

FALL 2021

Mark Your Calendar!



Coming Events:

December 4: Holiday Celebration

February 24, 2022: Democracy Works and Community Luncheon

April 24: Celebrate Woodland 150th Anniversary

June 7 (Tentatively): Annual Meeting

Board Meetings:

December 14, 1:30pm

January 11, 2022, 1:30pm

February 8, 1:30pm

March 8, 7:00pm*

April 12, 1:30pm

May 10, 1:30pm

All Board meetings are via Zoom until further notice. Please contact President Karen Urbano at woodlandleague2021@gmail.com if you would like to attend an upcoming Board meeting.

*Please note the different Board meeting time on March 8, 2022, and put it on your calendar as well as attend. We encourage members to attend Board meetings and hope you will not only attend from time to time but also provide feedback about meeting times.

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OUR LEAGUE NEWS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Karen Urbano

We are slowly emerging from this terrible pandemic after over a year and a half of isolation and caution. Your league has continued to make virtual connections among members and others and has also begun to provide opportunities to see one another's faces in-person at small gatherings.

We have sponsored several events that you were all invited to, so please see the articles below for more information about those events if you were unable to attend.



In late September your league held a gathering at Jack Slaven Park to hear from members of two Commissions working on redistricting for the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the Woodland City Council. We learned about the process and reasoning for changing boundaries, based on the 2020 census, for the five supervisors' districts from Commission Chair Marco Lizarraga, and Commission members Skip Davies and Mia Durham. Bob Simas represented the City of Woodland Redistricting Commission and urged us to attend virtual meetings and let our opinions be known about redrawing the lines for the five City Council positions. We also had a virtual presentation from the California Citizens' Redistricting Commission on November 3.

In addition, several Board members participated in an informative presentation in mid-October by Yolo County Registrar of Voters Jesse Salinas to bring us up to date on all of the changes coming to the voting process.

Further helping and growing our community, a few of your board members served as docents at open houses during Woodland's Stroll Through History in September, and we reached out to other local organizations such as Soroptimists and AAUW (American Association of University Women).

Looking forward, Pat Butler and Catherine Portman are working on bringing us further into the 21st century by making it possible for membership payments and donations to be made through PayPal on our website. Thank you to both of them, and stay tuned for updates on that process as well as information about enhancements to our website.

Plans are also underway for an in-person gathering in February as we bring back our State of the Community Luncheon combined with the Democracy Works award ceremony. Coordinator Judy Wohlfrom writes about this event below, and you'll be receiving notices in the mail soon.

It is looking to be a busy spring so I hope you will stay involved. Your small board

is working hard. Elections will be coming up. We need you! We have openings on our Board for a Secretary and two positions critical for the upcoming elections: Director for Voter Services/Voter Registration and Director for Voter Services/Voter Education. Please contact me directly if you are interested in any of these positions or supporting such work.

On a personal note, long-time member Carol Souza-Cole was recently recognized as a 2021 Woman of the Year by Congressman John Garamendi. Congressman Garamendi stated "The service and dedication each honoree has shown their community is deserving of recognition, and by receiving this award, their work will be commemorated and chronicled at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C." Carol has worked on numerous projects and held Board of Director positions for our league, so we applaud Congressman Garamendi's choice and Carol for all her hard work on behalf of our league and community.

Finally, please renew your membership if you haven't already done so and feel free to share this newsletter with family and friends. Click here - [Membership Form](#) - if you wish to join our League, renew and/or make a donation to the League's Education fund.

Happy Holidays!
Karen Urbano, President, LWV of Woodland

FOR REGULAR UPDATES, VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Lucinda Talkington and Carla Cox shared updates and flyers.



Bob Simas and Skip Davies participated during Marco Lizarraga's presentation.

SOCIAL MIXER AND REDISTRICTING PRESENTATIONS

By Lorna Carriveau

Our first in-person event of 2021 was the Social Mixer on September 30. It was a pleasure to see over two dozen members and friends attend the afternoon outing at Jack Slaven Park. Our thanks to Judy Wohlfrom and Pat Butler for providing tasty refreshments. Pleasantly warm weather provided a suitable setting for lively conversation.

