

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

Celebrating the Merger of LWVMP & LWVSV since 2013 / October 2019, Volume 92, Number 2

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Vulture Capitalists, News Geeks & Stories Told

This month's speaker will be the well-known local journalist, **Joe Livernois**. Joe will provide a synopsis of the state of local journalism, revealing how important issues about our area are reported in the current political, social and economic climate.

Joe worked for a couple of local weeklies, including the ***Carmel Pine Cone***, before joining the ***Monterey Peninsula/County Herald*** where for about 30 years he went from copy editor, reporter, bureau chief, columnist, agitator, headache collector and administrator before falling on his sword in 2010.

Joe then joined other veteran local reporters who believed the region needed a new journalistic vision, to found **Voices of Monterey Bay (VOMB)** in 2017. This nonprofit, bilingual online news operation serves the Central Coast, Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, providing a central location for people who have been ignored by traditional media to express themselves or to report news from their neighborhoods.

VOMB concentrates on bridging cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic news gaps by providing engaging and investigative reports and dynamic storytelling from multiple platforms. They also offer free ongoing journalism training by veteran reporters and editors to interested adults and youth (with the expectation that the work they produce are featured on VOMB).

Joe was raised along the Southern California border and lived with his family in Prunedale for several decades before he and his wife **Loma** moved to Monterey five years ago.

Beverly Bean

Wednesday, 9 October: General Meeting

12 noon **Lunch** / 12:30 to 1:30 **Presentation**

(Lunch \$20 per person: main course, salad, beverages, & dessert by **International Cuisine of Pacific Grove**).

Reservations are a must for lunch!

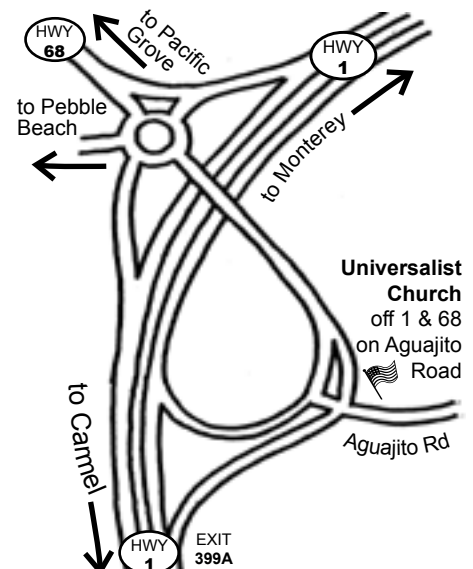
Contact Bev Kreps by Sunday, 6th October

LWVMryCo@gmail.com

Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is **FREE**.

Reminder to Members: The League pays the caterer in advance for everyone who makes a luncheon reservation, and guarantees a minimum of attendees.

L&L meets at: **Unitarian Universalist Church** <http://uucmp.org>
490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923 (831) 624-7404



Prepare for Action

All three levels of our League, national, state and local, are busy preparing for heightened action in the looming election year. Visit our web pages to get a building sense of energy---I think you'll feel newly charged about being a member.

Here, we're already forming committees and assigning projects in many areas to be ready to **educate voters, provide candidate forums** and help **operate polling places**. We have lined up an interesting slate of speakers for the coming months to provide deeper insight than what we get from print or TV.

Put Lunch & Learn Dates in Your Calendar for the Upcoming Year

This will be a great time to further your own education and build stronger relationships with friends and acquaintance by introducing them to our League. **Bring friends with you to a meeting**. You won't find a better lunch for the price on the Peninsula, and it includes thoughtful entertainment. Think about it.



Special Dates to Promote League Issues

February 14: Valentine's Day 1920 was the day the League of Women Voters was founded. Realizing the right for women to vote was soon to become a national reality, our founders formed the League to help new voters become educated on the issues on which they were about to opine. Understanding the power of political organization, they wanted the League to be sharply focused on selected social, political and economic issues while leaving individual candidate choice up to the individual.

