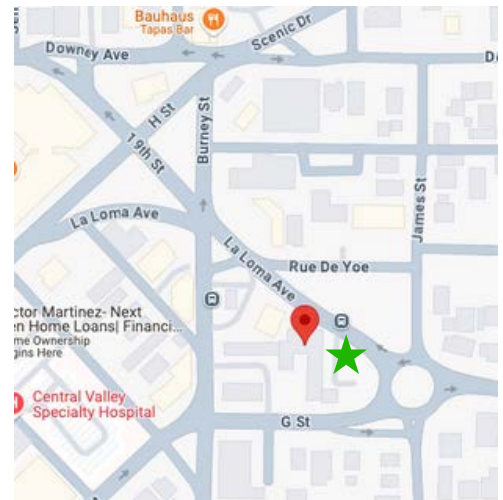
AT 6 PM

AgSafe

1935 G Street, Modesto

Secure parking entrance on La Loma
Avenue (green star)

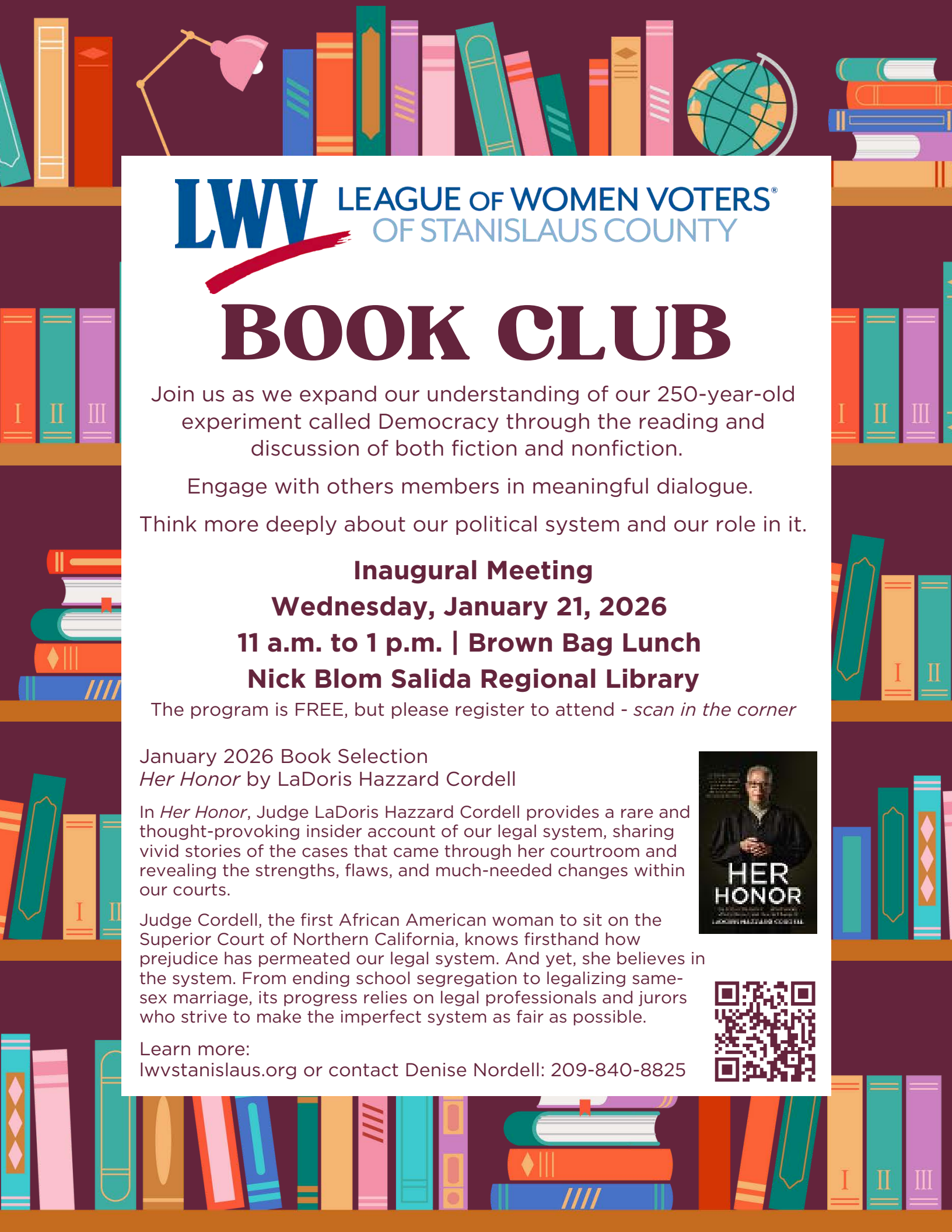
RSVP by 12/8/25 to Angelina Ceja at
angelina@agsafe.org



Holodomor 1932-33: Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists

Speaker: Daren Williams

In 1932-33, ten years before Hitler came to power, Josef Stalin's Soviet regime starved between 3.5 and 7 million Ukrainians to death in the first genocide. The Holodomor (literally "death inflicted by starvation") was a man-made famine engineered by the Soviet government. Daren Williams' father, Morgan Williams, heard stories of the Holodomor during his first visit to the former Soviet Republic in the early 1990. He then began collecting and commissioning artworks related to the Holodomor, amassing the world's largest collection of Holodomor-related art. Following his death in June of last year, Daren's family donated the entire collection to the Holodomor Museum in Kiev, Ukraine, where it will be on permanent display after the war. Daren will share the story and images from his father's collection, "Holodomor 1932-33: Through the Eyes of Ukrainian Artists."



LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

BOOK CLUB

Join us as we expand our understanding of our 250-year-old experiment called Democracy through the reading and discussion of both fiction and nonfiction.

Engage with others members in meaningful dialogue.
Think more deeply about our political system and our role in it.

Inaugural Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Brown Bag Lunch
Nick Blom Salida Regional Library

The program is FREE, but please register to attend - *scan in the corner*

January 2026 Book Selection
Her Honor by LaDoris Hazzard Cordell

In *Her Honor*, Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell provides a rare and thought-provoking insider account of our legal system, sharing vivid stories of the cases that came through her courtroom and revealing the strengths, flaws, and much-needed changes within our courts.

Judge Cordell, the first African American woman to sit on the Superior Court of Northern California, knows firsthand how prejudice has permeated our legal system. And yet, she believes in the system. From ending school segregation to legalizing same-sex marriage, its progress relies on legal professionals and jurors who strive to make the imperfect system as fair as possible.

Learn more:
lwvstanislaus.org or contact Denise Nordell: 209-840-8825

