

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

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / May 2020, Volume 92, Number 8

LWVMC 93rd Annual Meeting to be Conducted by Mail due to Continuing COVID-19 Pandemic

Stay Sheltered, Stay Engaged

Though it is in our best interests to contain and eventually stop the Corona Virus, we regret to say we will not be holding an actual Annual Meeting this year. As we said last month, 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 now includes conducting the League's required business by mail.

Watch for Agenda and Ballots in the Mail

You will receive items typically on the Annual Meeting agenda which require approval by a quorum of our membership. It is important that we receive as many responses as possible, so please **mark your ballot and return it as soon as possible** after it arrives. Sufficient ballots will be mailed to each household as needed in the case of family memberships.

You will be provided with information on the **2020-2021 Budget, Local Program**, and the **Report of the Nominating Committee**, asked to cast your votes for or against each issue, and **return your ballots by May 30** in the envelope provided. Votes will be counted by our **League Election Committee** comprised of **Kalah Bumba** and **Sue Erickson** (neither of whom will be continuing on the Board).

After receiving your packet, if you have questions you can contact **Howard Fosler**, who will respond directly or refer the matter to the appropriate Board member.

President & Board of Directors, LWVMC

MONTEREY COUNTY AS A BLUE HEALTH ZONE



We had planned to present "**Blue Health Zones**" at our May 13th Annual Meeting, and hope to reschedule this fascinating program for a later venue. Until then, while sheltering in place, read about **Blue Zones Project Monterey County** at <https://info.bluezonesproject.com/montereycounty>.

Blue Zone programs are based on **National Geographic Fellow Dan Buettner's** studies of communities worldwide where people share healthy lifestyle traits. He summarized their traits into "**The Power of Nine.**" His book, "**The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest,**" is turning into a global movement to help communities (such as Monterey County) live longer, healthier, happier lives (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Zone).

★★★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE MAY 2020 ★★★

This Shelter in Place turns out to coincide with our summer break, the time when your Voter team and the board withdraw from the field and hibernate for the next three months. Actually, we will be paying rapt attention to the cascade of events befalling us these days, and taking action to preserve our democracy, health, environment, and rights, just not doing as much official business together in person.

Except for July and August! If social distancing is lifted, get ready for fun events we have planned, such as the **Independence Day parade, women suffrage talk, film festival, and one-woman play**, which will appeal to young and old. But people, especially non-League members, and particularly those of pre-voting and eligible-to-register age, will need to be invited to attend the march, talks, movies and the play. Take action: **reach out**

and contact everybody you know who might be ready to get out of the house and join our Anniversary celebrations.

Meanwhile, I consider it encouraging that many people across the world are reported to have contracted the virus but have not fallen sick by it, though this has yet to be confirmed by accurate testing and health data. If most of us can survive the infection, it may cease to be the awful menace it is today. It's best to avoid contagion and hope the vaccine arrives soon, but we are learning how to confront this beast and best it. We have a way to go, so be careful and take heart in knowing we are winning against this scourge.

Go cautiously, play it safe, think positively about the future and help ensure that the vast majority of us get through this. **Howard Fosler**

★★★ WHERE THE ACTION IS ★★★



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MONTEREY COUNTY
LWVMryCo@gmail.com (831) 648-8683

This letter was sent with Board direction by e-mail to all Salinas Area Members on April 20. Responses are still welcome.

Dear Salinas Area Members of LWVMC:

In this LWV Centennial year, our Board is particularly interested in increasing participation of members living in the Salinas area in the League of Women Voters of Monterey County (LWVMC). **We would like to hear from you your ideas that would engage more members in your community.**

Please identify ideas for increasing participation and whether or not the changes would encourage your participation.

1. What ideas do you have for increasing participation of Salinas area members in LWVMC?
2. If these ideas were implemented, would you increase your participation?
3. Would you be interested in working with the Board to implement these ideas?
4. If you were an active member before, in what activities did you participate?

What caused your lack of participation?

Name: *(optional)*

Insert your responses and return to **Janet Brennan**.

Thank you.

WILL VOTE BY MAIL BE EXPANDED NATIONWIDE?

