

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / April 2020, Volume 92, Number 7

Lunch & Learn, Committee and Board Meetings to be Virtual or Cancelled Until Further Notice Due to COVID-19 "Shelter In Place" Order

We Are All in This Together

LWVMC regrets having to postpone, delay, and cancel events, especially in what should be a **Centennial Year of Celebration** of women winning the right to vote, the formation of the League of Women Voters, as well as what will be an important election season this November. However, it is in all our interests to contain and eventually stop the Corona Virus epidemic by following State and County health guidelines.

Still "Open for Business"

Though we are Sheltering in Place as advised, we will continue to plan, announce, and let you know what we hope to do to protect, promote and enable all qualified people to vote, and keep democracy strong in this country.

This means that we will continue to meet (even if virtually by individual or conference calls), plan events (even if in the end we have to postpone or cancel), educate and reach out to voters, and continue to keep in touch with you, our members (through this newsletter, e-mail announcements, online videos, guides, and website links).



The long hard path to voting rights for women was forged non-violently, and with persistence and courage. Our forebears provide many examples for us to get through our current situation. Watch "Winning the Vote" at home for inspiration (details page 3).

Stay Safe, Stay Calm, Stay Strong

There is a lot of regularly updated information available about **COVID-19** from the **County of Monterey Health Department**: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov> and the **County of Monterey Office of Emergency Services**: <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/office-of-emergency-services/response/covid-19>.

There is a lot you can do to stay mentally and politically active while Sheltering in Place by keeping informed, standing by to volunteer, joining in virtual discussions, and staying in touch with others. High quality videos, links to planned voting activities, and other information can be found at: www.LWVmryco.org and <http://votersedge>.

President & Board of Directors, LWVMC



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL 2020



Senator **Bill Monning** represents the **17th Senate District** including our Central Coast. He traded thoughts on March 6th with representatives of local Leagues **Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and Monterey. Alice Ann Glenn** and I were your LWVMC representatives.

saying it's more important than ever that we inform the public with reliable, neutral, objective facts.

Though it was a good meeting and I learned a lot, the most important takeaway for me had less to do with the Senator than the group: I am constantly amazed by the women I meet in our own League,

but what impressed me that day were two young members from San Jose, both 30-somethings, one with pink hair, one with black, both smart, articulate and friendly. They arrived with a more seasoned Leaguer giving up nearly a day to showing Monning that their

We will send an online link to a more complete report of the meeting shortly. For now, my brief take is that Monning feels he's been doing a good job representing our District, noting improvements in rural drinking water supplies, in getting the Highway 156 four-lane project moving again after finding environmentally sustainable solutions, and other successes.



Back Row: Sylvia Christopher, Alice Ann Glenn, Senator Monning, Howard Fosler;

Front Row: Pam Newberry, Jenny Hoffman, Marie Arnold, Dottie Fry

League cares about his work, watches what he does, that they are invested in the Leagues' work, and that with mutual support we and the Senator can make a difference.

However Monning also expressed deep concern that many issues of importance to the League and to him remain unresolved, including: the continual rise in **preventable diseases**; that "climate change" is now "**climate crisis**" and California is not keeping up; that **failing dams** remain a threat; that just when critical **Central Valley water problems** were well on their way to resolution after years of negotiation, the President told farmers he would see that they got the water they needed from the Federal water project; that the bill to grant **voting rights to parolees** isn't likely to pass; that **affordable housing** remains stalled by controversy; and that getting **information to the public** is a serious problem, due to the demise of locally owned and staffed news outlets, and a decline in journalistic standards.

We already have many bright and earnest members in our chapter too. **But where and how can we find more people like this to join our League?** How can we attract more from our population? I know that what one catches when fishing depends a lot on where one casts a line. Maybe we should be looking at teachers of our children, or grandchildren. Maybe we could interest people in our houses of worship or other organizations in which we are active.

