



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



The

VOTER

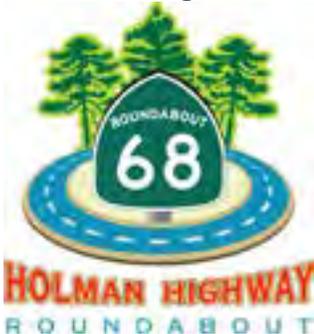


Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / February 2016, Volume 88, Number 5

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

“Updates: Highway 68 / Pebble Beach Roundabout and Monterey County Transportation Investment Plan”

Guest Speakers Mr. Todd Muck, Deputy Executive Director at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), and Ms Ariana Green, Transportation and Public Outreach Manager, TAMC will speak on two important local transportation issues.



The Holman Highway 68 Roundabout will be the first roundabout on a state highway in Monterey County and will improve access to the Community Hospital, Pacific Grove, and Pebble Beach. Construction of the roundabout will begin in Spring 2016 and finish in Spring 2017. As Public Outreach Manager for the project, Ms Green will provide a presentation on how the roundabout will work, what to expect during construction, and what the benefits will be once construction is finished.

Mr. Muck will update us on what can be done locally to help fix our roads, provide service for those in need, and improve our economy. He will present the Draft Transportation Investment Plan currently under discussion.

Monterey County’s transportation system is aging. County roads and city streets are crumbling. While progress has been made on making our highways safer and reducing traffic, there are still significant safety concerns and traffic jams. At the same time our vulnerable populations—the elderly, children, and the disabled need safer and easier ways to get around. With a shortfall in state and federal transportation funding, community leaders agree that something must be done to fix our roads.

(continued on page 2)

LWVMC February 10, 2016 General Meeting

Lunch 12 noon / Presentation 12:30 / \$17 per person for lunch (main course, salad, beverages, and dessert provided by Café Athena)

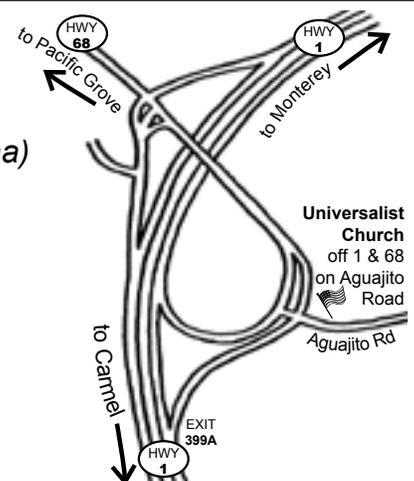
Reservations are a must for lunch!

Contact Lorita Fisher by Saturday, February 6.

(phone 375-8301 or e-mail GLFisher@redshift.com)

Pay at the door for lunch: meeting/presentation is FREE.

L&L meets at: Unitarian Universalist Church http://uucmp.org 490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



(continued from page 1)

Ms Green has more than four years' experience as a **Transportation Planner**, a year with the **City of Monterey** and currently with TAMC. Prior to this Ms Green served as an **Intern** with the **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission** providing **Public Outreach** for the **Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network**. She was also a **Planning Consultant** on the **City of Capitola Bicycle Transportation Plan**.



Mr. Muck has worked on transportation and regional planning issues in the Monterey Bay area for almost 20 years. He lives in Carmel with his wife and two school age sons, is actively involved in **Boy Scouts** as an **Assistant Scoutmaster**, and enjoys racing his sailboat on the Monterey Bay. Mr. Muck is a member of the **America Planning Association** and the **American Institute of Certified Planners**.

Janet Brennan, JanetB@montereybay.com

★★ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JANUARY 2016** ★★

It is the time of year when the League begins to plan for upcoming annual meetings and conventions.

LWVMC Nominating Committee

This year, our **Nominating Committee** is chaired by **Jean Donnelly**. Other Committee members include **Priscilla Walton, Hetty Eddy, Melanie Billig** and **Lynn Santos**. Your recommendations for Officers and Directors for the 2016-2017 Board should be provided to the Chair or any of the members.

League Studies

Also, we should begin thinking about any new local and national studies we would like to undertake. In League, this is called *Program Planning*.

Our meeting to discuss possible studies will

be at noon at Mariposa Hall on Wednesday, **February 17**. Only those issues identified at this meeting can be considered at the **Annual Meeting in May** or at **LWVUS Convention in June** in Washington DC.



One possible study being mentioned by members relates to **special events**, their impacts on local infrastructure and ways to mitigate those impacts.

This issue also includes **short-term rentals** and events occurring at wedding and other venues which may or may not be permitted.