On March 16, the **League of Women Voters of the United States** called for a nationwide expansion of **no-excuse absentee voting and mail-in ballots** for the duration of the 2020 election cycle, stating that:

"In light of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, it is imperative for state election officials to address voters' and poll workers' fears by limiting the need to cast an in-person ballot. The time to act is now."

"Secretaries of State should work directly with local election officials to educate voters on these more flexible expanded methods for casting ballots. This added flexibility will, of course, add to the time it takes for election results to be counted. Under these circumstances, it is critical that all citizens have the ability to vote safely, and appropriate time is allotted to ensure all votes are fully counted."

"We call on the Democratic and Republican National Committees to encourage all states to provide more accessible options for all voters at this critical time. Our top priority must be the health and safety of the American people while simultaneously upholding the rights of all voters. Just as generations before us have met the challenges of their time, so shall we, and the League of Women Voters is committed to ensuring our elections remain safe and accessible for all."

On March 26, the LWVUS asserted that the **CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act)** stimulus package fell short of adequate election funding. *"The \$400 million included in this third relief deal is a mere fraction of what is needed for all voters to safely cast their*

ballot with confidence this November. The League of Women Voters called for a minimum investment of \$2 billion dollars to states and the District of Columbia to appropriately increase vote by mail, expand early voting and online registration, and implement safety provisions to ensure voting facilitates and poll workers are protected."



State Leagues in **Ohio, Texas** and **Wisconsin** all filed lawsuits challenging their states' failures to ensure that elections remain safe and accessible for all. According to the **Los**

Angeles Times (3/17/20), **Louisiana, Georgia, Maryland, Kentucky,** and **Ohio** postponed their presidential primaries until later in the spring, while the pandemic reportedly contributed to lower than average turnout in primaries in **Illinois** and **Florida**. In **Wisconsin**, Republicans blocked efforts by **Governor Tony Evers**, a Democrat, to delay the election because of the coronavirus and provide mail ballots to all voters. Despite reduced numbers of polling places, long lines of voters waited hours and risked their health to cast their ballots.



According to the **National Conference of State Legislatures**, five states currently conduct all elections entirely by mail: **Colorado,**

Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, and **Utah**. At least 21 other states have laws that allow certain smaller elections, such as school board contests, to be conducted by mail.

While "all-mail elections" means that every registered voter receives a ballot by mail, this does not preclude in-person voting on and/or before Election Day. Some states (**California, Nebraska,** and **North Dakota**) permit counties to opt into conducting all elections by mail. States that permit some elections to be conducted by mail include

Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, and Wyoming. Some states permit all mail ballots in certain jurisdictions based on population (**Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, and New Mexico**).

The **US Department of State** website says: *“Most military and other voters overseas can cast absentee ballots for federal offices, by submitting a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) each year to their local election officials. Some states allow overseas citizens to vote for state and local office candidates and referendums.”*

Changing to vote by mail for the presidential election will require either that many states change their state election law or a mandate from Congress, which has the power to set the rules for federal elections. The November election cannot

be postponed as the Constitution does not allow a president to serve beyond four years without reelection.

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Recently, **Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Ron Wyden (D-OR)** introduced legislation, the **Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act**, which would

require states to expand access to early and mail-in voting if a quarter of the states declare a state of emergency (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3529/text>).

This bill does not require states to automatically mail ballots to all eligible voters, but it does make it easier for voters to request and to use absentee ballots. This bill would provide states a total of \$500 million to help cover the costs of shifting to a system where voting is primarily done by mail.

Beverly Bean

A DISCUSSION WITH ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROBERT RIVAS

The LWVMC participated in the California League's program of interviewing local legislators, meeting with **Robert Rivas**, who represents the **30th Assembly District**. The meeting took place Friday, April 17 via telephone conference call. Representing **LWV Monterey County** were **Jane Meade-Roberts, Michael Roberts, and Dennis Mar**. Representing **LWV San Jose & Santa Clara** were **Gloria Chun Hoo and Sylvia Christopher**.



the need for health care specialists in rural areas, and paid sick leave, childcare, hazard pay, electronic access to government for the farm worker community.

When asked what can groups such as the League do to help, Mr. Rivas said that they [the Assembly] don't know everything and he appreciates hearing from civic groups. *“Please convey your concerns and issues directly to our office, because we can't advocate for areas if we don't know them.”*

Mr. Rivas said he was anxious for the legislature to re-convene. The pandemic has changed the political landscape. With budget projections dire and historic unemployment, what legislation will be taken up will be closely monitored.