Monning noted that education on all these issues is what LWV does best, praising its work and

This year the League of Women Voters asks us to consider **diversity, equality and inclusion** in our membership planning. Let's consciously look for people who care about their country, the right to vote, and justice for all. Invite new members, even if online or by phone during Shelter in Place. It is the season. **Howard Fosler**

photo: Office of Sen Bill Monning



LWV & WOMAN SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS UPDATE



The Centennial Committee met via conference call on March 17 and made some exciting new plans---reception was good and communications quite clear, with everyone being able to make inputs into the planning. We decided that, ***if we are not still Sheltering in Place***, the LWVMC will: march in another parade, sponsor a film series and a play, have proclamations made by local government, and donate books on the suffrage movement to local libraries.

July 4th Celebrations

We hope to be able to march proudly as we did in the ***Womens March*** in January, this time in the **City of Monterey's Independence Day** parade. We plan to also again host a table on the **Colton Hall** lawn afterwards. ***Meeting times and places to be announced, but we need volunteers for either or both.*** OPTIONAL: As we did in January, we would like participants to **wear white clothing** (shirts, pants, skirts, hats, etc.), in honor of the original suffragettes.

US Women's Suffrage Centennial Film Festival

We plan to host a series of films with excellent reviews at the **Monterey Public Library Community Room** for three consecutive Sunday afternoons in August (details to be announced)

Saturday, August 15: Dennis Mar plans to kick off the festival with his well researched story of ***"Women Suffrage in Monterey County."***

Sunday, August 16: we plan to show Ken Burns' PBS film ***"Not for Ourselves Alone"*** which explores the movement for US women's suffrage in the 19th century, focusing on leaders **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Susan B. Anthony** (3 hour film with an intermission for refreshments and discussion).

Sunday, August 23: we plan to show ***"Iron Jawed Angels"*** an American historical drama directed by **Katja von Garnie**, starring **Hillary**

Swank as **Alice Paul** and **Angelica Huston** as **Carrie Chapman Catt** (2 hour film).

Sunday, August 30: we plan screening ***"One Woman One Vote,"*** a **PBS American Experience** film documenting the 70-year struggle for women's suffrage (2 hour film).

One-Woman Performance

Wednesday, August 26,
Women's Equality Day

On this, the **100th Anniversary of women winning the vote**, the LWVMC plans to sponsor a one-woman presentation of ***"Tea with Alice and Me"*** by **Zoe Caldwell**, at the **MIIS Irvine Auditorium**.

Mark your calendars but meanwhile, stay home and be well!

Bev Bean, Centennial Committee Chair

SOMETHING WORTH VIEWING WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

FREE, high quality, interesting and educational videos are available at www.LWVmryco.org, "Luncheon Videos"

"Winning the Vote: The Women's Suffrage Movement"

"Climate Change: Global Causes, Local Impacts and the Way Ahead"

"Do Charter Schools Provide Real Choice?"

"Vulture Capitalists, News Geeks & Stories Told"

"Impacts of Climate Change on Sea Levels & Forest Fires"

... and many many more!

★ LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: HANNAH PRIESTLEY ★

Hannah Priestley, who is just concluding her term on the **Nominating Committee**, first joined our local League of Women Voters in the early 1970's, after she and her first husband moved to Carmel Valley from Marin County.

A native of Louisville, KY, Hannah was named for **Daniel Boone's sister**, from whom she's directly descended. *"I have deep Kentucky roots,"* she says, but she came to California looking for adventure after she graduated from college, which included two years at **Smith** and two at the **University of North Carolina**. Hannah met her first husband in San Francisco and they raised their three sons in Carmel Valley. *"When that marriage ended,"* she says, *"I moved back to the Bay Area for a while, then moved back here again in 1990."*

