



League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County

THE VOTER

Volume 27, issue 11
Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

Our speaker will be the new Registrar of Voters, Deva Marie Proto, to explain recent and coming changes.

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 12 - 3:00 pm

Charlie's Restaurant -- Windsor Golf Club

Menu:

Penne pasta with Ratatouille

Mixed Green Salad

Garlic Bread.

Assorted Cookies

Beverages: coffee, tea, and cold drinks

Cost \$30 Inclusive

Alcoholic beverages will be available at a no host bar.

Please get your reservation in before March 12.

Send your check to:

League of Women Voters of Sonoma County
555 Fifth St., Suite 300-O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Questions? Contact program@lwvsonoma.org

Good food and good fun!

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

See our [website](#) for other important election dates and information and links to videos of forums, or go to [Voters Edge](#).

Forum on Mental Health Challenges in Sonoma County: Monday, March 18, 2-3:30pm.
Spring Lake Village Auditorium, 5555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409.

Lunch with the League: Wednesday, March 27, 12-2 pm.
Charlie's Restaurant, Windsor, 1320 19th Hole Dr. 95492.

Annual Meeting. Save the Date: Saturday, June 8.

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 10-noon.

Advocacy Committee Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 10:30-noon

Outreach Committee Meeting: 2nd Monday, 2:00-4:00.

Book Club: 3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

Voter Service Committee Meeting: 4th Thursday, 10-noon.

LWVSC meetings are held in the third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office
555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon
request.

All other meetings are open to all.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.



President's Message

Sonoma County has a special connection to National Women's History Month. A Women's History Week was planned and held here by the Educational Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women on March 8, 1978. Molly MacGregor participated and went on to found the National Women's History Project in 1980 in Santa Rosa with a small group of local women. The Project put together a coalition and petitioned Congress and the White

House to designate a National week to celebrate the role of women in history. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. In 1987, the group led a successful effort to have the entire month of March declared National Women's History Month. Recently, the National Women's History Project transitioned to the National Women's History Alliance. They report that tens of thousands of organizations and individuals are finalizing plans for extensive celebrations in 2020 in honor of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

The Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library, in partnership with the Alliance, is spearheading a project to highlight individuals in Sonoma County who played a role in the suffrage movement as well as document the places in which suffrage activities occurred. Volunteers and library staff are making discoveries on a weekly basis. Library Manager, Katherine Rinehart, shared this finding about League of Women Voters' founder, Carrie Chapman Catt.

"We just learned that Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947), spoke to a large audience at the Petaluma Opera House on October 29, 1896. Mrs. Catt had been invited to speak by the Petaluma Political Equality Club and was introduced by club president, Ellen H. Button. In 1870, she was the treasurer of the Sonoma County Woman Suffrage Association, when she signed her name to a petition for women's suffrage that was sent to the California legislature. Mrs. Ellen H. Button was one of 398 Petaluma residents to sign the petition."

Volunteers with research, writing, presentation and/or project management skills are still needed. Contact krinehart@sonomalibrary.org or (707) 308-3212

The West County Museum (in Sebastopol) is also conducting research and welcomes knowledge of ancestors who may have participated in groups supporting suffrage like Women's Improvement Clubs, Native Daughters, Women's Christian Temperance Union, Women's Relief Corp and the Women's Suffrage Association.

Contact wschs.historycorner@gmail.com to learn more.

Susan Novak

Board Briefs from February 5th

- ✓ The meeting was brought to order at 10:05am with nine Officers/Directors present, one absent and three guests.
- ✓ **Program:** Ardath Lee and Mike Turgeon from the Center for Climate Protection presented a program for education and advocacy: “Evergreen for Sonoma County Cities, Why Electric Vehicles? and Community Choice Aggregation. Gene Zingarelli will bring it to the Advocacy Committee for action and Judy Levy will take it to the Outreach Committee to design the program
- ✓ **Program Planning:** Climate Change and Criminal Justice Reform were chosen and approved as issues for emphasis for 2019-2020 at both the State and local level.
- ✓ It was approved that we concur with the LA league position on Criminal Justice Reform
- ✓ **“Lunch with the League”** with Deva Marie Proto as speaker will be held at Charlie’s in Windsor on Wednesday March 27 (12-2pm). Cost for attendance will be \$30.
- ✓ **Finance:** Nancy Burrington (Chair), Leona Judson, Juanita Roland (Treasurer) and Debbie McKay were appointed to a Budget Committee.
- ✓ A donation of \$250 was approved to support the California Convention.
- ✓ **Admin:** Anita Lytle has completed the “Government Guide” which is now available for distribution.
----Nancy Burrington, Secretary



Donna Roper leading discussion of issues for program planning at February meeting.

