

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

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / November 2020, Volume 93, Number 3

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 "What's Behind Climate Change Denial?"



Mike Clancy, Citizens Climate Lobby, Monterey Chapter will be Guest Speaker at our **November 11 Virtual General Meeting**, briefly reviewing the **science of climate change**, then exploring the **climate change denial movement** in detail, including drawing parallels with other conspiracy theories.

The Earth's greenhouse effect has been known for over a century. Long before there were satellites, computer models or even computers, scientists understood that the huge increase in the burning of fossil fuels that began with the Industrial Revolution would lead to a warming Earth and a changing climate.



Although the science is thoroughly settled and the effects of climate change are becoming more apparent every year, the climate change denial community attempts to create doubt about the science to forestall government action and protect the interests of the fossil fuel industry.

Exhibiting the characteristics of a classic conspiracy theory, climate change denial has much in common with other denial movements that hold beliefs that are far outside the mainstream (e.g., "the Earth is flat"; "smoking is not harmful to health"; "COVID-19 is a hoax"; etc.). *(continued on page 2)*

How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

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

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

All current LWVMC members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting via [LWVMryCo] the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., Monday, November 9th for this month) with instructions on how to register and how to view and participate.

Not a member? All LWVMC 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 join these meetings using a conventional telephone.

Phone numbers for audio only are provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

(continued from page 1)

During the question and answer period following the talk, Mr. Clancy will address any and all climate change denial arguments the audience might wish to discuss.

Mike Clancy earned a **BS in Oceanography** from **Florida Institute of Technology** in 1973 and a **MS in Meteorology** from the **University of Miami** in 1975. He worked for **Science Applications International Corporation** in the late '70s and the **US Naval Research Lab** in the early '80s.

Mr. Clancy joined the **US Navy's Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center**

(**FNMO**) in Monterey in 1983, and was selected as its **Technical and Scientific Director** in 2005.

Mr. Clancy authored over 100 publications in meteorology, oceanography and information technology, and received over 50 professional awards, including the Navy's highest civilian award, prior to his retirement from Federal Service in 2011. He was inducted into the **FNMO Hall of Fame** in 2015. Mr. Clancy is a member of the **Citizens' Climate Lobby Monterey Chapter** and a frequent public speaker on Climate Change.

James Emery, Director, Government

★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE NOVEMBER 2020 ★

Well, it's over! Let me rephrase that—it's mostly over, and we can certainly celebrate that, though complete election results may not be known for some time.



Look at the spectrum we touched: we covered 15 **school districts**, 8 **community college districts**, 23 **city races** (council and mayoral), 3 **water districts**, **airport**

boards, school boards, and other miscellaneous races for a total of 165 or more candidates.

The bright side is that we had a lot of opportunities to reach out to voters and luckily, many dedicated volunteers who pitched in to provided accurate, unbiased information for those franchisees who cared to inform themselves before voting.

And, then there were the **measures**: 12 state propositions and 15 local measures in various jurisdictions. There were **land use** questions, **voter rights**, the **judicial system** and many more. The impact of these activities will begin to manifest in a short while.



Our League played a big role in this referendum. From **poll services** to **Pros & Cons**, from **yard signs** to **youth service**, our League was involved.

Thank you to all who contributed. I think we, the League of Women Voters Monterey County did very well. The people spoke and many made their decisions based on their analysis of information we provided and incentives to vote (they don't even have to get off the couch any more, that probably helped).

A record number of voters expressed their views, thus influencing the course of our government from the airport to the aisles of the nation's Capital to the White House.

And thanks to all who helped me with this message.

We contributed to voter's abilities to cast well-considered ballots, making their votes truly matter. That feels good.