During her early years in Monterey County, the late 1960's and '70's, Hannah worked as an independent television news documentary producer. *"I was the first female TV news person on the Central Coast, originally at **KMST** and later **KSBW**,"* she says. Her first documentary was "The Woman Voter," produced right after the **ERA** was passed by Congress. Another was about school desegregation. Among the many people she interviewed, she recalls, was **Leon Panetta**, who had just moved back here after resigning from the **Nixon administration** because he saw that desegregation wasn't going to be implemented under Nixon." Another film was about the **Coastal Protection Initiative**. *"I tried very hard to be nonbiased and, as a result, **KSBW** got complaints from both the **Sierra Club** and the **California Realtors Association**."*

Hannah spent about four years producing documentaries, which were aired at non-prime hours in the public service time slot. But when a station manager proposed that she come on staff *"to do the sort of thing **Barbara Walters** did nationally,"* she says she decided it was time to leave that line of work and concentrate on raising her three small sons. Now that they're grown, she

reports that they still live locally and have blessed her with six grandchildren.

Hannah has been a lifelong supporter of the environment, which is reflected by some of her volunteer work. *"I was on the **Board of the Point Lobos Association** for four years as its **Communications Director**,"* she says. *"It was the 25th anniversary, so we went from putting out a black and white quarterly newsletter to a full color magazine during my tenure."* She's also a past **President** and **Board Member** of the **Carmel Valley Association**.

In 1983, Hannah earned a **Master's Degree in Religious Studies** from **Holy Names University** in **Oakland**, with what she calls *"the goal of understanding the spiritual roots of my devotion to our beautiful and amazing world and my desire to work toward protecting and sustaining a healthy planet."*



In 1990, Hannah met **Bob Priestley**, also a member of LWVMC, when both were singing in the choir at **All Saints Church**. They married in 1992. Now she's active with **St. Dunston's Episcopal Church**, where she serves as a lay reader.

Hannah's political work included serving on **Leon Panetta's Citizen's Advisory Committee** when he first ran for Congress and having been **Monterey County Co-Chair** for **Wilson Riles'** campaign for **State Superintendent of Public Instruction**. Riles was the first black person ever elected to statewide office in California.

When asked what goals she has for LWVMC in the future, Hannah Priestley said she'd like to see our local League reach out to more diverse people and achieve a wider representation in Salinas, Seaside and Marina. **Nancy Baker Jacobs**

VOTER SERVICE IN ACTION

Election Day Polling Place Staff

The LWVMC staffed three polling places for the **March 3, 2020 Primary Election**: two at the **Marina Branch Library** and one at the **Monterey Youth Center at Lake El Estero**.



The following wonderful "Friends of the LWVMC" volunteered for the **four-hour Clerk's shift**: **Jay Asling, Joe Asling, Helen Egerton, Lisa Hayes, Troy Ishikawa, Debby Majors-Degnan, Bruce Merchant, Kathy Rogers, and**

Pamela Trenner-Nelson.

Bob Evans, Suzanne Schmidt, and Dennis Mar served all-day shifts as **Polling Place Inspectors**.

Volunteer **Clerks** from the League were: **Betsy Buchalter Adler, Maribel Andonian, Beverly Bean, Beth Benoit, Sandra Berman, Janet Brennan, Linda Deutsch, Jean Donnelly, Carole Erickson, Colette Erreca-Norris, Myrleen Fisher, Howard Fosler, Alice Ann Glenn, Whitney Gravel, Tamara Harris, Anne Herendeen, Christina Lund, Martha Magnus, Patricia Mahoney, Betty Matterson, Marilyn Maxner, Sharon Miller, Roberta Myers, Abby Pfeiffer, Anton Prange, Maxine Reneker, Sylvia Shih, and Philomene Smith.**

Earliest "Leap" Voter

On the Monday before the election, as we were setting up voting booths, tables and chairs on at the Marina Library, a fellow walked into the room wanting to vote. After explaining to him that he was a day early, he realized that the date function on his watch had not allowed for the extra day, February 29, in this Leap Year---it had clicked over to March a day too soon.

Despite the minor embarrassment, he returned on Tuesday to vote, and we said not a word.