August 26: After years of effort beginning in the 1840's, Congress finally passed the 19th Amendment on its fourth try in June 1920. By August 26 that year, enough states had ratified

it for the amendment to become law. Florida, South Carolina finally concurred in 1969, followed finally by Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and lastly Mississippi in 1984.

Said **Carrie Chapman Catt**, President of the **National American Woman Suffrage Association**, *"To get the word 'male' in effect out of the Constitution cost the women of the country fifty-two years of pauseless campaign ... Millions of dollars were raised, mainly in small sums, and expended with economic care. Hundreds of women gave the accumulated possibilities of an entire lifetime, thousands gave years of their lives, hundreds of thousands gave constant interest and such aid as they could."*

The Battle for "The Vote for All" is Far from Over

Just one of the important issues still in the arena in many parts of our country is the **right to vote**. This will be the season for people to act to replace legislators who don't protect voter rights. And it's the time to help others develop educated opinions and put legislators in power who agree with the right to vote. We invite you and your friends to participate as much as you can.

Howard Fosler



**LWVMC WEBMASTER
WANTED**

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

Duties: keep calendar up to date, post official letters, videos and newsletter monthly using MYLO framework.

2-hours per month committment.
On-the-job training/guidance as needed.

Contact Bob Evans, LWVMC Webmaster



Assemblymember Mark Stone
mark.stone@asm.ca.gov

August 27, 2019

Subject: ACA 6

Dear Assemblymember Stone:

It's time to **Free the Vote for Californians on Parole**. This constitutional amendment will restore voting rights to people who are working, paying taxes, and raising children in our communities, but have been denied a voice in the policies that shape their lives.

The strength of representative democracy depends on everyone's participation, yet nearly 50,000 Californians on parole cannot vote. The League of Women Voters of California has been fighting for voting rights for 100 years. The League is co-sponsoring ACA 6 because the fight is far from over.

- Parole's purpose is to help people reintegrate into the community. Civic engagement is a critical part of that process, and has also been found to reduce recidivism.
- Disenfranchising people on parole is a legacy of Jim Crow laws, and disproportionately locks Black and Brown Californians out of the voting booth.
- California needs to catch up with 16 states and the District of Columbia which restore voting rights once people are no longer incarcerated. And also with Maine and Vermont which never take voting rights away from those in prison or on parole.

Our democracy thrives when it is fair and inclusive. Stripping the right to vote from formerly incarcerated people is a form of voter suppression and does not reflect our values. **We urge you to support ACA 6.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Howard Fosler, President

★ **LWV BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY 2020** ★

In April, the LWV committed to developing a **League-wide Day of Action** for February 14, 2020, with **"Women Power the Vote"** as our theme. In upcoming months, goals and activities will be developed for state and local Leagues to participate in this high-visibility opportunity.



Some Leagues already have plans in place, while others are looking for more support. Activities will complement each other, stay true to our brand, and offer all Leagues opportunities to engage, celebrate and honor our Centennial.

The League began as a *"mighty political experiment"* designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to

participate in shaping public policy.

From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. **It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization.** Our founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members are encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.

More information at: <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/guides/100th-anniversary-activities-leagues>

★ **FORA TO END JUNE 2020** ★

State legislation **SB 189**, which would have extended the **Fort Ord Reuse Authority** (FORA) for two years beyond the current sunset date of June 2020 died in the **Assembly Appropriations Committee**.



Between now and June 2010, the **FORA Board** will implement the **Transition Plan** adopted in 2018 (<https://www.fora.org/TransitionProcess.html>).

**Janet Brennan,
Chair LWVMC State &
National Action Committee**

Based on the League's study of October 2018 which found that FORA had failed to meet many of its responsibilities, members concluded that FORA should not be extended (LWVMC Position on Sunset of FORA, https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/lwvmc_position_sunset_of_fora_1.pdf).

The League's letter to the Appropriations Committee opposing SB 189 along with letters from the **Cities of Seaside and Marina** and **Supervisor Jane Parker** helped to defeat the bill in committee.

