

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

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / February 2021, Volume 93, Number 5

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

"The Future of Our Water Supply and the CalAm Buyout"



Dave Stoldt, General Manager, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD), will present the latest information and answer audience questions on current water issues.

The District is taking steps to provide a water supply that will serve Peninsula needs for the next thirty to forty years. Currently the priority is to maximize use of **recycled water**, with a possible look at **desalination** in the longer term.

The District is also evaluating steps required in **making an offer to CalAm to acquire its water system**. These actions are required by **Measure J**, which passed by 55.81% to 44.19% in November 2018. The Measure instructed the MPWMD to undertake a feasibility study on the public takeover of **California**

American Water's Monterey Water System.

Mr. Stoldt joined the District as General Manager in 2011. He has 30 years of experience in the public infrastructure sector, including investment banking and consulting to public agencies. He has also served as chief executive and chief financial officer for early-stage start-up companies, where his roles have included cross-functional experience in strategic planning, finance, marketing, logistics, and management.

(continued on page 2)

How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free **February LWVMryCo General Meeting**, presentation, and question-and-answer period will be conducted over the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform.

11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting via [LWVMryCo] on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on Monday, February 8th for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? All LWVMryCo General Meetings are open to the public at no cost. Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to also receive the link and instructions.

You can even join these meetings using a conventional telephone.
Phone numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

(continued from page 1)

Before joining the District, Stoldt consulted on numerous local projects: the **Regional Desalination Project** proceedings at the CPUC in 2007-8, **Carmel River Dam** investigations in 1997, **Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project**, the **Monterey Regional Waste Management District**, and analysis for **Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency**. He was lead investment banker for the public-private **Water Reclamation Project** benefiting **Pebble Beach** in 1992.

Stoldt's private sector experience includes serving as an investment banker at a leading Wall Street firm for 41 public agency projects totaling over \$3 billion; working for a California investor-owned utility performing demand forecasts and supply contract negotiation; and serving as CEO, President, CFO, and Director/Board Member for various start-up companies.

Mr. Stoldt has a **BS in Civil Engineering Environmental and Hydrosystems** from **University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign** (1980); an **MS in Energy and Resources** from **University of California, Berkeley** (1982); and an **MBA and Certificate in Public Management** from **Stanford University** (1987).

George Riley, Chair Natural Resources

**LWVMC WEBSITE
COORDINATOR
WANTED**

to maintain our website
<http://lwvmryco.org>



Primary duties include: updating the **website calendar**, posting **official letters** (provided by the President), **videos** of our once-monthly General Meetings (produced by our Videography Team), and monthly **newsletter** (published by our Newsletter Editor). This takes roughly **two hours a month**. I am willing to provide **on-the-job guidance** as needed.

Bob Evans, Retiring Website Coordinator,
BobEvans13@me.com

★ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ★
FEBRUARY 2021

If you are like me you could do with a little less of "interesting times." Hopefully, all will calm down now that lots of questions have been answered and we have some new people to help us untie this knot we have largely created.

Your Board is doing its part. We will complete the planning of our direction for the next two years (see details on facing page). This consists mainly of pointing our focus in specific directions where we feel we can make a difference.

Once done, the plan will guide our League activities and allocate its resources. It will help us choose speakers for our lunchtime Zoom General Meetings, and keep us current on specific issues. Then we will get moving.

While you see all this unfurl you might keep up with the League's statements and positions as found on our local as well as the State and National League websites. It will enrich your understanding of what we are planning and why, as you watch the news, listen to opinions and read the papers.

It will be an intriguing spring!

Howard Fosler

★ **NEW @ LWVMryCo Website** ★

[https://my.lww.org/california/
monterey-county/luncheon-videos](https://my.lww.org/california/monterey-county/luncheon-videos)

"Challenges Facing Assembly District 30"
video with **Assemblymember Robert Rivas**

Other great videos: **"Climate Change: Global Causes, Local Impacts and the Way Ahead,"**
and **"Impacts of Climate Change on Sea Levels & Forest Fires"**

**Plus volunteer, join, donate and
learn about League action & policies!**

Bob Evans,
Website Coordinator

★★★ WELCOME TO THE ★★★ PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS FOR 2019-2021

In the League, **Program Planning** is the process by which we decide where and how we will focus our resources — member time, money, reputation — during the upcoming year.



