

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

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / November 2021, Volume 94, Number 3

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

"Changing Values for Community Safety"

Criminal justice reform and discussions on how to keep our communities safe in a just manner have become major topics of concern around the country—and within the League of Women Voters. The national, state, and local levels of our organization are all asking questions and educating ourselves about the problems, root causes, and innovative solutions.

The League of Women Voters of Monterey County voted to make criminal justice at the local level a 2021-2022 issue for emphasis. We start with a stellar panel of leaders in Monterey County law enforcement. Future LWV general meetings will provide perspectives from other stakeholders in our community.

At this November 10 General Meeting, **Pacific Grove Police Chief Cathy Madalone**, **Marina Police Chief Tina Nieto**, and **Monterey District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni** will speak to us about some of their experiences and insights, and what they think is important for us to know as citizens as we work together to create healthy, safe, just communities.



League members, our partners, and members of the community are invited to submit questions for the panel in advance (by November 1) by email to **Sharon Miller** at hbmccclane@juno.com. There will also be an opportunity to submit questions during the Zoom meeting via Chat. (continued on page 2)

How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free **November LWVMryCo General Meeting** and presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Questions & Answers. **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, November 8** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. **You can also join by phone:** numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

Having trouble getting into the meeting after trying the link and instructions?
Call **Tama Olver (831) 869-2748**

(continued from page 1)

PG Police Chief Cathy Madalone is well-versed in accreditation and promoting the professionalism of law enforcement. She brings experience from the East Coast and is invested in her department, community, and Monterey County.

Marina Police Chief Tina Nieto implemented a **Transformational Change Program** at MPD and is considered the Peninsula's expert on drone

technology. Her previous experience includes over 28 years with the **Los Angeles Police Department**, with the last ten years commanding four different areas of LA.

Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni has recently started a successful **Cold Case Unit**, and has launched a **Multicultural Community Council**.

Sharon Miller



President's Message November 2021



LWVMC members are remarkably engaged citizens, active in many civic and community organizations throughout Monterey County. Most often they participate as private individuals, drawing a clear line between their League membership and their civic service. In some cases, government advisory boards reach out to our League seeking public members. In certain situations, the League appoints official representatives who express the League's perspective.

For example, **Measure X** requires that a League member sit on the **TAMC Citizens Oversight Committee**, ensuring taxpayer safeguards in the **Transportation Safety & Investment Plan**. **Janet Brennan** (first in front row on left in photo) is our League's representative there; **Howard Fosler** is our alternate (fourth, back row).



Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency represented on the **Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin Sustainability Advisory Committee** by **Beverly Bean**, who fills the "Environmental" seat.

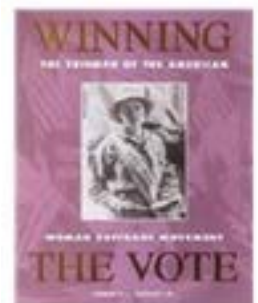
With redistricting underway, our League received appeals for members to join local educational redistricting commissions. **Tama Oliver** has been appointed LWVMC's representative on the **Monterey County Office of Education's**

Redistricting Commission while **Bev Kreps** is working with **Monterey Peninsula Unified School District's Redistricting Advisory Committee**. **We thank them for their commitment!**

Like many LWVMC members, I am an avid reader. Fortunately, our local libraries have reopened for browsing and borrowing. That's where I found, **"Thank You for Voting, Young Readers' Edition"** by **Erin Geiger**. In language

accessible to students in middle grades and up, this book discusses franchise expansion, voter suppression, gerrymandering, and the Electoral College. It concludes with a rousing call to action showing how young people can encourage voter turnout. I have just started listening to the audio edition of the original adult version of this book.

In recent years I've enjoyed two books featured at LWVMC general meetings (formerly called "Lunch & Learn" presentations when we met in person and organized food service). In 2019 author **Robert Cooney, Jr.** spoke to us about the suffrage movement. Cooney's history **"Winning the Vote"** includes abundant archival photos. You can now find copies, donated by our League,



at the **Monterey Public Library, Monterey County Free Libraries Seaside Branch**, and the **Steinbeck Public Library, Salinas**.

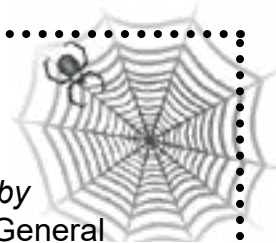
In the spring of 2021, authors **Glenn Church** and **Kathryn McKenzie** gave a virtual presentation about an early case of successful environmental activism they recounted in **"Humbled: How California's Monterey Bay Escaped Industrial Ruin."**



As we have no book talks currently scheduled, I propose that we institute an informal **LWVMC Book Club**. Send

me your suggestions for reading on topics relevant to the League's mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, increasing understanding of public policy issues,

.....
: LWVMC Website
: Coordinator Wanted
: Update **website calendar**,
: **post official letters** (*provided by*
: *President*), **videos** of monthly General
: Meetings (*produced by our Videographer*),
: and **monthly newsletter** (*published by our*
: *Newsletter Editor*). About **two hours a month**.
: **On-the-job guidance** provided.
: **Bob Evans, LWVMryCo@gmail.com**:
:



and influencing policy through education and advocacy. I will share your recommendations with other interested members.