ERRATUM

In the September **"Voter"** (LWVC Biannual Convention Report, p3) it said that: *"There was an emphasis this year to increase the diversity in the backgrounds of the delegates."*

The sentence should have read: *"There was emphasis this year to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in our goals and strategies."*

Kalah Bumba

★ LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: MARIANNE GAWAIN ★

Marianne Gawain is a native Carmel resident, a LWVMC member for the past several years and a newcomer to the **League Board**, where she is serving as **Secretary** this year.



“I was born in Carmel when the town had its own hospital,” she reports. *“My parents took me back to the house I still call home.”* Marianne grew up in this area, but became a part-time resident after she left to attend college, later marrying and raising her family in New York City. In 2013, she returned to her childhood roots to assist her mother.

Her mother, who died in 2015, was **Babette Gawain**, a former member of LWVMC. *“She was a wise woman,”* Marianne recalls. *“She encouraged me to join the League, telling me that LWVMC was where I would find people who shared my interests and values.”*

During the years she was based on the East Coast, Marianne and her two daughters continued to visit her parents in Carmel Valley. *“We spent almost every vacation here. This area is a second home for my daughters,”* she says. *“Both of them—Zoe, who is pursuing her MFA in New York and Alida, who is studying for a PhD in psychology at the University of Virginia—care deeply about the Central Coast. When Alida visited briefly this summer, we celebrated my birthday evening by participating in a community forum on the Mid Valley Shopping Center.”*

Locally, Marianne is now serving her ninth and final year as a **Trustee of York School**, where she attended high school. *“Three three-year terms is the official limit,”* she explains. She’s also a member of the **Carmel Valley Association** and the **Carmel Valley Garden Club**, but reports that she’s a *“beginning gardener, more aspirational than accomplished.”*

Marianne also has a deep concern for the health and welfare of the **Carmel River**. *“My house overlooks the Carmel River and I remember playing in it as a child. My older brothers used to fish there,”* she explains. *“I also remember dramatic flooding in the Sixties. We watched as big chunks of the river bank broke off. Once, the **Robinson Canyon Bridge** washed out. I was visiting a friend overnight and we were officially evacuated—quite a thrill for schoolchildren. Now I’m happy to see the cottonwoods and other vegetation coming back as pumping is reduced and I’m rooting for the return of the steelhead.”*



Marianne hopes that her educational background will be helpful to her as a League volunteer. She attended **Swarthmore College** in Pennsylvania and then, growing homesick, transferred to **Stanford**. She received a **Master’s degree in Public Policy** from **Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government** and did graduate work in **Political Science**, with a focus on regulatory policy, at **UC Berkeley**.

She later worked for the **Massachusetts Public Utilities Commission**. *“Nevertheless,”* she says, *“becoming informed about our local issues—especially water—is a challenge. I love hearing from experts at the Lunch & Learn programs.”*

While she thinks it might be a bit unusual for LWVMC to choose a novice member as Secretary, Marianne believes that *“it’s useful to have new members ask longtime members questions about policy.”* She hopes her fresh perspective will be helpful and that she will be able to help us move effectively into the future.

Nancy Baker Jacobs



STOP ROMANTICIZING THE 19TH AMENDMENT



August 26, 2019 was **Women's Equality Day**, celebrating 99 years since the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was adopted, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

This major milestone in the history of our democracy was achieved over decades, even beyond the lifetimes of some of its greatest champions. Passing an amendment to the Constitution is no small feat; after all, it's only happened 27 times in our country's history. But as we kick off the centennial year of women winning the right to vote, **we mustn't romanticize the story of the 19th Amendment.** The truth is that it did not break down voting barriers for *all* women—and even today, there is more work to be done.

Time to Tell the Real Story

The path to women's suffrage was complicated, and sometimes ugly. History books tend mostly to credit the courage and tenacity of white women. It is past time to amend the history books and tell the real story of the suffrage movement. It is past time we all celebrate the women of color who were at the center of the movement alongside their white counterparts. And it is past



time for our country to acknowledge that when the 19th Amendment was ratified, many women still weren't able to cast a ballot because of Jim Crow laws that denied them full enfranchisement.

