



**League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County
Board Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2025**

Call to order: Barbara Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board members present:

Barbara Lewis, Laura Grossman, Marilyn Radisch, Jane Cohen, Pamela Peterson, Pam Newbury, Mindy Ryan, Denise Gurer

Others present: Ann Havlik (LWV Coach from San Luis Obispo)

Minutes of the November 12, 2025 Board Meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: as submitted by Pamela Peterson

- Total funds available as of 11/30/25 is \$12,438.33.
- Membership income received during October was from one new member through the online LWVUS portal.
- One \$25 contribution to LWVSCC general fund was received from a new member.
- Local league general liability insurance premium was paid through LWV California as a shared cost. This provides coverage from September 22, 2025 through September 22, 2026. Proof of liability insurance may be required by some venues where League events are held.

Next month Pamela will present a report comparing this year's data with either previous months or years, comparing membership, income from membership, donations and round-up donations. Pamela has access to 8 years' of data. In February, LWVUS will provide information on donations received from the online system. Our income from membership fees is 2.2 times more than the \$5.00 we previously received. Members are now free to join the League any time during the year.

President's Report: Barbara Lewis

Barbara enjoyed working with Barbara Paige, President of the local AAUW, our co-sponsor, and welcoming guests to the talk by Dr. Faris Sabbah at our November 22 presentation at the Aptos Library. She reported the talk was very interesting and recommended that Marilyn Radisch add a link to the AAUW recorded video of the event to our website.

Barbara attended an interesting webinar as part of the League of Women Voters powerful new initiative, Unite and Rise 8.5. The goal of Unite and Rise 8.5, is to engage and mobilize 8.5 million voters to protect and preserve our democracy. The webinar recommended building coalitions with other organizations and listed the AAUW as the number one organization for building coalitions. Barbara will share links to Unite and Rise 8.5 webinars as they become available to our members.

Membership Report: Laura Grossman

60 Total Members including

- 1 New Member, Kathryn Schlepphorst
- 1 Life Member

Barbara Lewis requested that she be notified of new members' names and contact information. Laura distributed a Roster of our current membership to the Board of Directors via email. Laura attended a lovely memorial for recently deceased LWVSCC member, Karen Smith. Karen was a very conscientious person who among her many contributions to the League over many years, donated large amounts of refreshments to League events, worked on the human trafficking project, AAUW events, and served as co-Program chair.

Pam Newbury suggested that we encourage members who no longer feel able to participate fully and thus are not renewing their membership, to consider paying the minimum \$20 dues so they can stay connected to us. Barbara stated that our policy has been to continue to send the January issue of the VOTER to those members not renewing for 2026 then stop if they do not renew after that.

Program Report: Pam Newbury and Mindy Ryan

Pam Newbury reported that 13 people have signed up for the January Soquel Water tour so far. It is listed on our website and she has sent an article to Marilyn Radisch for inclusion in the December VOTER. As the water facility tour is limited to 26 attendees, we are not widely advertising the event to the public. Pam suggested that we could put the RSVP information on the website in case members needed it.

Pam requested that both National and Local Program Planning meetings be added to the website and Facebook pages as these events are open to the public. We will plan programs for April and May. Pam suggested we invite Nicole Cobern, the new County Executive Officer for Santa Cruz County, to be our speaker at the June Annual Meeting. Pam will follow up setting a date, preferably during the morning of either the first or second Sunday of June and consider whether to hold the meeting at Seascape Golf Club or the Santa Cruz Community Foundation.

Barbara notified us that the National LWVUS meeting will be June 25-28th.

Publicity Report: Mindy Ryan

Mindy Ryan will update the website in January.

Mindy offered to do a "show and tell" to the board about the current online publicity available to us locally and from LWVUS. It would be beneficial to know if we are reaching our audience by getting some data on how many users click on our site and which pages are most read.

Pam Newbury requested we reach out to Monterey County LWV since they advertise on the local NPR radio station and find out how much that costs.

Pam, Mindy and Laura will coordinate and locate our brochures and table banner and decide if we need more.

Voter Report: Marilyn Radisch

Marilyn is planning to publish a Voter Issue on December 27th which will include

- Report and link to Dr. Farris Sabah's November presentation
- Article about the Soquel Water tour
- Memorial article about Karen Smith to be written by Laura Grossman
- Reminder to renew membership to LWVSCC for those who haven't already renewed.

Webmaster Report: Denise Gurer

Minutes and Newsletter

- Uploaded October minutes to website and LWVSCC google drive.

Front Page

- Replaced old board photo with new one.
- Added article on front page about LWVUS filing a lawsuit against the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Note: Marilyn Radisch will add this to the December VOTER.

Events

- None added this month

Barb Lewis will send information about public webinars from LWVUS for VOTER, calendar, and website.

Pam Newbury will send information and photos for the planning meetings for the website.

Pam Newbury suggested checking our website's statistics on Google Analytics or from resources available through MyLeagueOnline.

Unfinished Business:

Last month, Pamela Peterson submitted a request that we discuss the need to find an alternative to our current PayPal account since it belongs to an individual who no longer wants to maintain it.

Board members were encouraged to investigate alternative options and report findings to the board. On November 12th, Barbara sent an email with a list of alternatives to consider. Denise Gurer will review the various alternatives including Venmo, and attempt to find the easiest solution for replacing the PayPal account.

Issues to consider:

What is the purpose of having such an account?

- Donations
- Collecting fees for events like luncheons

What is the Cost?

- Currently we are not a 501C3, a designation that PayPal requires for organizational (compared to individual) accounts. We are not interested in becoming one because the paperwork and cost are too high considering our low usage of this resource.
- Are users assessed a fee?
- Does 100% of funds collected go to our organization?
- Is an individual account holder required or can the account holder be an organization?

New Business:

Ann Havlik has offered to put us in touch with the Treasurer of an organization she belongs to in Cambria that uses [Zeffy](#) for their events and membership dues, if anyone is interested.

Announcements:

The next LWVSCC Board meeting will be on January 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.

Jane Cohen, LWVSCC Secretary