Winter weather is on the way, bringing rain (we hope!) and more reason for indoor pursuits. What books are on your bedside table?

Marianne Gawain



November Election Hero Day & December Human Rights Award



The first Monday in November was designated in 2020 by the non-partisan **National Conference on Citizenship** as **Election Hero Day** to express appreciation for election officials and staff, poll workers and the voters themselves. The COVID pandemic highlighted the essential role that election workers play in a democracy.



In the past year these public servants have demonstrated dedication and flexibility, sometimes working 20-hour days to process record numbers of absentee ballots, while confronting numerous challenges, including health risks and a shortage of poll workers. In some areas they even faced harassment. Ultimately, they enabled more than 150 million citizens to cast ballots safely and successfully.

Marianne Gawain

Claudio Valenzuela has been nominated by LWVMryCo for the **Bahai'i Faith of Monterey County's** annual **"Human Rights Award"** at the **United Nations Association** event in **December**.

Our League appreciates Claudio's 20 years of honest, dedicated service and capable leadership over the years. But we especially recognize his sure and steady conducting of the **2020 Monterey County Elections as Registrar of Voters** amid the cloud of COVID-19, a roiling political environment, and an eleventh-hour state requirement for distribution of vote-by-mail ballots to all registered voters.



In other times, the conduct of local elections seems routine, but recent events have demonstrated that the right to vote still requires vigorous defense.

Dennis Mar and Tama Olver



LWVMC Member Profile: Juliet Oliver



Juliet Oliver, who is in her senior year at **York School**, first learned about the League of Women Voters in her United States history class. *"We learned about the suffrage organizations formed to help people get the right to vote and the League was included in that,"* she recalls. Curious, she says she *"reached out to the local League and asked for more information."*



Juliet enrolled at York School midway through her eighth grade year, when her family moved to this area from **Kingsburg**, in California's Central Valley. *"My mother was **Director of Training for Seminis Vegetable Seed**, but she's retired now,"* Juliet says, *"and my father is the managing engineer for **Central Valley Meats**."*

Since moving to our area and enrolling at York, Juliet has led a very active life with myriad interests.



At that time, Juliet wasn't sure whether she qualified to be a member of LWVMC at her young age, but she wanted to find some way to volunteer. *"At first, I had a conversation with **Marianne Gawain** and she suggested that I talk to **Sharon Miller**. Then I went to a meeting with the League's **Redistricting Committee** and later I attended a couple of other meetings on redistricting, both with the League and with Monterey County,"* she says.

Now Juliet, along with two other York School students she recruited, is hosting community meetings to inform Monterey County residents about the redistricting process. **Sharon Miller** is mentoring the group. At these meetings, Juliet says, *"we teach them about the process work needed to submit community of interest testimony."* She wrote an article for the **September LWVMC Voter** that further describes this project.

She did some volunteer work with **Return of the Natives**, a land restoration group based in **Moss Landing**, and later served as a poll worker for the 2020 election.



Playing and performing music is still another of Juliet's passions. *"I play orchestral percussion and marimba in the **Youth Music Monterey Honors Orchestra**,"* she reports, *"and I'm also playing in the **Carmel Bach Festival's Young Artists Showcase**."*

After she graduates from York next spring, Juliet says she hopes to major in math in college and then possibly earn a graduate degree in the sciences.

As she progresses with educating Monterey County residents about redistricting, Juliet has been very encouraged that the League's Board considered and now has approved having a student membership. She expects she won't be the only teenager joining. When she told her York School classmates about the redistricting process, she was delighted to see how many of them were enthusiastic about helping with her project.

York
SCHOOL



By early October, Juliet and her fellow students had

hosted a brief **mapping tutorial** for League members and one online community meeting for some **Pebble Beach** residents. They were preparing an in-person meeting for York School. *"Then we'll do some more meetings around the County, some online and others in person,"* she explained.

Since so many LWVMC members list recruiting younger members as an essential goal for our chapter's future, attracting capable and energetic young people like Juliet Oliver seems like a wonderful bit of good luck.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

REDISTRICTING MEETING REMINDER

Wednesday 1st December 2021, 12 noon

...because some of the most crucial State and County maps will be ready by then!



Update on Redistricting In Action



Our **LWV** of **Monterey County Redistricting Committee** meets monthly, in the interim attending via Zoom the **California State Redistricting Commission** meetings (especially **Zone E**, which includes Monterey County) and the **Monterey County Advisory Redistricting Commission for the Board of Supervisors**.



The deadline for the adoption of new district maps is late December for the state and county.

The local agencies have a little more time, so **there is still an opportunity for you to participate** by submitting your ideas, suggestions, or draft maps—electronically, by mail, or even by phone.

