



**League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County
Board Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2026**

Call to order: Barbara Lewis called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Board members present: Barbara Lewis, Jane Cohen, Laura Grossman, Denise Gurer, Pam Newbury, Pamela Peterson, Marilyn Radisch

Board members absent: Mindy Ryan

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

Minutes of the December 10, 2025 Board Meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: as submitted by Pamela Peterson

- Total funds available as of 12/31/25 was \$11,565.58.
- Membership income received during December was from one renewing member through the online LWVUS portal.
- 50% of the PMP (Per Member Payment) payable to LWVUS and LWVC and due by 6/30/26 has now been paid. The balance will be paid with funds in the WCCB checking and savings accounts.
- New! Local Leagues will have the option to pay online for their members who pay by check, thus avoiding the time delay and problem with pending payments involved in mailing dues checks to LWVUS. To avoid sending checks, local Leagues will be able to deposit dues checks locally and pay the member's dues with the local League's credit or debit card or by ACH from the League's account. These transactions can be batch processed and STRIPE processing fees will be charged.
- A comparison between membership dues and contributions collected by LWVSCC prior to and after the LWVUS dues portal implementation is postponed until after July 1, 2026 when there will be additional information.

In addition to the detailed monthly Financial Spreadsheet, Pamela also provided board members with a summary of dues and contributions received between 2023 and 2026. There was discussion about confusion arising because of the discrepancies between calendar and fiscal year accounting and changes in LWV requirements in recent years.

President's Report: Barbara Lewis as submitted

- I filled out and submitted the LWVUS 2025 Annual Survey on January 7 and also attended the prep session for the LWVC legislative interview with Assemblymember Dawn Addis, volunteering to ask a question. Dorothy Fry and Laura Grossman also were present at this prep session held on Zoom and organized by Joanne Schulz of LWV SLOCO (San Luis Obispo County). Both of our other

representatives also volunteered to ask a question at the interview on Thursday January 15, also to be held on Zoom.

- On Tuesday January 6, I led the prep session using jitsi for the upcoming interview with Assemblymember Gail Pellerin to take place Friday January 16 at the Conference Room adjacent to her Santa Cruz office, room 318-B in the County Government Building. League members representing Santa Cruz County for this interview are: Mindy Ryan, Jane Cohen, Pam Newbury, and myself. The San Jose/Santa Clara League, which was represented at the prep session, also plans to send one or more members to the interview, with all participants planning to ask at least one question.
- Other activities this past month have including submitting the President's Message for the January VOTER, proofreading the VOTER, and contacting Lydia Parker to participate in the future interview with Assemblymember Robert Rivas.

Membership Report: Laura Grossman

61 Total League Members

1 Life member

1 new member

Maria Etheredge memce07@gmail.com

Program Report: Pam Newbury and Mindy Ryan

Twenty-three members signed up for the Soquel Water Tour on January 24, 2026. There is room for more attendees. Pam will send out a reminder invitation before the event. Due to a delay in construction of the new facility, a link to a narrated slide presentation will be distributed to all participants, to be viewed individually before the in-person tour.

We discussed whether this link should be distributed to all members, but decided to send the link to all members along with a short report following the visit.

Publicity Report: Mindy Ryan

None

VOTER Report: Marilyn Radisch

Due to problems with Mailchimp, Marilyn distributed the January VOTER by email. It contains information on our Pure Water Soquel Tour, as well as Barbara's column and articles on offshore oil drilling, education in Santa Cruz County and the California Fair Election Act of 2026 - which will be on your ballot in November.

It was decided that the next issue should include information on suggested national proposals that will be reviewed at our National Program Planning meeting, February 17th. A few of the proposals currently being addressed by other LWV chapters include:

- policies on environmental issues
- admission of immigrants to the U.S.A. and their rights to due process
- religious freedom, reiterating the establishment clause, restricting the federal government from creating or imposing a national religion.

Marilyn is planning to publish the next VOTER in early March.