If you are interested in a study on these issues, plan to attend the February 17th meeting.

Janet Brennan, JanetB@montereybay.com

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ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

The article on the opposite page is the second part of an excellent synopsis of issues regarding access to higher education by Kemay Eoyang. Part One was published in the January Voter.

As explained previously, the League of Women Voters California has a position on California community colleges, but does not have a position on higher education in California covering the University of California, California State University, and the California community colleges.

As a result, LWVC is unable to comment on or advocate for or against proposed policies and legislation. LWVC prepared study materials on access to higher education in California.

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★★ **ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA: PART TWO** ★★

Why is the League of Women Voters Study of Public Higher Education in California so important? The Campaign for College Opportunity stated it aptly: "Education paves the way for progress. It ensures that we produce the best skilled workers for the jobs of today and tomorrow in a global economy. Those educated workers drive economic prosperity that in turn determines our quality of life. If we don't get education right, we won't succeed—not individually as students, workers and taxpayers, and not collectively as an economy, society and nation."



accepts the top 33.3 percent, its eligibility pool is more diverse than UC's.

The second problem with the Master Plan is that to improve the eligibility rate for one group, the rates for other groups must decline.

UC and CSU attempted to address these two problems through outreach programs but were unable to make headway because white and Asian American students responded to the increasingly competitive environment at UC and CSU by increasing their eligibility in greater numbers. The Project noted that the implications for continued under representation are "sobering." Because eligibility rates are lowest among the fastest-growing groups—particularly California's Chicano and Latino population—underrepresentation, "... in the state's four-year sector is likely to worsen rather than abate over time." The Project recommends lifting the Master Plan caps to make more students eligible for UC and CSU (<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6d36s98f>).

Minority Students

By 2030, it is estimated whites will make up 34 percent of California's population while the 66 percent of the population will be persons of color. In addition, there is a growing generation divide. The senior citizen population has remained predominately white while the population of children under age four is predominately non-white. Like the tsunami of baby boomers arriving at college campuses in the 1960s, California now faces a tidal wave of minority students arriving at its college campuses.

In 2010, **The Civil Rights Project at the University of California** looked at how the structure of higher education in California restricts college attendance among all students but especially among students of color. While some would blame K-12 education for the unpreparedness of college freshmen, the Civil Rights Project blames the **Master Plan** for reducing minority enrollment. Students must meet eligibility requirements before admission but few minority students are deemed "eligible".

The first criteria for eligibility is grades. Students of color are the least likely to have the highest GPA. The Master Plan restricts UC eligibility to the top 12.5 percent so minority students are disproportionately excluded. Because CSU

Latino Student Barriers

In April 2015, the **Campaign for College Opportunity** (a bi-partisan coalition of business, education and civil rights leaders funded by a number of non-profits) focused on Latino students.

California is home to the largest Latino population in the United States—15 million. One of every two children under the age of 18 in the state is Latino. Among the adult population, 12 percent have a college degree, which is an improvement since 1990. If one digs deeper, Latinos born in the US are more educated than Latino immigrants—more likely to finish high school, and more likely to graduate from college. The same holds true for young adult Latinos vs older and senior citizen Latinos.

While three out of four Latino students graduates

from high school, only three out of ten Latinos completed courses required by UC and CSU. That does not stop Latino students from enrolling in college (43 percent), usually in a community college (65 percent). When it comes time to transfer, Latino students are more likely (63 percent) to transfer to a CSU campus.

Latino students face many barriers. They are more likely to be the first in their generation to attend college, to attend college part-time, to work while in college, and to come from low-income families. They are more likely to attend elementary schools with lower academic quality. The high schools they attend likely do not offer Advance Placement or honors-level course, employ less qualified and less experienced teachers, and have higher rates of expulsion, dropout, and poverty.

Even high-achieving Latino students who attend California's top-performing high schools are more likely (46 percent) to enroll in a community college—a phenomenon called under matching. One study found that these students lacked information about the differences between various college and universities, the admission process, and financial aid.

On arrival at community college, all students are required to take English and math assessment tests. Most colleges do not offer preparation for placement tests or allow students to retake them. Many students are unaware of the importance of these tests or the impact of these tests on their progress to a certificate, degree, or transfer. If they are deemed “unprepared”, they are required to take pre-college level courses. They may be placed from one to four levels below college-level and must take each course level in sequence before they can begin college-level courses.

In California, 85 percent of incoming Latino students take at least one pre-college level course. Why is this figure important? Students taking pre-college level courses are much less likely to ever make it to graduation—35 percent compared to

the 65 percent who start college with college level courses.