Howard Fosler

GOVERNOR NEWSOM SIGNS LANDMARK LEGISLATION ADVANCING RACIAL JUSTICE IN CALIFORNIA

To: All LWVC County Leagues
From: Dora Rose, Deputy Director
League of Women Voters of California
The Racial Justice Act, AB 2542 (Kalra),
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB2542
co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of California, along with one of several priority bills including the Anti-Discrimination in Jury Selection Act, AB 3070 (Weber), were signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on September 30.

We are deeply grateful that Governor Newsom has signed this historic legislation to confront racism in California's courts. The bottom line is that we can't keep having trials with all white juries.

We can't continue to allow racially coded language that triggers bias in the courtroom. And we must stop the systemically disproportionate arrest and sentencing that is

tearing up our Black communities. The Racial Justice Act will help us accomplish those ends. Once again, big kudos go out to the tireless work of our Criminal Justice Committee members Ashley Ravache, Carolina Goodman, and Sarah Schectman. Victory is sweet!



To: All LWVMC Members
From: Howard Fosler, President
League of Women Voters Monterey County
Good News! The League of Women Voters Monterey County also strongly supported this legislation. As well, it was co-authored locally by Assemblymember Robert Rivas (District 30) and Mark Stone (District 29).

The Racial Justice Act prohibits the state from seeking a criminal conviction or sentence on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin. It is a good example of finally realizing what the minorities have been pointing out for years and doing something about it. Feel good, California!



LWVC CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE: "CALIFORNIA WATER PLUMBING"

By now you may know that Climate Change has been included in the League's 2020-2022 Program, proposed as the "fifth pillar" in the Making Democracy Work campaign. I was going to write something up on the issue and discovered a great source of information for understanding the issues of how water, and specifically California's water, is related to democracy at https://lwvc.org/issues/climate-change.

A series of succinct and useful articles being developed about California's water by the LWVC Water Committee. The most recent, entitled

"California Plumbing" (on the misalignment of promised vs available water, and more) has just been posted, following "California's Water: Sharing Our Knowledge" (an introduction to the series), and "Water is Related to Everything" (links to energy, health, environmental justice and more) All are at https://lwvc.org/californias-water-and-our-league.

Our November 11 General Meeting on Climate Change and the LWVC website will better prepare you to confront the crisis.

Bev Kreps, Social Policy Director

VOTER SERVICES IN ACTION

Candidates' Forums

October 5: Sustainable Seaside and the **LWVMC** sponsored two candidates' forums that Monday night: one for **Seaside City Council** candidates and one for **Seaside City Mayor** candidates.



Questions from the community were submitted in advance, and the audience connected over the Internet. Conducting both forums were moderator **MaryEllen Dick** (who also handled the

question sorting), timer **Catherine Crockett**, and technical producer **Mike Buffo** (*House of 8 Media*).

October 6: LWVMC sponsored a candidates' forum for the **Monterey Peninsula Water Management District Board** (Division 4 and Division 5). Conducting the forum were moderator **Dennis Mar**, timer **Marilyn Maxner**, and technical producer **Scott Keister** (*Open Computer Systems*). Question sorters were **Regina Doyle** and **Judi Lehman**.

Video recordings of both events are available on our League's website: LWVMryco.org.

Easy Voter Guide

Printed copies of the **Easy Voter Guide** were distributed to various residential living facilities

and active organizations. Thank you to everyone who participated: **Kalah Bumba, Diane Cotton, Jean Donnelly, Carole Erickson, Myrleen Fisher, Fran Gaver, Judi Lehman, Hannah Priestley, and Jean Stallings.**




Pros and Cons Presentations

MaryEllen Dick and **Dennis Mar** made two presentations over **Zoom** to the **Aromas Grange** and the **Junior League of Monterey County**. Their goal was an hour but both talks stretched to 80 minutes. Wonderfully, the audience stayed with them!

Polling Place Staff

The **Monterey County Elections Department** had to move the LWVMC "**Team Up for Democracy**" group from its usual polling place, the **Marina Library**, to the **Community Center at Soper Field, Seaside** for Election Day. This site will be a new polling location for our League. Meanwhile, our 38 volunteers received training classes from the Elections Department and an on-line class regarding COVID-19 safety from the state of California.