Now, this doesn't mean that we shouldn't celebrate all the amazing women who fought for the 19th Amendment. We should. But in doing so, let

us also ensure significant black suffragists like **Sojourner Truth**, **Ida B. Wells** and **Mary Church Terrell** have their place in history, a place equally as prominent as that of white suffrage leaders.

Famous photographs of suffrage marches and historic meetings often failed to capture the many African American women who fought equally as courageously as white women to win the vote. Every little girl should learn about women's history in America and see themselves represented, and not only during **Black History Month.**



In telling the true story behind the 19th, we must also stop perpetuating the myth that women were "granted" the right to vote. Let's be clear: women "won" the right to vote. It was not "given" to us. It was a fight, decades in the making. And many suffragists, like **Susan B. Anthony**, didn't live to see the victory at the end of that struggle. But the movement itself was not fully aligned. There was division in how to accomplish the shared vision: demonstrations and arrests such as those in front of the White House, versus a heavily coordinated lobbying and advocacy campaign to pass a constitutional amendment.

"THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WOMEN BEING "GRANTED" THE VOTE AND HAVING "WON" IT IS VERY INTERESTING. IT REMINDS US TO HELP PROTECT ALL VOTERS FROM THOSE WHO WANT FEWER, NOT MORE, PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE." BEVERLY BEAN

The Winning Plan for Some ...

The political strategy that ultimately resulted in the passage of the 19th Amendment was a shrewd state-by-state campaign. It was led by the suffragist and

founder of the League of Women Voters, **Carrie Chapman Catt**. In the years leading up to 1920, Catt shopped her "Winning Plan" for achieving

suffrage in front of state legislatures all over the country. She was a brilliant political operative who successfully modified her case for women's suffrage based on her audience, even if it meant pandering to racist politicians in the south who feared having their votes outnumbered if black women were to become enfranchised. Ultimately, her tactics succeeded in building enough support to pass the 19th Amendment. Women won the right to vote.

... and the People Left Behind

But not all women gained equal access at the ballot box. Women of color, especially those in the south, did not have full voting rights. Poll taxes and literacy tests deliberately kept African Americans from fully participating in democracy until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Denial of citizenship, property requirements, and sanctioned violence against voters barred Native Americans from the polls. Literacy tests were used to disenfranchise racial minorities as late as 1970.

The Current Rollback on Voter Rights

Fast forward to 2013: the US Supreme Court rolled back voter protections in the **Voting Rights Act** in **Shelby County v. Holder** decision and, since that time, we have seen countless attacks on the right to vote—too often targeting racial minorities, as has been the case throughout our country's history. In the aftermath of that decision, we have seen rollbacks to early voting, unjust voter purges, and strict voter photo ID laws that make it harder for young people, women, people of color, and individuals with low incomes to register and exercise their right to vote.

So, as we celebrate this great achievement, we do so with recognition that women's suffrage was not perfect. Progress towards a more perfect democracy is often messy, but we can't allow the ends to justify the means, especially if perpetuates oppression. Let us use the lessons of our history to inform our present and our future. Let us seek out ways to ensure all eligible voters have their voices heard and their votes counted.

Virginia Kase, CEO League of Women Voters
lwv.org

LWVCA ACTION ALERT



#YESONSB54#YESONAB1080

Every day, single-use packaging and plastic products generate thousands of tons of waste that are wreaking long lasting damage on our health and natural environment. We can no longer afford to wait. **Act now and demand that your legislators combat the plastic waste crisis.**

Roughly two-thirds of all plastic ever produced has been released into the environment, polluting streets, parks, rivers, and oceans. **SB 54** and **AB 1080** would alleviate the scourge of plastic by:

- Requiring manufacturers to reduce waste and improve the recyclability or compostability of packaging.
- Ensuring that all single-use packaging will be reusable, recyclable or compostable after 2030.
- Mandating that the most-littered plastic products be made only from recyclable or compostable materials.
- Creating incentives to encourage in-state manufacturing using recycled material.