At the CSU campuses, 45 percent of Latino freshmen graduated within 6 years and 67 percent of Latino transfer students graduated in four years. At UC, 75 percent of Latino freshmen graduated within six years and 84 percent of Latino transfer students graduated in four years (<http://collegecampaign.org/portfolio/april-2015-state-of-higher-education-in-california-the-latino-report/#>).

Black Student Barriers

In May 2015, the **Campaign for College Opportunity** presented its findings on Black students to the **US Commission on Civil Rights**.

Like Latino students, Black students face many barriers: low performing K-12 schools, inexperienced teachers, lower levels of school funding, and few counselors. When they arrive on college campus, 87 percent will take a pre-college level course compared to 75 percent of students overall. One-third of Black students will earn an associate degree, certificate, or transfer within six years. One-third of Black students will start at CSU and finish in six years. One-third of Black applicants to UC are granted admission. Black students are over-represented at California community colleges and for-profit colleges, and under-represented at four year public and nonprofit universities (<http://collegecampaign.org/to-the-u-s-commission-on-civil-rights/>).

Proposed Solutions

It has been more than fifty years since the Master Plan was adopted. There is a debate whether higher education in California is in need of modification. Several groups have made recommendations.

In 2000, the **University of California President's Office** believed, “...the Master Plan is a wise and as sound a guide as it was nearly four decades ago...we believe it would be a mistake to waver from the commitment to universal access to higher education that Californians associate with the Master Plan.” (<http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july02/302attach1.pdf>)



The **Little Hoover Commission**, an independent state oversight agency, recommended the following changes in October 2013:

1. Ten community colleges grant four-year degrees in fields that generate jobs (e.g. nursing or education).

Other community colleges would focus exclusively on preparing students for transfer to UC or CSU. Those students who need remedial help would be offered a “gap year” program before transfer. A new polytechnic sector within CSU (similar to CalPoly) would offer three-year Bachelor of Science degrees.

2. Creation of a stand-alone California Open University offering online classes.

This would consolidate online activities in one place to reduce duplication while expanding offerings. The Open University could also offer textbooks, video, Internet, and in-person interaction.

3. Improve the pathway to college beginning in kindergarten—the Long Beach College model.

Suggestions include professional development for K-12 teachers, field trips to college campuses for fourth graders, practice SAT tests, guaranteed admission to CSU campus if complete CSU college preparatory classes, free first semester tuition paid by a foundation.

4. Use of performance funding.

Each campus' funding would be partly allocated based on student performance (e.g., how many students earned a certificate/credential/degree. How many were in a high-need industry or workforce area) (<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/218/report218.html>).

California Competes, a non-partisan group funded by non-profit foundations, makes “financially pragmatic” recommendations for higher education in California. It supports the Little Hoover Commission report. It also recommends that community colleges be independent of the Governor and governed by a Chancellor and a

Board of Governors (similar to CSU). The new Board of Governors would bypass academic senates, which California Competes sees as preventing and stalling progress on college reform. Instead the new Board of Governors would place management of the campuses in the hands of locally elected board of trustees and administrators hired by the trustees.

Finally an independent **Higher Education Investment Board** (funded by a fee charged to every public and private college) would among other things decentralize state scholarship funds from the state level to the campus level (<http://californiacompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/The-Road-Ahead.pdf>).

More recently, **Hans Johnson** of the independent **Public Policy Institute of California** recommended that the Master Plan be updated by increasing the share of high school graduates eligible for UC and CSU, (i.e., establish new goals for transfer from community colleges to four-year schools, and identify completion and time-to-degree objectives), increase funding for higher education, increase grants and scholarships for low-income students. Johnson also recommends some community colleges offer applied degrees in vocational fields (http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_215HJR.pdf).

The Campaign for College Opportunity, whose focus is on civil rights, made several recommendations similar to the other groups. However they recommended that UC use race/ethnicity as one of many factors in weighing a student's qualifications for admission. In other words, **ask voters to modify Proposition 209** which banned race based affirmative action in admissions to public universities.

For further information, see LWVC's “**A Study of Public Higher Education in California**” (<http://lwvc.org/sites/lwvc.org/files/downloads/studies/Higher-Education-Study-Guide-Complete.pdf>).

Kemay Eoyang, ckeoyang@msn.com

★ LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: LYNN SANTOS ★

Lynn Santos, LWVMC Director for the Salinas Valley Unit, joined the League about eight years ago. "I got involved because I knew someone on the Board who invited me and I have a hard time saying no," she explains with a laugh.