Advocacy Committee Report

We had a presentation on Climate Change Actions by local Friends of the Climate Action Plan. This led to the development of a possible LWVSC Action Alert for the membership and a possible letter to the Santa Rosa City Council. We also reviewed the results for the coming two years from the membership's Program Planning meeting. We will continue to emphasize making democracy work, criminal justice reform, climate change, housing/homelessness, health and mental health, and water usage and cleanliness.

--- By Gene Zingarelli

Grappling with Mental Health Challenges in Sonoma County: The Local Issues Forum

On March 18th at 2:30 the Spring Lake Village Local Issues Planning Group, in cooperation with the Sonoma County League of Women Voters, will present its twelfth forum.

The forum's subject is *Grappling with Mental Health Challenges in Sonoma County*. Our county's Department of Health Services has acknowledged the "long standing gap" in the county's mental health system and needed services. The challenges are many. More than half of approximately 3,000 homeless adults report a serious mental health issue. Our Sheriff's department reports 46% of jailed inmates have a mental health issue. At the same time the community, as a whole is experiencing strains associated with rising housing costs and dealing with the trauma of our 2017 fires.

Despite the seriousness of this challenge, many leaders in the community are committed to making a difference in the lives of Sonoma County residents. Come hear a description of the mental health demands on the system, existing measures and their effectiveness as well as plans with anticipated outcomes.

This forum will include a panel of experts. The moderator will be 5th District Supervisor Shirley Zane, a longtime advocate of mental health services, panelists Debbie Mason, the CEO of the Health Care Foundation, and Bill Carter, the recently appointed Director of the Behavioral Health Division of the Sonoma County Department of Health Services.

Plan to attend and bring questions. The forum will be held in the Spring Lake Village Auditorium, 5555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. The Auditorium is near the exit to the main parking lot. Limited Parking; please car pool.

Earth Day Celebration



Come Join the League on April 27th

Are you concerned about climate change? In 2019 the California League and our local League are making climate change a primary focus. Help us make a difference by volunteering for a couple of hours at the League's booth on April 27th at the Earth Day Celebration at Courthouse Square in Santa Rosa from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm. The early shift is 11:30 am – 2:00 pm and the later shift is 2:00 – 4:00 pm. To sign up for a tabling shift please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-earth> or email Debbie Mc Kay at tabling@lwvsonoma.org

We hope to see you there!

Report on Bay Area League Day

The Conference was attended by Susan Novak, League President, Leona Judson, Voter Services Committee co-chair, and Judith Levy & Debbie McKay, Outreach Committee co-chairs. The primary topic was diversity and how to encourage diversity throughout the League. The new National League CEO, Virginia Kase, was the keynote speaker and she said that “Diversity,” “Equity,” and “Inclusion” are long-term, top priorities of the National League.

The National League is asking all state and local Leagues to use “Diversity,” “Equity,” and “Inclusion” as a lens to examine everything we do, including our policies. Kase said that we need to become more diverse to survive as an organization. Kase went further to explain that “diversity” is not just race. It includes gender, sexual preference, age, race, socioeconomic standing, religion, beliefs and all the things where we have differences. She said that we are being asked to examine our own prejudices and to reach out to other diverse organizations. Our local league will be examining how we can incorporate a focus on “Diversity,” “Equity,” and “Inclusion” into all we do.

---- By Debbie McKay

Training Opportunity

Come learn more about our local League of Women Voters and how to register people to vote. In about 90 minutes you will learn about the issues we are working on this year, the history of the League, how to register voters and our voter education program. You can choose between two dates:

Dates: Saturday, March 23rd **OR** Saturday, April 13th

Time: 9:45am - 11:30am PST

Location: Debbie Mc Kay's home (specific address will be provided to those who sign up.)

For March 23rd Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-learn>

For April 13th Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-learn1>

Or you can send an email to tabling@lwvsonoma.org with your name and the date you prefer.

Welcome New Members!

Susan Drake Karen Weeks
Marion Aird Carroll Estes
Stacy McLaughlin

We're so glad you're here!

West County League Forum Report

Our League held a forum on February 8th on Measure A regarding the sale of the Sonoma Specialty Hospital, formerly known as Sonoma West Medical Center to AAMG. The panelists were Board members taking opposing views of the Measure. Over one hundred people attended on a rainy Friday night. The audience had many questions regarding the controversial issue, and our moderator Donna Roper, did an excellent job weaving their questions in with the ones our League members had prepared. The election is March 5th. Stay tuned to see how the voters decide the possible fate of the Palm Drive Health District and its beleaguered hospital.