Dennis Mar,

Voter Service Director, Monterey Peninsula

SIGN UP NOW TO SIGN UP NEW VOTERS!

Despite current Shelter in Place orders, and even if restrictions are extended and get tighter over the coming months, there will be elections of importance to the future of our country in November 2020.



There may be changes to the way we cast our votes in the interests of health and safety, but we are all capable of adapting to changes as they happen to preserve free, fair and inclusive voting rights.



Our League, with your help, can make important contributions in encouraging civic participation though registering new voters.

Increased voting rates can make big differences in our local, state and national elections.

Carol Kaplan has formed a **Voter Registration Committee** to register new voters in August or September to reach out to **Monterey Peninsula College** and **CSU Monterey Bay** students as potential new voters. Other strategies to adapt to potential school closures and/or restricted movement will be explored to reach underrepresented groups of eligible voters.

Want to join us? Contact Carol at (831) 394-5120, or ckap322@comcast.net.



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



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

Renew Your LWVMC Membership!

Call for Annual Membership letters were sent in July. If you haven't yet renewed, send your annual fee (and perhaps a donation) using the form below, or at <http://lwvmryco.org>.

Timely responses are appreciated as they help keep our local chapter strong.

New members always welcome!

Use the form below or contact:
LWVMC Membership Director
Mail to LWVMC PO Box 1995
Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to LWVMC

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 UPDATE

Welcome New Members

Welcome our newest members, and update your Handbook with these changes:

Maribel Andonian

1320 Jacks Road, Monterey 93940
mrandonian@mac.com (408) 621-0482

Joanne Webster

107 San Benancio Road, Salinas 93908
jwebster107@outlook.com
(404)2717 or 595-5600

Thank You to Our Generous Donor

Thank you **Shirley Meneice** for your \$50 donation to the **General Fund!**

Want to Join our League?

Not sure if you renewed?
Need help paying your dues?
Write, call, go to <http://lwvmryco.org>, or fill in the form at left and mail it. However you do it, stay connected **and keep our League strong.**

Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER:
WE STILL NEED A
VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR
FOR SALINAS VALLEY!**



This year, elections may be different, but they will take place!

*This is a **part time** but **crucial** position to better serve the Valley. Duties: organize candidate forums, Pro & Con presentations, and encourage Salinas Valley citizens to **vote!***

Mentoring and Guidance provided as needed.

Contact **Jeanne Turner**
[c/o LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:c/o_LWVMryCo@gmail.com)

★ TENTATIVE LWVMC DATES 2020 ★
 DATES / SPEAKERS / TOPICS / EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
 LOOK FOR LWVMC UPDATES ONLINE & BY EMAIL

MAY

13th / LWVMC 93rd Annual Meeting
**"Monterey County as
 Blue (Health) Zone"**
 (possibly virtual teleconference meeting)

JUNE / JULY / AUGUST

Summer Break: No Meetings or The Voter

JULY

4th / LWVMC to march in the
"Independence Day Parade, Monterey"

AUGUST

15th / **"Women Suffrage in Monterey County"**

speaker: Dennis Mar

16th, 24th & 30th / **"Women Suffrage Film Festival"**

(details page 3)

26th / **Women's Equality Day "Tea with Alice & Me"**

one-woman performance: **Zoe Nicholson**

(details page 3)

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Candidate Forums for November Election

 **League of Women Voters of Monterey County** 

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

★Officers

President

Howard Fosler* 649-6935
 hfosler@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Kalah Bumba 424-7976
 kalahplans@aol.com