But she also believed that, "... the League has always had a great reputation. When I get my Voter Guide, I always look for what the League's opinion is on the various issues."

Lynn's main passion is the League's voter services in the Salinas area—working polls, candidate forums and studies of the issues. For now, though, she says she can't put in as many hours as she'd like because, "I still work and put in a lot of hours at my job. So I'm not always as available for League work as others."

Her job is vitally important—she's Director of Finance for the Monterey County Housing Authority. Lynn has worked with the Authority, a quasi-government organization that offers housing for low income residents, for 20 years. "We have housing with low income restrictions, affordable housing, Section 8 housing, senior low income housing,"

Lynn explains. "We need much more low income housing. What's out there is just not enough." The fact that the cost of rental housing in Salinas is currently increasing at one of the fastest rates anywhere in California is especially worrisome. She expects the main reason is that renters being priced out of housing on the Peninsula and in the Bay Area are flooding into the Salinas region.

In past years, Lynn served on the League's committee in charge of merging the Salinas and Monterey Peninsula chapters as well as on the higher education study committee. In keeping with



her enthusiasm for voting issues, she also volunteered for various political campaigns and voter registration drives in the past. She says she and her husband, Luis, "... used to drag our kids out with us to register voters." Now their two sons are in their thirties and starting their own families.

Lynn and her family moved to Monterey County in 1982, when Luis was in the military and stationed at Fort Ord. They lived in Marina and Monterey and then moved to Salinas in 1985.

With her father in the military, Lynn had lived in several different locations growing up. Dad originally came from Oklahoma, while her mother was from the Bronx.

"I lived in New York City for about four years," she says, "and I joke that I had to move to Oklahoma to find a Puerto Rican to marry—obviously there weren't enough Puerto Ricans to choose from in New York." That move to Oklahoma was to attend the University of Oklahoma, where Lynn earned her bachelor's degree in History and met fellow student Luis.

In the future, Lynn says she'd like to see the League become more involved in voter registration and education. "The current campaigns going on are evidence that voters are not educated on the issues," she says. "You can care about the environment, land use, affordable housing, but if you don't have an electorate that cares, you can't do anything. It seems that much of the campaigning we see now is just fearmongering."

Surely, as the countdown to the upcoming elections continues, Lynn Santos and LWVMC will continue to do everything possible to educate those voters and increase voter turnout.

Nancy Baker Jacobs, PGAauthor@comcast.net



ALL-MAIL VOTING COMES TO MONTEREY COUNTY

Monterey County will be included in a pilot program for off-year elections by all-mail ballot. It all began when **State Assemblyman Luis Alejo** (D-Salinas) asked voters what legislation they would like to be made into law. **LWVMC member Stephanie Loose** and **Dr. Loren Steck, MPC Board Trustee** suggested Monterey County join an all-mail ballot pilot program started in 2011.



drop-off locations and polling places may be selected by elections officials. Polling places will be accessible to the disabled.

Each registered voter will receive the mail ballot with a prepaid return envelope for the completed ballot. Voters will also receive a sample ballot or a list of ballot drop-off locations and polling places (which will also be posted on county elections websites). Elections officials will report election results within six months to the Legislature and the Secretary of State, including statistics to compare the all-mail ballot election to elections conducted by traditional means (<http://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB1504/2015>).

Alejo proposed **Assembly Bill 1504**, which was passed by the Assembly and Senate, and signed by **Governor Jerry Brown** on October 10, 2015. The legislation took effect on January 1, 2016 and will continue until January 1, 2018. In addition, the pilot will now include rural **Yolo County**, suburban **San Mateo County**, and **Sacramento County**.

In November 2017, the **Monterey County Election Office** will conduct all-mail elections for various school and special districts (fire, water, waste treatment, recreation & parks, community services, and memorial districts). A ballot will be mailed to every registered voter in advance of Election Day. The legislation forbids Monterey County from conducting all-mail balloting in statewide primary or general elections, and for special elections to fill vacancies in state offices, the Legislature, and Congress.

Ballot drop-off locations must be provided—one polling place for every 50,000 registered voters with a minimum of one polling place per city. Voters will be allowed to go to polling places on Election Day to request a ballot if they have not received one or if they need a replacement. Additional ballot

Monterey County has been in the forefront of the all-mail ballot movement in California. In 1977 it was one of the first to try all-mail ballots when voters considered a flood control measure. Up to now only **Colorado, Oregon, and Washington states** have all-mail voting systems in place, while 19 others allow certain elections to be held by mail (<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/absentee-and-early-voting.aspx>).