Webmaster Report: Denise Gurer

Minutes and Newsletter

- Uploaded November minutes to website and LWVSCC google drive Front Page
- No changes this month

Events

- None added this month

Portal Update Meeting 12/17/25

- Pending Checks: unpaid checks > 90 days will be automatically removed, and the member's expiration date will be reset to what it was before the submitted check
- Auto Renew: members on auto renew will get a notice that they will be renewed and be given an opportunity to change that option if desired. Also, leagues can now see who is on auto-renew in the roster.
- Gift Membership is now live. Members and non-members can buy gift memberships. Members can log in to portal.lwv.org/membership_gift, Non-members will need to sign up to access this link
- Groups.io: The treasurers email group was successful, so they are adding additional groups: membership, presidents, and communications
- Searching Roster: can now search by preferred full name and partial names (e.g., Kath*)
- Deceased members: are now placed on the inactive roster
- Coming soon will be ability to have the local league pay a membership (e.g., subsidizing a membership or when a member submits a check to us directly and doesn't mail it in to HQ)
- The finances screen is under review and will be updated to be more flexible so you can see more information in one place
- Explanation of terms will be added to the checkout pages of Stripe (some people found the terms a little off putting and just wanted clarification of what they were)
- People making ACH payments will be sent an email immediately so they will know their payment is being processed (since it takes a while to go through, sometimes members get impatient and send in their payment twice)
- Treasurer training session is coming to update members on latest changes
- If we have a lifetime member that is transferring to our local league, you need to contact directly: membership@lwv.org
- Stripe is used by most leagues since they are already using it for membership payments.

Unfinished Business:

Denise reported on her detailed research to help us choose a replacement for our PayPal account.

MOST Leagues

- Use Stripe since it's already integrated with membership dues payments
- Use ACH – electronic payment method between banks that uses the routing and account numbers from the bottom of your check, instead of a credit card number.

Stripe

- Good for custom integrations
- Good for recurring payments
- 2.9% plus 30 cents per transaction

PayPal

- Easy setup
- 1.99% plus 49 cents per transaction
- Can use Venmo at events

Square

- Can use at events – mobile
- 2.9% plus 30 cents per transaction

Zeffy

- Free – Zeffy makes money by asking donors for tips

- Credit cards, Apple/Google Pay, bank transfers
- Simple to use
- Good for basic donation forms/receipts
- Lacks advanced features such as CRM (customer relations management) – but I don't think we need this
- Not much branding control
- Zeffy uses Stripe to process payments

GiveButter

- Free platform – makes money by asking donors for tips
- More complicated than Zeffy -- it has different platform levels
- Still pay for each transaction: 2.9% plus 30 cents for each transaction if donor doesn't choose to pay for it
- Good for more social community fundraising (such as events, crowdfunding etc.)

Donorbox

- Passes fees on to donors – but donors don't have a choice
- Uses gateway for processing donation – PayPal and Stripe – so those fees are also added in
- Has more capabilities than Zeffy and GiveButter: recurring giving, CRM, donor management
- More professional and good if have many recurring events and good for keeping track of donors
- Charges 1.5% platform fee, Plus standard processing fees.

GalaBid

- Used mainly for auctions
- Donors are asked to add cost to their donation
- Have additional cost due to use of Stripe for payments

RSVPify

- Used mainly for events

Give Lively

- Have costs since it uses Stripe and PayPal for payments

After our discussion, there was a consensus that Zeffy was the preferred system because it provides a user-friendly front end for the local administrator, because of the trusted Stripe back end and since it will be free as we are a 501C4 organization. Denise made a motion that we adopt Zeffy for collecting donations in the future. Pam Newbury seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In preparation for opening a Zeffy account we decided to use our treasurer's LWV email address, treasurer@lwwscc.org and our current organization cell phone number (831) 325-4140, which is maintained by Kathy Van Horn. Pamela Peterson made a motion to authorize our treasurer@lwwscc.org email account for both sending and receiving email in the future, which will incur a modest cost. I seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.

New Business: None

Announcements:

The next LWVSCC Board meeting will be on February 11,2026 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

Jane Cohen, LWVSCC Secretary