Our dependence on single-use plastics is poisoning our state. Plastic production is a major source of global greenhouse gas emissions, floating plastic "islands" are clogging the oceans, and microplastics are increasingly contaminating our food and drinking water sources. Act now and help the League combat the plastic waste crisis.

Learn more about the bills online at: <http://blob.capitoltrack.com/19blobs/d9ada29a-9516-4726-811d-4f2316616f5c>

Carol Moon Goldberg, President LWV California
<https://lwvc.org/take-action/action-alerts/act-now-combat-plastic-waste-crisis>



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>, Attention Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director LWVMryCo@gmail.com

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

New members always welcome!

Checks payable to **LWVMC**
Mail to **LWVMC PO Box 1995**

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

Thank you so far to all who heeded the call and RENEWED their memberships. **However, we're still waiting for you who have not replied yet.** Not sure if you're current? Contact me. Keep us strong, join us, say with pride you are a member of the great League of Women Voters!

Changes to Your Membership Roster

Michael Delappa

Suellen Rubin

Welcome New Members

Pat Landee

Christina Lund

Steve McShane

Welcome Back Returning Member

Jana Matheson

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Kemay Eoyang \$100 (LWVCEF)

Marianne Gawain \$185

Jana Matheson \$135

Anton Prange \$35

Lisa Hoivik, Membership Director

**VACANCY:
VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR,
SALINAS VALLEY**



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!

Contact **Jeanne Turner**
LWVMryCo@gmail.com

★ **UPCOMING LWVMC DATES** ★

DATES / SPEAKERS / TOPICS / EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- NOVEMBER 2019**
 13th / L&L **"Charter Schools"**
JANUARY 2020
 8th / L&L **"Climate Change"**
FEBRUARY 2020
 12th / L&L *(to be announced)*
MARCH 2020
 11th / L&L **"Election Integrity"**

- APRIL 2020**
 8th / L&L **"Proposition 13 Reform: Schools & Communities Funding Act"**
 14th / **"League-Wide Day of Action: Women Power the Vote"**
MAY 2020
 LWVMC 93rd Annual Meeting
"Monterey County as Blue (Health) Zone"

Do your friends and the League a favor:
bring guests to Lunch & Learn meetings!

 **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

Luncheon Logistics
Beverly Bean

Membership
Lisa Hoivik

Natural Resources
George Riley*

Publicity Committee
Regina Doyle

Public Policy & Luncheon Reservations
Bev Krepes

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

(* = Executive Committee)

★ **Off-Board**

Facebook Master
Arlene Guest

LWVC Management Training Advisor
(vacant)

National Women's History Alliance Liason
Howard Fosler

Nominating Committee
Philomene Smith, Chair
Janet Brennan
Hetty Eddy
Lisa Hoivik

Videographer
Joe Asling

Voters Edge
Arlene Guest

The Voter Biographer
Nancy Baker Jacobs

LWVMC The VOTER Published monthly except June/July/August/December
 Articles & updates: **LWVMC 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



LWVMC Calendar 2019



OCTOBER

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 7 October, 1:30pm
 Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse, Monterey

Lunch & Learn with the League,
Wednesday, 9 October, 12 noon
"Vulture Capitalists, News Geeks & Stories Told"
Voices of Monterey Bay,
 Unitarian Universalist Church
 490 Aguajito Road
 Hwy 68/Hwy 1

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 10 October, 12 noon
 Mariposa Hall

Publicity Committee Meeting
Monday, 14 October, 12 noon
 Mariposa Hall



NOVEMBER

LWVMC Board Meeting
Monday, 11 November, 1:30pm
 Mariposa Hall

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, 13 November, 12 noon
"Charter Schools"
 Unitarian Universalist Church

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, 14 November, 12 noon
 Mariposa Hall

Publicity Committee Meeting
Monday, 18 November, 12 noon
 Mariposa Hall

DECEMBER WINTER BREAK

NO Board / Committee Meetings, Lunch & Learn, or The Voter.
Regulars meetings and newsletter resume January 2020.