It is hoped that all-mail voting will result in higher turnout and lower cost. In November 2015, **San Mateo County** ran an all-mail ballot election and turnout was 15 percent higher from 2013. Costs were lower because of fewer polling places, election centers, voting machines, and poll workers (<http://www.almanacnews.com/news/print/2015/11/17/voter-turnout-rises-in-all-mail-ballot-election>).

Kemay Eoyang, ckeoyang@msn.com

LWV CALIFORNIA COMMENTS ON BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN/CALIFORNIA WATERFIX

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) submitted comments on the Administration's plan to build twin tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta--the **Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix**.

For reasons stated in the letter, LWVC cannot support the Administration's California WaterFix. The League appreciated the opportunity to comment on the **Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental**

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) for the Plan, however it has long-standing policies supporting nonstructural alternatives for water supply in California. With respect to the Delta, these policies align with principles established by the **2009 Delta Reform Act** that are now part of the **California Water Code** and the **Public Resources Code**.

Were the LWVC to support any new infrastructure for conveying water through or around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, it would have to be persuaded that the proposed infrastructure conformed to League policies, such that:

1. Realistic limits have been placed on the **amount of water to be exported**;
2. Strategies such as **water conservation** and **wastewater reclamation** have been and will continue to be employed to the fullest extent by both agricultural and urban users to minimize reliance on water exported through the Delta;
3. Federal and state entities intend to abide by **high water quality standards** in the Delta and the estuary;



4. The conveyance plan includes **strong, binding environmental safeguards**, including reserving stream flows for protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat, and

for other in-stream uses;

5. The **economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits** of the project have been fully assessed.

The RDEIR/SDEIS failed not only to meet the League's criteria for supporting new conveyance infrastructure in the Delta but also to conform to established law. The LWVC therefore cannot support the Administration's California WaterFix.

A link to the full 17-page letter, which considers the above points in order, with references where applicable to the California Water Code, can be found at <https://lwvc.org/statement/2015/oct/lwvc-comments-california-waterfix>.

Trudy Schafer, Sr. Director for Program, LWVC



Any person of voting age, male or female, may be a member of the League!

Renew Your LWVMC Membership.

If your membership has lapsed, please use the form below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>. Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

*Renewal letter and form gone astray?
Uncertain of your membership due date?
Wish to make a donation?
Want to become a new member?*

Use the form below or contact:
Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director
LHoivik@comcast.net or 375-7765

Checks payable to **LWVMC**
Mail to **LWVMC PO Box 1995**
Monterey, CA 93942

Membership Levels

- \$250+ Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 95 Household (2 persons, 1 address)
- \$ 65 Single membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

- Send e-mail reminders for luncheons
- Call to remind me of luncheons
- Scholarship requested

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMC are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund. However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP MEMO

Welcome New Members

Hello and welcome to Debeliah and Lois!

Please add the following to your LWVMC Member's Handbook:

Debeliah Anthony
415 Monterey Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 372-4036
Debbie_anthony@att.net

Lois Louvau
610 Sinex Avenue, J110
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
(831) 657-4167
loislouvau@comcast.net

Also note New Phone Numbers

Robert Evans: (831) 595-5351
Roberta Myers: (831) 241-1013

Thanks to Our Generous Donor

We appreciate **Max Chaplin** for his \$100 membership renewal (\$65 dues & \$35 donation).

Lisa Hoivik, lhoivik@comcast.net



Office / Board Meetings Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

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(* = **Executive Committee**)

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LWVMC The VOTER

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Submission deadline: 2nd Saturday of month. Send e-articles, information, updates to **Regina Doyle, LWVMC Voter Editor**
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LWVMC 2016 Calendar



FEBRUARY

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 8 February, 5:00pm

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090

JanetB@montereybay.com

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 10 February, 12 noon

"Highway 68 / Pebble Beach

Roundabout and County Transport Plan"

TAMC Guest Speakers

Ms Ariana Green and Mr. Todd Muck

(details on front page)

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 11 February, 12 noon

"Anti-Fracking Petition"

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **George Riley**, 645-9914

GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

Program Planning Meeting

Wednesday, 17 February, 12 noon

"Discussion of LWV Studies"

Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Contact: **Janet Brennan**, 659-2090

JanetB@montereybay.com

MARCH

Lunch & Learn with the League

Wednesday, 9 March, 12 noon

"Highway 68 Corridor Proposed Projects"

Guest Speaker: **Mike Weaver**

APRIL

WVCa Higher Education

Study Consensus Questions Rating

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

(immediately following Lunch & Learn)

Contact: **Diane Cotton**, 521-7416

onceandreas@gmail.com