Since his District contains many agricultural areas, Mr. Rivas is particularly concerned that the needs of farm workers and rural areas are heard. He is a sponsor of five bills that cover areas such as

Assemblymember Rivas may not be well-known in Monterey County because his political career began in San Benito. He is serving his first term in the California Assembly having succeeded **Anna Caballero** in that seat. Mr. Rivas's district includes the **Salinas Valley, Big Sur south of Carmel Highlands and Carmel Valley, Watsonville, south Santa Clara County, and San Benito County.**

Dennis Mar



LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: CAROL KAPLAN



Carol Kaplan, who is now in charge of LWVMC's **Voter Registration Committee**, first joined the League in the mid-1960's, when she was a new wife and mother living in Los Angeles.

Then, in 1975, recently widowed and with two sons and a daughter to support, Carol says she *"couldn't afford to live in Los Angeles. At that time, homes here were much more reasonable. I fell in love with the Peninsula, so I bought a house in Del Rey Oaks and I've lived in it ever since."*

Carol soon joined our local League, largely because she's always had a great interest in voting rights. *"In high school, I organized a voting drive,"* she recalls. *"In grad school, I wrote a paper about women getting the vote. My grandmother was still alive then and she remembered that event, so I interviewed her for my paper."*

A graduate of **Stanford**, Carol earned a teaching credential from **UC Berkeley**. *"I began as a high school English teacher,"* she says. Then she earned a **Master's in Psychology** from **Antioch College West**. *"I worked for 30 years as a marriage and family therapist in private practice."* During this time, she also earned her **MA in Theological Studies** at the **Franciscan School of Theology** in Berkeley, which allowed her to hold retreats at different California Catholic retreat centers for many years.

Carol has done a lot of volunteer work in her lifetime. She served on some LWVMC committees back in the '80's and, about the same time, served a term on the **Del Rey Oaks City Council**. *"I've also been one of the Master Gardeners, so I do a lot of volunteer gardening."* She explains that *"the Master Gardeners work in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties on a lot of volunteer projects. At **Rancho Cielo** in Salinas, we teach the kids*



about gardening and then they use the foods they grow in the kitchen."

She also volunteers in local schools, helping students who are having difficulties, and she's worked in the food pantry at her local church. *"The pantry's pretty much closed now because of COVID-19,"* she says. *"Nobody over 60 is allowed to be there and almost all the volunteers are over 60."*

Carol has been involved with **Sustainable Del Rey Oaks**, part of **Sustainable Monterey County**, as well. Her chapter has just finished creating a butterfly garden in Del Rey Oaks. *"People can visit the garden and butterflies will come there,"* she says. They also worked to get a single-use plastic ban and convinced the city to stop using plastic bottles at community events.

Other favorite retirement activities for Carol have been attending **OLLI** classes and starting the **Care for Creation** group at her church. She's been active in the latter for the past decade.

During the current COVID-19 shelter-in-place restrictions, Carol says she dearly misses her six grandchildren, none of whom live locally. One grandchild lives in Washington, DC, three in St. Louis and two in Alameda. Her oldest granddaughter turns 18 in September, so Carol intends to make sure she can vote in her very first election.

As head of the **Voter Registration Committee**, Carol intends to focus in particular on helping young and Hispanic people register to vote. *"It's lucky that they can register online in California,"* she says.

Her number one priority for the League in the future is voting and she'd like to see voting by mail used throughout the US. **Nancy Baker Jacobs**



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



New Members Wanted!

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

Lapsed Members Welcomed!

If you haven't renewed in a while, 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.

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

Change of Address

Update your Handbook

with this e-mail change:

Hetty Eddy

hettyeddy1@me.com

Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director

LWVUS CONVENTION 2020 GOES VIRTUAL

Gathering in person to celebrate our 100th Anniversary can't happen during the Coronavirus pandemic. **However, at no other moment in our organization's history is our work more important than now.** Our ability to prepare and plan for this upcoming election is critical, because we are trusted by voters to provide reliable information and to fight to protect their vote with integrity. Therefore we have decided to transition 2020 Convention to a virtual event. Business sessions will be held June 25–27, all time zones will be considered, and a full plenary and Convention Awards will go forward. Registration open early May. For updates go to: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/update-convention-2020>.