Dennis Mar, Voter Service Co-Director



Votersedge.org, the **League of Women Voters California Education Fund**-sponsored guide to elections, features current candidate biographies, their priorities, endorsements, and campaign funding sources.

As of mid-October, **45% of the candidates in Monterey County** had signed up to participate. The statewide average is 51% with a wide variation among counties ranging from 14% to 82%.

Thank you to all who helped contact candidates to urge them to participate and to thank them for joining!

Arlene Guest, Voter's Edge Director

★ ★ ★ YOUTH VOTER SERVICES REPORT ★ ★ ★

Engaging High School and College Students in the Voting Process

Youth Voter outreach continued up until a few days before the election. **Carol Kaplan, An McDowell, Pamela Stewart** and **Sharon Miller** interacted via **Zoom** or **Google Meets** with high school and college students about how they can be involved in the voting process, and what resources are available to them from the **League of Women Voters**.



A lot of students didn't know that 16- and 17- year-olds can pre-register to vote, and that they can also **work at the polls** through the **Monterey County Elections Office Student Poll Worker Program**.

And after hearing how to register to vote, and how to vote by mail or in person, those 18 years and older were reassured that they could actually cast their first ballots in this election. We tried



to take the fear-factor out of something new and framed voting as conferring a **"Super Power."** We strongly encouraged them to pass this information on to their families and social networking friends.

A common question among some young people is why voting matters. It was heartening to witness their peers come up with strong reasons to encourage voting. We also guided discussions on other ways to be involved in the election process for those not yet 18.

Voting Presentations to Schools

Besides the presentations made to the **Associated Students of Hartnell** and **Monterey Peninsula College**, we made five presentations to **CSUMB**, three to **Pacific Grove High**, and two at **Monterey High**. We sent information-

filled e-mails about voting to interested **Monterey High** students, talked to **York School**, contacted **"Voices of Monterey Bay,"** and made a podcast for the **"Salinas Californian"** newspaper (<https://www.thecalifornian.com/story/news/2020/10/02/across-california-podcast-episode-8/3593728001/>).

Pamela Stewart, An McDowell, Joanne Webster, and **Sharon Miller** searched out other promising school contacts. Down-to-the-wire outreach resulted in nine more online

presentations by Pamela and Sharon before the end of October, including seven in **Greenfield** and two in **Salinas!**

Another Salinas school didn't need a presentation but is using the LWV information provided to them to develop their own **lesson planning**.

Contact, Interest and Plans for Youth Voter Services Expansion

We are pleased that the young people we've had contact with are using **Voters Edge, Easy Voter,** and our website. And we have been asked how they can support our LWVMC. We've learned a lot these last few months, and look forward to using this knowledge and these contacts to continue fostering civic engagement with young people.



We also hope to expand our small team to more LWVMC members so that we can have a presence at more schools next time. **We invite you to join the Voter Services team in the upcoming year: it's easy, fun, rewarding, and extremely important. It's the future!**

**Sharon Miller, Voter Services Co-Director,
Youth Voter Outreach**

★ **LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE:** ★
KARIN STRASSER KAUFFMAN

Karin Strasser Kauffman has been a member of our local **League** chapter since 1973, when she and her family first moved to Carmel Valley. Since then, Karin has served Monterey County in myriad ways, including as **District 5 County Supervisor** from 1984-93. She's grateful that members of the League have aided her public service career at every step of the way.



Born in Germany, Karin and her family moved to Southern California when she was 12 years old. She earned her **bachelor's degree** in **political science** at **Whittier College** and went on to study the same subject in grad school at **UCLA**. She later taught political science at UCLA and then took a job teaching at **Creighton University** in Omaha, Nebraska.