Our special thanks go to Marco Lizarraga, Chair, Yolo County Redistricting Commission, and Bob Simas, Member, Woodland City Commission on Redistricting, for the helpful information they provided about county and city-wide redistricting efforts. County Commission members Mia Durham and Skip Davies, former Woodland mayor, also provided insights.

Marco started the evening with a discussion of the history of redistricting as well

as concerns about potential gerrymandering. As you know, states, counties and cities began redistricting discussions shortly after the 2000 census. The primary requirements are that districts must have similar-sized populations, comply with the Voting Rights Act to protect minorities' rights, be contiguous and geographically compact, and respect communities of interest to the extent possible.

The latter requirement is the most challenging. What is a "community of interest" was discussed at length. The definition provided by We Draw the Lines California is: "A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and/or economic interest that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples include areas in which people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media."

It's vital that residents inform redistricting commission members of their interests so those interests can be considered within the context of a district's size and location. For example, there was a lively discussion following the presentation about rural and agricultural communities of interest in Yolo County. The concern was that their needs might be different from those in living in nearby cities, but the population size of smaller towns or unincorporated areas of Yolo County would require annexation to at least some part of the cities.

Based on Yolo County's current population, discussions are underway to create five contiguous districts based on location, population size and communities of interest within its boundaries. Bob Simas spoke to the challenges the Woodland City Commission is facing with developing its own recommendations for redistricting lines so as to ensure that minority rights and interests can also be fairly represented. Especially disappointing was the fact that despite having recently sent hundreds of notices to individuals and organizations, there had been no response.

More opportunities to enjoy the company of current and potential members as well as stay informed of league and community activities are on the way. Stay tuned!



HIGH SCHOOLS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

By Lorna Carriveau

Jesse Salinas, Assessor, Clerk Recorder and Registrar of Voters for Yolo County, met with Karen Urbano, Janet Ruggiero and Catherine Portman of the Woodland League, Judy Higgerson of the Davis League, and others on October 14, 2021, to discuss upcoming changes to the voting process and how the leagues could continue to be involved with encouraging high school students to register to vote. As many of you will recall, in the past league members have made in-person presentations to students in select classrooms. Efforts are underway, however, to instruct students on how to register online or when they get their drivers' license.

An alternative to classroom presentations is increasing the league's involvement in YES, the County's Youth Empowerment Summit, a collaboration among diverse county organizations focused on encouraging youth engagement and

leadership. Opportunities to increase league support, such as raising awareness and funds, were also proposed.

Mr. Salinas noted that Yolo County's implementation of the Voters Choice Act (VCA) will be presented to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors on December 7. Under the VCA model, three Voter Assistance Centers – in Davis, Woodland and West Sacramento – will be open for 11 days up to and including Election Day. In the recent recall election there were 11 centers open for the four days up to and including the polling day and will be repeated for the June Primary Election. Mr. Salinas envisioned that YES partners, including both the the Woodland and Davis Leagues, could provide outreach for informing the community about such changes. Outreach opportunities include candidate forums, tabling at Farmers Markets, and further partnering with the Elections Office on messaging to ensure clear, correct and consistent information is provided.

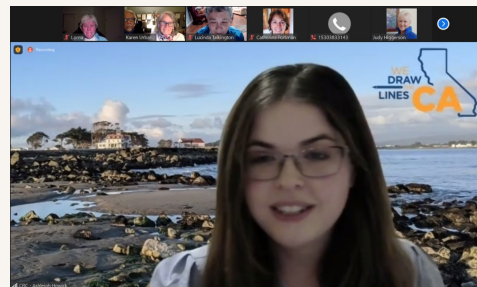
Please stay alert for updates on how our league will be partnering with the Elections Office, Davis Area League, and others to encourage active voter registration throughout our communities.