Secretary

(917)
Marianne Gawain* 922-6625
 californiawag@gmail.com

Treasurer

Marilyn Maxner* 649-0335
 montmm06@gmail.com

★Directors

Government

James Emery 236-4353
 emeryjamesc@gmail.com

Public Relations / Luncheon

**Logistics / Centennial
 Committee**

Beverly Bean 484-2451
 beverlygb@gmail.com

Membership

Lisa Hoivik 375-7765
 LHoivik@comcast.net

Natural Resources

George Riley* 645-9914
 georgetriley@gmail.com

Publicity Committee

Regina Doyle 375-4496
 ReginaDoyle@aol.com

**Social Policy &
 Luncheon Reservations**

Bev Kreps 224-3192
 bkreps1017@gmail.com

State & National Action

Janet Brennan* 659-2090
 Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Voter Service:

Monterey Peninsula

Dennis Mar 372-9388
 DennisRMar3@yahoo.com

Voter Service: Salinas Valley

(vacant and urgently searching
 for a replacement!)

Webmaster

Bob Evans 595-5351
 bobevans13@me.com

Directors At-Large

Sue Erickson 484-2296
 sue@rimcanyon.net

Sharon Miller 601-0403
 bmcclane@redshift.com

Financial Review Committee

Dennis Mar
George Riley

(* = Executive Committee)

★Off-Board

Facebook Master

Arlene Guest 595-1297
 arleneguest@gmail.com

National Women's

History Alliance Liaison

Howard Fosler 649-6935
 hfosler@sbcglobal.net

Nominating Committee

Fran Gaver, Chair

fgaver@comcast.net 372-1180

Janet Brennan 659-2090

Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Hetty Eddy 262-1420

hettyeddy@sbcglobal.net

Lisa Hoivik 375-7765

LHoivik@comcast.net

Hannah Priestley 596-8708

hkp100@aol.com

Philomene Smith

phismith@aol.com 372-9388

Videographer

Joe Asling

jhasling@comcast.net

Voter Biographer

Nancy Baker Jacobs

pgauthor@comcast.net

Voters Edge

Arlene Guest 595-1297

arleneguest@gmail.com

Voter Registration Committee

Carol Kaplan 394-5120

ckap322@comcast.net

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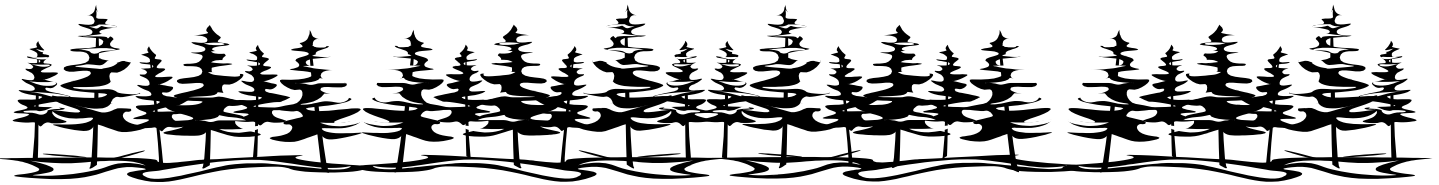


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LWVMC Calendar 2020



APRIL

LWVMC Virtual Board Meeting
Monday, 6 April, 1:30pm
Teleconference Phone Call
contact: **Howard Fosler** for
phone number and code

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 8 April, 12 noon
CANCELLED DUE TO SHELTER IN PLACE

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 9 April, 12 noon
POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MAY

LWVMC Virtual Board Meeting
Monday, 4 May, 1:30pm
Teleconference Phone Call
contact: **Howard Fosler** for
phone number and code

**Virtual Centennial / Publicity
Committee Meeting**
Tuesday, 19 May, 12 noon
Teleconference Phone Call
contact: **Bev Bean** for
phone number and code

LWVMC 93rd Annual Meeting
Wednesday, 13 May, 12 noon
"Monterey County: A Blue Zone?"
(Venue, details and agenda
to be announced)

JUNE / JULY / AUGUST
Summer Break:
No L&L, No Meetings, No Voter

**LWVMC WEBMASTER
WANTED**

Help maintain our website:
<http://lwvmryco.org>
On-the-job training/guidance
as needed.
contact: **Bob Evans**