You are invited to participate in this process on Monday, February 1st, at 12:30pm. We will be making recommendations to LWVC and our local League Boards. The Boards' recommendations will be acted upon at our **Annual Meeting in May** and the **State Convention in June**.

The State League is asking us to identify **three issues for emphasis** based on review of **LWVC Positions** (<https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions>):

"Where will the League have the most impact?"

"What will help build the League name and help build our organization?"

In addition, we are being asked ***"Should the following LWVC position on the criminal justice system be updated?"***

- a criminal justice system that is just, effective, equitable, transparent, and that fosters public trust at all stages, including policing practices, pre-trial procedures, sentencing, incarceration, and re-entry;

- the elimination of systemic bias, including the disproportionate policing and incarceration of marginalized communities; policing practices that promote safety for both law

enforcement officers and the communities they serve;

- collaboration between government and community throughout every stage of the criminal justice system;

- a focus on humane treatment and rehabilitation with the goal of promoting the successful reentry into communities of those who have been incarcerated;

- and reliance on evidence-based research in decision-making about law-enforcement programs and policies (including scheduled, periodic audits of program and policy effectiveness)

Local League positions are online at <https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/positions>. Many of these positions were adopted 20 or 30 years ago:

Are they still pertinent?



Should some be dropped or updated?

Are there new issues we would like to study?

We are a grassroots organization, and program planning is one of the ways for all of us to participate in a meaningful way. We all have the opportunity and the responsibility to participate in program planning—to add our voices.

Let me know if you plan to attend so we can forward you a link to the meeting. Hope to “see” you there.

Janet Brennan,
Chair, State & National Action

*In the January 16, 2021 issue of **The Salinas Californian**, reporter **Angelica Cabral** summarized important local activist achievements of the past year, including our League:*

Activists Made Big Moves in 2020, That Momentum is Not Slowing Down Locally

Activists were at the forefront of many of 2020's major events, driving everything from the racial justice protests to a historical presidential election in which voters turned out in the highest numbers ever.

The Californian covered the “**Eastside to Seaside**” march, in which members of the **Black Lives Matter** movement marched over 14 miles in support of their cause. Some of the organizers behind that march were **Agents of Change, Healing Committee 831, Baktun 12, Salinas Valley Ethnic Studies Collective**, and the **Monterey County Black and Brown Solidarity Coalition (MCBBSC)**.

The Californian sat down with local activists from various organizations in Monterey County to see what they have planned for 2021. They're not slowing down their momentum.

Carla Viviana González, the newly elected **Salinas City Councilmember for District 1**, was a founding member of the MCBBSC, which started in the wake of **George Floyd's** death.

“There were various local residents from the Latino community and the Black community who were just feeling helpless and looking to create some form of action, some form of awareness-raising and some kind of act of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement nationally,” González said.

They're hoping to repeat the “Eastside to Seaside” march this year. Additionally, they also want to create some form of a monthly food bank or community fridge. *“It's kind of a shame that those outreach initiatives only typically last through the holiday and winter season,”* González said.

Last year, they also put out **anti-racist teaching training** and, as head of the **education committee**, González hopes to continue the program. *“Give folks the language of this movement and the understanding,”* she said. *“We're really looking to anchor ourselves in this new reality and continue to do the really important work that hopefully will help us get back on track.”*



Beverly Bean, **Public Relations Chair** of the **League of Women Voters, Monterey County**, said three topics important for them moving forward are related to **California American Water, affordable housing** and **local redistricting** after the 2020 census. *“We believe that it's up to the various levels of government to do all they can financially and by legislating to make sure that we get some affordable housing for our workforce so that we don't have the enormous commuting,”* she said. *“It's just not affordable for people to live in this county.”*

The League will have an all-member meeting in February to confirm their priorities. *“We pride ourselves on being very fact-based and we do a lot of studying before we take any action. We welcome new members, diverse members and younger members and that's one of our priorities, to expand our membership base.”* Bean said.

Over at youth-run **The Epicenter** in Salinas, their **Our Gente** program for LGBTQ+ youth will continue to provide resources and support to marginalized communities to help with housing, employment, food and more. **Hailey Gomez**, a **media content creator** with Epicenter, said anyone can email them or send them a direct message on Instagram if they have questions or would like to reach out.