--- By Leona Judson

March 2019 Housing Update

Sonoma County residents are rebuilding many of the homes lost in the wild fires. The City of Santa Rosa and the County of Sonoma have made considerable progress in their efforts to encourage homeowners who lost their homes in the 2017 wildfires to rebuild.

Both the City of Santa Rosa and the County implemented numerous policies and processes to support the rebuild effort, including lowering fees, speeding up the approval process, deferring fees until occupancy, etc.

Tennis Wick, Head of the Sonoma County Permits and Resources Center, reports that the department has issued more permits in the last 12 months than ever before in their history. They have issued building permits for 50% of the housing that was lost in the wildfires in the unincorporated areas of the County.

The City of Santa Rosa has also reached the half-way mark for homes that entered the rebuild process, supported by their Resilient Permit Center. In addition, the City is allowing residential building of up to 10 stories in the core downtown and SMART station areas.

Looking to housing needs beyond the housing lost in the wildfires, the County of Sonoma and the City of Santa Rosa have partnered to create a Regional Housing Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to look at housing needs on a regional basis. This is the first JPA of this kind in the state. Rather than each jurisdiction just “doing their own thing,” the JPA will allow pooling of resources, sharing of best practices, and greater coordination on projects.

And it is not just the County and cities which have increased their efforts. Burbank Housing, with 3,200 rental units, is one of the largest providers of affordable housing in Sonoma County. They have several affordable housing projects recently completed or in the pipeline:

- Crossroads which is 79 housing units in Southwest Santa Rosa, housing 15 formerly homeless people
- 161 affordable units for seniors are planned for the former Journey's End mobile home park and Burbank hopes to build an additional 300-400 units of market rate housing on the same site by building multi-story buildings on the site.
- Lantana Homes is a 48 unit development in Southwest Santa Rosa for those making 100% of the Area median Income (AMI).
- Cartas Homes is a project in downtown Santa Rosa of 134 units for people who have been homeless, with supportive services for residents.

Next month: What are employers, including agriculture doing to increase housing?

----- By Debbie McKay



Volunteer Corner

Membership Committee - we're looking for members interested in finding ways to promote the League and keep our members engaged. We would like to plan and organize interesting activities such as get-togethers, outings, and speakers for our membership.

If interested, please contact Gayle Peterson at 707-539-3794 or gpeterson3794@sbcglobal.net

ON THE WEB: HR1, Superdraft Maps, and Tiny Homes

We can take action on HR1 which will strengthen voting rights for all citizens: [League Article](#)

Windsor has been creating councilmanic districts and is seeking comment on its proposed maps: [Superdraft Maps](#)

Will tiny homes be a solution for some homeless? [Article in Windsor Times](#)

Book Club Reads

March 21--Moderated by Mary Fricker

An American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business and How You Can Take It Back
Elisabeth Rosenthal, 337 pages, 2017

Rosenthal, a senior writer for the New York Times who has a Harvard Medical School degree and served as a physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, asserts that the American medical system has lost its focus on health. *An American Sickness* is a shocking investigation into our dysfunctional healthcare system - and offers practical solutions to its myriad problems. Breaking down this monolithic business into the individual industries--the hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, and drug manufacturers--that together constitute our healthcare system, Rosenthal exposes the recent evolution of American medicine as never before.

April 16--Moderated by Sukey Robb-Wilder

Eager: the surprising, secret life of beavers and why they matter
by Ben Goldfarb, 286 pages, 2017

This diverting volume sings the praises of beavers, who, though targets of a multi-century massacre and besieged by urban sprawl, still manage to flourish not only in Walmart parking lots, but in stormwater ponds, golf course water hazards, and even in downtown Martinez CA. Goldfarb, an environmental journalist, makes the case that beavers are a keystone species vital for ensuring healthy ecosystems; yet, their notoriety as a nuisance species is hard to overcome.

The 2019 Reading list is online at <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2019.pdf>

Please join us.

LWVSC

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Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website. www.lwvsonoma.org

Connect with the League



LWVSC www.lwvsonoma.org
www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty

LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California www.ca.lwv.org

LWV of the United States www.lwv.org
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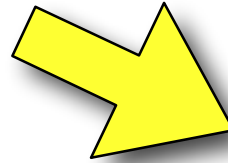
Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.

Tell us what you think!
Send in your comments,
questions, and
suggestions.
Email, snail-mail, or call!
We want to hear from you!

*Become a Member of the
LWV of Sonoma County*



or

**Make a
DONATION**

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
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Memberships Levels

<i>Susan B. Anthony</i> Individual Membership	\$65
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$100
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt</i> Membership	\$200 or more

**Membership dues and donations
are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law**

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Voter Registration | Candidate Forums | Transportation |
| Housing/Homelessness | Climate Change | Immigration |
| Newsletter | Website Management | Local Governance |

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

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