CRC REDISTRICTING PRESENTATION

By Lorna Carriveau

Ashleigh Howick, Northern California Field Lead, California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC), provided an updated and in-depth PowerPoint presentation about redistricting efforts throughout California on

November 3, 2021. As you may be aware, The Voters First propositions from 2008 and 2010 mandate that citizens – not incumbents, political candidates or parties – make recommendations for new districts once census data is compiled every ten years. (If your computer supports PowerPoint, you can click on this link to view the CRC's informational presentation - [CRC Basics](#).)



While there is some variation in redistricting requirements for the State, Counties, Cities, School Districts, and Special Districts (such as water districts), they must all follow the same essential requirements. In brief: be comprised of equal-sized populations, comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure equal opportunity for minorities, be contiguous and geographically compact, and minimize divisions (such as cities, neighborhoods and communities of interest). Identifying and understanding communities of interest, which can range from economic to environmental to health-related, etc., is particularly challenging.

Ms. Howick also demonstrated how we can provide real-time draft maps and other feedback directly to the CRC through tools available on its website, www.WeDrawTheLines.com. The user guides, tutorials, mapping tool, frequently asked questions, and other support are free and easily accessed on the website.

If you're interested in Woodland's redistricting efforts, the City has created a website - [City of Woodland Redistricting](#) - that allows visitors to draw their own maps for consideration by its Commission members as well as provides dates, times and locations of Community Workshops from November through January 2022.

We encourage everyone to view these materials and websites and participate in a very important, once-every-ten-years opportunity to ensure democracy is working for everyone.



DEMOCRACY WORKS AROUND THE CORNER

By Judy Wohlfrom

Our league calendar is beginning to fill up with 2022 event opportunities. We have been *zooming* activities and events for one and half years. (Who can forget our crazy holiday hat contest last Christmas when Lucinda Talkington displayed all her unique face masks?) Well, I think most of us are ready to see each other face to face. The August Jack Slaven Park Social Mixer was a nice break to be outdoors and hear preliminary discussions regarding redistricting. A lot of thanks go out to those who helped set up the event. Though *zooming* is still in our future, the Board of Directors has decided to combine the Democracy Works Award and State of the Community Luncheon into one large happening where we will be able to see everyone live on **February 24**.

“Your Voice ~ Your Vote” is this year’s theme for the luncheon. Our guest speaker will be Mayra Vega, the current Mayor Pro Tem of the Woodland City Council. Plans are underway to have the luncheon at the Hotel Woodland. Because of the uncertainty of Covid-19 restrictions in February 2022, we are taking all necessary health precautions and have changed up the traditional homemade “bean soup and salad” menu. Cracchiolo Catering will be furnishing lunch. Their food and service were excellent during the June Annual meeting.

We encourage you all to make recommendations to the Democracy Works Nomination Committee - coordinated by Karen Urbano, Pat Butler and Carla Cox - for potential award candidates. Event sponsorship letters will be sent out in December. Sponsors will receive one free ticket to the luncheon with their donation and will be recognized online and in the program; single tickets will sell for \$30 each.

Mark your calendars and if you wish to assist in promoting the event, please let Judy Wohlfrom (wohlfrom@pacbell.net) know of your interest and how you would like to help.





VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

By Carla Cox

The new year is just around the corner and 2022 will be an important election year for Woodland and Yolo County voters.

There are a number of county-wide seats on the June 7, 2022, ballot, including Yolo County District Attorney, Yolo County Sheriff-Coroner, Yolo County Superintendent of Schools, and Yolo County Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Registrar of Voters. All Yolo County voters will be voting for these four offices, so we are planning to work with our sister chapter, LWV Davis Area, on these candidate forums.

The seat for the Yolo County Supervisor representing the third district is also up for election on the June ballot. That district does not include Davis, so it is up to our chapter to present the candidate forum for voters in that district, which includes the southern portion of Woodland and surrounding rural areas as well as part of West Sacramento.

Later in the year, the November 8 ballot will include two Woodland city council positions, four WJUSD board of trustee positions, one Yuba Community College District trustee position, and one Yolo County Board of Education trustee position. We will have a busy fall as we plan and present those forums. The U.S. congressional representative and State Assembly member offices will also be on the ballot and will present two additional opportunities to collaborate with other league chapters.