See the complete article by Ms Cabral at: <https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2021/01/16/activist-plans-2021/6602698002/>



LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: JANE HAINES



Jane Haines has been a member of our local League chapter since the 1970's, a few years after she moved to California. Although she's never held a Board position, she's worked with **LWVMC** on numerous elections and frequently helps with **Pacific Grove Candidates Forums**.



Born in **Washington, DC**, Jane grew up in the Maryland suburbs. *"My father worked in the government,"* she says, *"so I was always interested in elections."* In the 1960's, Jane became politically active and her passion for politics has never died.

Married at a young age, Jane recalls that *"my then-husband and I moved to the **Monterey Peninsula** in 1965, when he came to the **Naval Postgraduate School**."* They had four children at the time, all of whom were raised in **Pacific Grove**.

Soon after arriving here, she got a part-time job teaching creative writing at **Santa Catalina School**, attended **UC Santa Cruz** and the **Monterey Institute for International Studies**. She earned her **BA** in 1971 and her **MA** in 1973 and switched



to full-time teaching in Pacific Grove, where she taught US history to eighth graders.

"I loved that job," she says. *"I required all of my students to memorize the 'I Have a Dream' speech, and their final exam was to tell the story of US history in two minutes."*

In the meantime, Jane's children went away to college, so she enrolled at the **Monterey College of Law** and earned her law degree in 1983 while teaching full time. Then she retired from

teaching to specialize in the **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**. As an attorney, she represented the **Sierra Club**, the **Resource Defense Fund** and other conservation groups.

Jane also served on the **Pacific Grove Planning Commission** and in 1989 she chaired the subcommittee for the **Pacific Grove General Plan**. She was elected to the **Monterey Peninsula College Board of Trustees** as well, and served on it from 1987-91.

She retired from her law practice in 2002 but later followed up on one of her earlier litigation matters. *"In 2017, the **Monterey County Board of Supervisors** decided to remove the affordability requirement for the **Moro Cojo** affordable housing community in **Castroville**,"* Jane explains. *"So I appealed that decision to the **Coastal Commission**. They overturned the Board of Supervisors and the 161 Moro Cojo homes still have affordability deed restrictions."*

Today, Jane has 20 grandchildren and great-grandchildren and she says, *"I encourage them to be politically active."* She's proud of all of them, including granddaughter **Clara**, a sophomore at **Stanford**, who is on the national championship rowing team.



In retirement, Jane is active in the **World Affairs Council** and she's also writing a novel. *"It's historical fiction,"* she says, *"about two 12-year-old girls in Pacific Grove in 1906, the year the Chinese fishing village was burned down. One of my characters is a girl from the fishing village and the other is her good friend, who lives*

in the house where I raised my kids.” She’s hoping that her novel will end up being read in the Pacific Grove schools.

When asked what goals she has for LWVMC going forward, Jane recalled a student-written article she’d read in the **Voices of Monterey Bay** publication. It explained that students in **Salinas Valley high schools** don’t really understand much about voting and most have no idea how to register. “The



League could go to Salinas Valley schools after contacting the 12th grade US government teachers,” she says. “This could just be a one-time thing—contacting the US government and civics instructors and arranging to come in and teach the students about this vital part of American life once each year.”

Like all members of LWVMC, Jane Haines is passionate about helping every American citizen exercise the inherent right to vote.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR WANTED FOR SALINAS VALLEY!



Elections may be over for the moment, but we need to be prepared for stronger outreach to the voters of Salinas in 2021 and beyond!

*This is a **part-time** but **crucial** position to better serve the Valley by organizing candidate forums, Pro & Con presentations, and **encouraging Salinas Valley citizens to register and vote!***

Mentoring and guidance provided as needed.

Contact **Howard Fosler**
LWVMryCo@gmail.com



**Join the League of
Women Voters of
Monterey County**



Renew Your LWVMryCo Membership!

Renewal reminders were sent in July. If you haven't yet renewed, please 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 Wanted!