Christina Davis,

LWVUS Special Projects Manager

VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR WANTED 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 by organizing candidate forums, Pro & Con presentations, and encouraging Salinas Valley citizens to **vote!** Mentoring and Guidance provided as needed.*

Contact **Jeanne Turner**

c/o LWVMryCo@gmail.com



SIGN UP NOW TO SIGN UP NEW VOTERS



Whilst still under Shelter in Place, stay active: plan for November 2020 Elections!

We can adapt to changes to preserve free, fair and inclusive voting rights by:

supporting **Vote by Mail** initiatives online and by phone (see page 3),

AND **encouraging civic participation by registering new voters.**

Join the **LWVMC Voter Registration Committee**. Help reach **Monterey Peninsula College** and **CSU Monterey Bay** students as new voters in August/September. Help explore ways to reach underrepresented groups of eligible voters under restricted movement.



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

Contact: Carol Kaplan



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*

Vice President

Kalah Bumba

Secretary

Marianne Gawain*

Treasurer

Marilyn Maxner*

★ **Directors**

Government

James Emery

Public Relations / Luncheon

Logistics / Centennial

Committee

Beverly Bean

Membership

Lisa Hoivik

Natural Resources

George Riley*

Publicity Committee

Regina Doyle

Social Policy & Luncheon Reservations

Bev Kreps

State & National Action

Janet Brennan*

Voter Service:

Monterey Peninsula

Dennis Mar

Voter Service: Salinas Valley

(vacant and urgently searching
for a replacement!)

Webmaster

Bob Evans

Directors At-Large

Sue Erickson

Sharon Miller

Financial Review Committee

Dennis Mar

George Riley

(* = **Executive Committee**)

★ **Off-Board**

Facebook Master

Arlene Guest

National Women's History Alliance Liaison

Howard Fosler

Nominating Committee

Fran Gaver, Chair

Janet Brennan

Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

Hetty Eddy

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Lisa Hoivik

Hannah Priestley

Philomene Smith

Videographer

Joe Asling

Voter Biographer

Nancy Baker Jacobs

Voters Edge

Arlene Guest

Voter Registration Committee

Carol Kaplan

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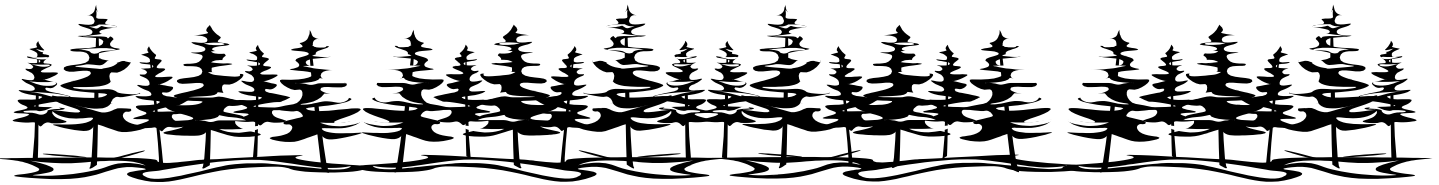


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(831) 648-8683

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LWVMC Calendar 2020



MAY

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

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

LWVMC 93rd Annual Meeting
by Mail (see page 1)
*contact: Howard Fosler for information
after receipt of Agenda and Ballot in mail*

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

JUNE / JULY / AUGUST

Summer Break
No Lunch & Learn, No Meetings, No Voter

JULY

**LWVMC to March in Monterey
Independence Day Parade**
Saturday 4 July
(assembly place/time to be announced)
contact: Bev Bean

AUGUST

**US Women Suffrage
CENTENNIAL FILM FESTIVAL**
Monterey Public Library Community Room
(times/tickets to be announced)
Saturday 15 August
"Women Suffrage in Monterey County"
lecture by **Dennis Mar**
Sunday 16 August
"Not for Ourselves Alone" film by **Ken Burns**
Sunday 23 August
"Iron Jawed Angels" starring **Hillary Swank**
Wednesday 26 August
Live One-Woman Performance
MIIS Irvine Auditorium
"Tea with Alice & Me" by **Zoe Caldwell**
Sunday 30 August
"One Woman, One Vote" PBS film