*"Then Whittier College called me and I returned to Southern California to teach there," she says. One special memory of her career at Whittier was that **"Shirley Chisholm** came to my political science presentation. It was a real thrill. She told me she ran for **President** because that put certain important things on the party platform."*

In 1973, when Karin's husband, the now-deceased **Dr. Richard Kauffman**, was hired as a diagnostic radiologist at **Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula**, she gave up her faculty position and they moved to Carmel Valley. *"I still wanted to teach," she says, "but my first job here was as affirmative action consultant to **Monterey Peninsula College President Bob Faul**. With all the new laws President Johnson got through, we were finally able to use the law to make sure women were treated equally."*



Soon she joined the MPC faculty, again teaching political science. In addition, she taught a course on women's history. *"Researching for that course is where I first came across the suffragettes and the establishment of the League of Women Voters," she says.*

While teaching at MPC, Karin started an annual **"Any Woman Can" Community Conference**. *"We encouraged women to get appointed to office, which wasn't happening at the time, to run for office, to be active in community service," she reports.*

*"I was also a founding member of the **National Women's Political Caucus of Monterey**, which recruited, trained and campaigned for women in different local offices—and got them elected."*

In those days, Karin says, *"the League had a representative at every political community meeting. They took notes and reported back to the League—a very good way to make sure that word got out about what happened and what needed to be done."*

While she was at MPC, Karin herself was recruited to run for District 5 County Supervisor. *"My first campaign was entirely volunteer and with many League members involved," she recalls. "My campaign was overseen by a former **League President, Sandy Smith**." After Karin took office, Sandy served as her **Supervisorial Aide**, as what she calls her *"indispensable right-hand woman."**

"At the time I was elected, environmental reforms were just coming into law," Karin says, "so we were able to tackle major undertakings. We strove for more transparency, and I was able to get women appointed to commissions that up until then never

had a woman in the County's entire history. An example is the **Overall Economic Development Commission**. Many moved onto other and higher levels of community involvement—witness **Jane Parker**, whom I appointed to the County's **Social Services Committee!**"

Karin's main goals as Supervisor were **coastal protection, affordable housing and disaster response**, since there had been many recent fires and floods in the area. "The 5th District had five out of the eight area land use plans for the County," she recalls. "When we finally passed the **Carmel Valley Master Plan**, it was awarded the outstanding environmental impact report in the State of California. The following year we completed all four of Monterey County's coastal plans."



Karin says one of her biggest accomplishments was to oversee the **Big Sur Coastal Plan**, the most protective coastal plan in the entire country, and get it adopted. As **Co-Chair of the Big Sur Multiagency Council**, Karin worked closely with **Leon Panetta**.



Karin chaired the Board of Supervisors when Monterey County oversaw the closure of Fort Ord and when "we were finally able to get the **Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary** established," she recalls. When she retired the following year, she was appointed by **NOAA** to the newly created **Sanctuary Council** and became its founding **Chair**. "The rules we adopted were ultimately applied to all marine sanctuaries in the United States."

Other accomplishments in which she takes pride are the 200 affordable housing units built at

Pacific Meadows and more at **Las Palmas** and the **Monterra Project**.



Nowadays Karin continues in community service, close to home, on various boards. Among them are the **Carmel Valley Association**, the **Carmel Valley Library**, and the **Carmel Valley Forum**.

Karin's two sons, who grew up in Carmel Valley, now both have successful careers elsewhere. **Eric** is a surgeon and urologist at **Roswell Park Cancer Center** in Buffalo, NY, and **Sasha** is a professor at **UC San Diego**. When she's not volunteering, Karin loves to travel, hike, garden and be near the ocean.



In the League's future, Karin would like to see "an official, concerted effort to recruit young women. At the last Women's March, I saw many enthusiastic young women of all backgrounds and colors, proud to be marching. Instill the League's principles in them," she advises, "a lifetime commitment to get something done."



