



**League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2026**

**Call to order:** Barbara Lewis called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Board members present: Barbara Lewis, Jane Cohen, Denise Gurer, Pam Newbury, Pamela Peterson

Board members absent with notification: Laura Grossman, Marilyn Radisch

Absent with notification: Ann Havlik (LWV Coach, San Luis Obispo)

Board members absent without notification: Mindy Ryan

**Minutes** of the March 11, 2026 Board Meeting were approved with accepted corrections.

**Treasurer's Report: as submitted by Pamela Peterson**

- Total funds available as of 3/31/26 was \$10,302.87.
- Membership income received during March was from two new and two renewing members through the online LWVUS membership portal and 1 renewal by check.
- Two contributions: one cash was made through Zeffy and one was in-kind.
- Zeffy, our new online payment application, is up and running successfully. It will accept payments and donations. Deposits are automatically made each Monday into our West Coast Community Bank account.
- Based on membership dues paid through the LWVUS membership portal for the period February 2025-January 2026, LWVSCC does not qualify for shortfall mitigation due to the migration to the LWVUS membership portal for dues payments.

At this meeting, Pam Newbury suggested the Meetings and Luncheons entries in the budget be increased from \$1200 to \$2500 considering current local cost trends.

We discussed the cost versus benefits of our previous publicity spending and decided to continue with funding publicity as proposed in the draft budget. We will evaluate the effectiveness of paid publicity as events throughout the coming year unfold.

To mitigate possible shortfalls, we discussed pursuing grant funding and requesting donations at future events to help cover our costs.

Denise Gurer made a motion to pass the budget with the change suggested on lines 130 and 750.1 to \$2500. Pam Newbury seconded it and it passed unanimously.

**President's Report: Barbara Lewis**

Barbara reported that she has engaged in numerous communications related to LWV business this past month, including one with Voter Service Coach Dorothy Fry. Dorothy has accepted two requests for the League to provide a moderator and timekeeper at candidate forums. Dinah Sapia will moderate the forum sponsored by the Pajaro Valley Teachers Federation later in April, and Dee Takemoto will serve as timekeeper. Dinah Sapia has also agreed to moderate the candidate forum for judges sponsored by the Valley Women's Club scheduled May 14 at Highlands Park..

**Membership Report: Laura Grossman**

Laura sent a report before she left for her vacation and Barbara added to it resulting in the following:

68 Total Members includes

1 Life Member, 3 New Members: Leslie Kloes, Greta Salmi, Kathryn Johnson

### **Program Report: Pam Newbury**

#### Report from Local Program Planning Meeting

The following three proposed programs for 2026/27 were approved by the board unanimously. Motion to approve was made by Pamela Peterson, seconded by Jane Cohen. Scheduling will be addressed in the future.

- Hear from elected local officials in 2027: After the November 2026 election, LWVSCC will host discussion panels with newly elected and re-elected county officials from judges to county supervisors.
- Housing alternatives in Santa Cruz County: Affordable housing in Santa Cruz County is hard to come by. LWVSCC will explore housing options from tiny homes to high-rise apartments.
- Local healthcare issues: A scarcity of local healthcare providers makes it hard for county residents to find physicians from primary care to specialists. With only two local hospitals, residents may have to travel far to get emergency care at a hospital that accepts their insurance. We will look at causes and solutions to local healthcare concerns.

#### Planning for Annual Meeting

The board discussed and agreed on the following recommendations from Pam:

- Cost per meal: \$40/person We have funds to cover the cost of the speaker's lunch (\$100) which includes a guest if she brings one. We also have \$300 in the budget for programs which would help cover the deficit, if there is one.
- Meal choices: Pam will find out if the restaurant can accommodate a vegan or vegetarian entrée along with their suggested items. Attendees will be asked to choose their entrees when registering for this event.
- Topics for the speaker: Nicole Coburn, Santa Cruz County Executive Officer, will be requested to share a little background information about herself, outline her key priorities, and discuss the impact of federal funding on the County's budget.
- Location and contract: Crow's Nest, Harbor Room
- Schedule for the event:
  - 9:25 Setup
  - 9:40 Check in starts
  - 10:00 Food Service starts
  - 10:30 Speaker begins
  - 11:00 Questions
  - 11:15 Annual Business Meeting starts
  - 11:45 Cleanup
  - 12:00 Event ends

### **Publicity Report: Mindy Ryan**

None

### **VOTER Report: Marilyn Radisch as reported to Barbara Lewis**

Marilyn expects to publish the next newsletter by April 19<sup>th</sup> to include the following:

- Approved notes from 3/11 legislative interview with Assemblymember Robert Rivas, Speaker of the 29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of California
- Notice of Earth Day events on 4/22
- President's message from Barbara Lewis

## **Webmaster Report: Denise Gurer**

### Minutes and Newsletter

- Uploaded February minutes to website and LWVSCC google drive
- Uploaded March VOTER to website and LWVSCC google drive

### Front Page

- Added article on unlawful seizure of ballots from the 2025 special election by the Riverside county (CA) sheriff
- Added article on rejecting the SAVE Act

### Events

- None added this month

### Other

- Updated Zeffy account to include Pamela Peterson (treasurer)

We discussed the reasoning behind the recent support of the No Kings demonstrations by the national League of Women Voters which seemed on the surface to conflict with the historically non-partisan policy of our organization. It was explained as follows on our LWVSSC [Facebook page](#).

*Key aspects of the LWVUS position include:*

*Opposition to Authoritarianism: The League views "No Kings" as a reflection of the nation's foundation—government by the people, not the rule of one.*

*Rule of Law: A central tenet of the League stance is that no person, including the President, is above the law.*

*Response to Executive Overreach: The League has specifically cited concerns over executive actions that they claim disregard congressional authority, defy court orders, and threaten the separation of powers.*

*Nonpartisan Advocacy: While partnering with progressive organizations for these events, LWVUS emphasizes that its participation is conducted in a nonpartisan manner.*

*Nature of Action: The mobilization consists of peaceful, nonviolent protests and rallies across the country.*

*League Guidelines: Members participating are encouraged to wear LWV gear and use "good judgment" to ensure signs and chants remain nonpartisan.*

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

We discussed the invitation to co-sponsor the April 25<sup>th</sup> War and Peace Forum sponsored by the Central Coast Advocates for Peace in the Middle East and decided not to participate due to the partisan nature of the sponsoring organization which conflicts with the League of Women Voters' non-partisan policy.

## **Announcements:**

The next LWVSCC Board meeting will be on May 13, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Jane Cohen, LWVSCC Secretary