As mentioned by **Marianne Gawain** (see page 2), we stay in touch with cities, schools, and other government agencies that are drawing new district boundaries, and several of our members have been asked to serve on those agencies' redistricting boards.

Go to the website of the agency you are interested in redrawing district borders, or contact me or Co-Chair **Bev Kreps** with your questions or to receive the Zoom link to attend committee meetings.

Your voice needs to be heard now so that your vote counts later!
Sharon Miller



League Student Membership Now Available!



The League of Women Voters of Monterey County has stepped up its outreach to high school and college students, just as other leagues around the country are doing.



Younger people are the faces and future of democracy!

Membership fees for Students are set at \$0!

We will also invite new student members to write a few words about why they chose to join the League, and

We have opened a new **Student Membership** category, for young women and men between the ages of 16 and 24 who are enrolled in a degree or diploma program. Remember that people can pre-register to vote beginning at age 16, and it's never too early to begin actively learning about our voting process.

what kinds of civic engagement most interest them, to be printed in **The Voter!**

We urge you to spread the word to the students in YOUR circle of family and friends. Point them to our website or the form on page 6.

Sharon Miller and Janet Brennan



Join the League of
Women Voters of
Monterey County



**MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR
2021-2022 WERE DUE IN JULY!**

If you have not already renewed

for program year 7/1/21 to 6/3/22 use the form
below, or go to <http://lwvmryco.org>.

New Members Wanted!

*Any person age 16 or older,
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**
- ☐ \$ 0 **Student (16-24 years, enrolled in
a diploma or degree program)**

Name(s)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

e-mail

~Florence Curlee Scholarships~

are available to pay **household or single
membership fees**. Contact:

Janet Brennan, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

*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!~

Lenna El-Safwany

660 Dry Creek Road, Monterey 93940
(408) 835- 4995 / lensafwany@gmail.com

Mibs McCarthy

11 Via Las Encinas, Carmel Valley 93924
(831) 659-1115/mibsmccarthy@comcast.net

Mi Ra Park

1332 Shafter Ave, Pacific Grove 93924
(831) 521-2378 / mira.seaside@gmail.com

**We Welcome Student Membership:
details at left and on page 5.**

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

~LWVMC General Fund~

Jean Donnelly \$35

Ann Smallwood \$35

~New eMail Update~

Peggy Hansen pegghansen@gmail.com

**Please Send New Updates to
Janet Brennan**

Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

**Voter Service Director
Needed for
Salinas Valley!**



**Our League is fully committed to diversity,
equity, and inclusion** in principle and in
practice. **We need stronger outreach to
Salinas Valley voters** to engage individuals,
communities and policy makers in fostering
justice and a more perfect democracy.

A part-time but crucial job:

organize candidate and Pro & Con forums,
encourage voters to register, participate in
elections, and vote! Mentoring provided.

Contact: **Bob Evans** or **Marianne Gawain,**
LWVMryCo@gmail.com

ERRATUM

In the **October 2021 Voter**
"Where the Action Is" column
on page 4, **Senate Bill 9 HOME**
Act, we mistakenly addressed
Assemblymember Mark Stone



as **"Bill Stone."**
Apologies for any
confusion this may
have caused.

Sorry Mark!
Regina Doyle
LWVMC Voter
Editor

Proposed General Meeting January 10, 2022 Local Impact of Infrastructure Bills To Be Confirmed!

If the Infrastructure bill that passed the Senate and
the President's proposed infrastructure bill are passed
by the end of the year, we plan to get speakers from
Congressman Panetta's office and the **Transportation**
Agency for Monterey County to address local impacts
and benefits of the combined legislation.

Send questions in advance to LWVMryCo@gmail.com
(or via Zoom Q&A during meeting)

Janet Brennan



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



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LWVMryCo Calendar 2021



NOVEMBER

**NOTE: All meetings are held online via Zoom
unless otherwise specified**

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 1st November, 11:30am

Board Members will be sent link/instructions

contact: Marianne Gawain, CaliforniaWag@gmail.com

Redistricting Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 3rd November, 1:15pm

contact: Sharon Miller, HBMcClane@juno.com

or Bev Kreps, BKreps1017@gmail.com

to request meeting Zoom link and code

LWVMC General Meeting

Wednesday, 10th November, 12 noon

"Changing Values for Community Safety"

(details page 1) Contact: Sharon Miller

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Thursday, 11th November, 12 noon

contact: George Riley, GeorgeTRiley@gmail.com

DECEMBER
WINTER BREAK

**Redistricting Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 1st December, 12 noon
Otherwise, No Other
Meetings, or The Voter**



JANUARY 2022

LWVMC Board Meeting

Monday, 3rd January, 11:30am

**Redistricting Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 5th January, 12 noon
To Be Confirmed**

LWVMC General Meeting

**Wednesday, 12th January, 12 noon
To Be Confirmed (see page 7)**

**"How Monterey County Benefits
from Infrastructure Bills"**

Natural Resources Committee

Thursday, 13th January, 12 noon