"One of my heroines has always been **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**. Bader Ginsburg said, 'If you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside your own life. That's what I think a meaningful life is—one lives not just for one's self, but for one's community.' And that's what the League does," Karin says.

It's also what Karin Strasser Kauffman has modeled in her own rich life of public service.

Nancy Baker Jacobs



Join the League of Women Voters of Monterey County



Renew Your LWVMC 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 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 Member!

Anita Dyer

651 Sinex Ave, L-109, Pacific Grove 93950
(831) 657-4186

Handbook Updates

Please correct the spelling of Mary Jeanne Vincent's name:
it is not Mary Jane

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Carole Erickson / \$45

Dina Stansbury / \$35

Please send updates to

Janet Brennan, Membership Director

**Welcome Kathee Tyson
Local League Coach**

The LWVC provides us with an on-call "coach" to help us keep up with bylaws, and policies, in touch with League leadership and coordinators, and arrange training as needed.

Ms Tyson wrote a nice letter offering her services and support to our Board. She lives in **Half Moon Bay**, but has family in **Carmel Valley** and **PG**. She can be reached at c/o LWVMryCo@gmail.com

**VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR
WANTED FOR SALINAS VALLEY!**



This year's general elections may be over, but we still need stronger outreach to the voters of Salinas for 2021!

*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 **Howard Fosler**
c/o LWVMryCo@gmail.com



LWVMC President Howard Fosler and Supervisor Mary Adams with League members Regina Doyle, Cynthia Hall & Beverly Kreps: Monterey County Board of Supervisor's LWV Centennial Proclamation Presentation

★ FREE quality videos on demand: ★
 WWW.LWVMRYCO.ORG
 Plus volunteer, join, donate and learn about League action & policies!

Newest additions include:
 "LWVC Positions on California Ballot Measures"
 "PG City Council Candidates Forum"
 "Monterey County Elections in the Time of COVID"

 Bob Evans,
 Website Coordinator

League of Women Voters of Monterey County

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

★ **Officers**

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 Howard Fosler*

Vice President
 vacant
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Publicity Committee
 Regina Doyle

Social Policy / Luncheon Reservations
 Bev Kreps

State & National Action / Membership
 Janet Brennan*

Voter Services, Co-Directors
 Dennis Mar
 Sharon Miller

Website Coordinator
 Bob Evans

Directors At-Large
 Linda Deutsch
 Pamela Stewart

(* = Executive Committee)

LWVMC The VOTER
 Published monthly except June/July/Aug/December

Send articles & updates to:
LWVMC Voter Editor
 LWVMryCo@gmail.com

★ **Off-Board**

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George Riley

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 Howard Fosler

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 Joe Asling

Voter Biographer
 Nancy Baker Jacobs

Voter's Edge/Facebook
 Arlene Guest

Voter Registration Committee
 Carol Kaplan



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
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LWVMC Calendar 2020



NOVEMBER

LWVMC Board Meeting
Zoom Online

Monday, 2 November, 1:30pm

contact: LWVmryco@gmail.com to request

[LWV MryCo] meeting phone number and code*

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 11 November

**11:45am Zoom Check-In, Audio/Video check
12noon Meeting Begins**

Guest Speaker Mike Clancy
"What's Behind

Climate Change Denial?"
(see front page for details)

contact: LWVmryco@gmail.com to request

[LWV MryCo] meeting phone number and code*

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



DECEMBER

WINTER BREAK

No Board or Committee Meetings,
Virtual General Meetings, or The Voter



JANUARY 2021

LWVMC Board Meeting
Zoom Online

Monday, 4 January, 1:30pm

LWVMC General Meeting
Wednesday, 13 January, 11:45am

"Monterey County Update"
Guest Speaker

Assemblymember Robert Rivas
to discuss the biggest problems facing
District 30 and solutions, including recently
signed Farmworker Relief bills.

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