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

Use the form below or contact:
LWVMC Membership Director
Mail to **LWVMryCo 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 LWVMryCo 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~

Glenn Church & Kathy McKenzie
470 Hidden Valley Road, Royal Oaks CA 95076
(831) 772-0819
gwchurch@gmail.com

Shelley Sweet
272 10th Street, Marina CA 93933
(650) 814-4579
ShelleySweet@global.net

~Thank You to Our Generous Donors~
to the LWV California Education Fund

Sharon Dwight \$200

Judy Higginson \$100
in memory of *Mez Benton*

~Please send updates to~
Janet Brennan,
Membership Director



League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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

★ **Officers**

President
Howard Fosler*

**Social Policy /
Luncheon Reservations**
Bev Kreps

**National Women's
History Alliance Liaison**
Howard Fosler

Vice President
vacant
Secretary
Marianne Gawain*

**State & National Action /
Membership**
Janet Brennan*

Nominating Committee
Fran Gaver, Chair

Treasurer
Marilyn Maxner*

Voter Services, Co-Directors
Dennis Mar
Sharon Miller

Beverly Bean
Lisa Hoivik
Sharon Miller

★ **Directors**
Government
James Emery

Website Coordinator
Bob Evans

Philomene Smith

Natural Resources
George Riley*

Director At-Large
Pamela Stewart

Videographer
Joe Asling

**Public Relations / Luncheon
Logistics / Centennial
Committee**
Beverly Bean

★ **Off-Board**
Financial Review Committee
Dennis Mar

Voter Biographer
Nancy Baker Jacobs

Publicity Committee
Regina Doyle

James Emery

Voter's Edge/Facebook
Arlene Guest

Voter Registration Committee
Carol Kaplan

(* = **Executive Committee**)

LWVMryCo The VOTER
Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec
Articles & Updates to **LWVMryCo Voter Editor** ReginaDoyle@aol.com

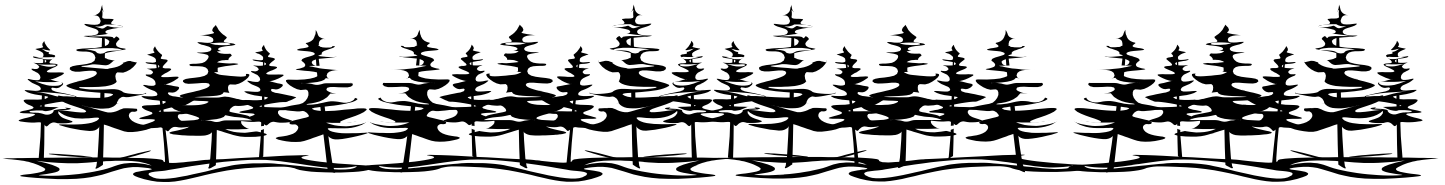


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF MONTEREY COUNTY
"THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

PO Box 1995 Monterey CA 93942
(831) 648-8683

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Monterey, CA
Permit No. 115

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



LWVMryCo Calendar 2021



FEBRUARY

LWVMryCo Program Planning Meeting
Zoom Online

Monday, 1st February, 12:30pm

directly followed by

LWVMryCo Board Meeting

Monday, 1st February, 1:30pm

LWVMryCo General Meeting

Wednesday, 10th February, 11:45am

**"CalAm Buyout & Monterey Peninsula
Water Supply Update"**

Guest Speaker

Dave Stoldt, General Manager MPWMD

**Centennial / Publicity, Natural Resources
and other Committee Meetings
POSTPONED** until further notice.

NOTE: "How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings"
on page 1. **You can also attend via
telephone:** phone numbers for audio only
are also provided along with
Zoom meeting numbers and codes.

MARCH

LWVMC Board Meeting
Zoom Online

Monday, 1st March, 1:30pm

*contact: LWVmryco@gmail.com to request
[LWVMryCo] meeting phone number and code*

LWVMC General Meeting

Wednesday, 10th March, 11:45am

"Update on Monterey Regional Park District"

Topic Subject to Change / Speaker TBA

APRIL

LWVMC Board Meeting
Zoom Online

Monday, 5th April, 1:30pm

*contact: LWVmryco@gmail.com to request
[LWVMryCo] meeting phone number and code*

LWVMC General Meeting

Wednesday, 14th April, 11:45am

"Wendy Root Askew: First 100 Days"

Topic/Speaker to be Confirmed

MAY

LWVMC Board & Annual Meetings 12th May