Our candidate forums are one of our key endeavors in furthering our mission of encouraging informed and active participation of citizens in government. We hope to have as many LWV Woodland members as possible step forward to take part in planning and implementing these forums. Candidate forums are fun and exciting, and it is rewarding to know that you are providing important information to voters in our community so they can make informed choices.

OUR LEAGUE HISTORY



MEMBERS' MEMORIES

Below are two more stories from long-time Woodland League members as part of our on-going series of members' memories. As noted previously, we plan to also post such memories as an archive on our league's website for future members to enjoy and learn from. Please contact Lorna Carriveau (carriveaul@att.net) if you would like to share your league memories.

[Please note that we respect everyone's opinions, and the opinions and/or concerns expressed by our members do not necessarily reflect League views or positions.]



MY LEAGUE HISTORY

By Evelia Genera

I have been a league member since 2012, and was inspired to join when I attended the "State of Our Community" luncheon that year. The league's mission of access to voting for all was and continues to be the driving force behind my ongoing membership. It was this primary goal which led me to work with our league on high school voter registration. As I did more research on the national League's website, I realized how critical the league is to promoting and maintaining our democratic ideals and system of

government for the people BY the people.

My involvement in our community started prior to my joining the league. I have always believed in "by the people" and have been active in facilitating positive change for the common good whenever possible. I have never taken my rights for granted, but have learned that "we the people," i.e., me, must continue to fight to keep our/my rights. History has proven that we – all of us – must work together to fight for our rights and the rights of others. The League of Women Voters exemplifies this ideal and has demonstrated the power of women coming together to fight for and defend our God-given rights by using our voice and acting upon our beliefs.

In our league, I have served as co-treasurer, co-president, member of local studies, coordinator of high school voter registration, and as an official observer to

the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. I have assisted with socials, annual meetings and membership.

My special memory about the league is supporting other members with other interests that also are supported and endorsed by the League of Women Voters. Some of these areas include climate change and Woodland's master plan. I have also spoken on behalf of the Woodland League at City Council meetings on issues impacting our community.

My league activities have also overlapped with my other volunteer efforts. I have served on a number of community advisory boards and committees. Specifically, the Flood Advisory and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for foster youth. For several years I was the league's representative on the Yolo County ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) community advisory board on the Youth Leadership development conference.

I am most proud of the league's high school voter registration project, which I have worked on since 2016. During that time, Woodland League volunteers have presented our national League of Women Voters' curriculum to every Government and Economics classroom in Woodland's comprehensive schools. This would not have been possible had it not been for the support of our WJUSD Government/Economics teachers. An average of 300 voter applications were submitted to the Yolo County Elections office each year. That's approximately 1,800 applications. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic this project came to a halt in 2020.

Going forward, I would like to see our league develop an online program to register high school students to vote. My recommendation would be to have seniors participate in a presentation on the history of voter registration and the value of their voice prior to registering to vote.

Lastly, I would encourage anyone who is interested in maintaining our democracy and working to keep it alive by joining the Woodland League of Women Voters.

MY LIFE AND THE LEAGUE

By Lucinda Talkington

My formative years were spent in San Francisco during the 1950's and 1960's. My parents were community activists, musicians and artists. As a teen in my home, I witnessed many planning meetings for marches and other events. I feel quite fortunate I was surrounded by people who were passionate about their beliefs. In the 1970's, my husband, three small children and I moved to Woodland. In the 1980's, I started a resource and support group for the visually impaired and blind, which is now incorporated and still very active. I also finished my education at U.C. Davis. The ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) passed in 1990, so I can now "fly."



In the early 1990's, I discovered the League of Women Voters of Woodland. It was a community-activist group, non-partisan, and every person had a chance to

be involved with the league, such as working on fundraising, leading forums, doing studies, taking people to meetings, and on and on. Most importantly, I stayed on because I found the members to be passionate about their subjects of interest; for example, water, the environment and community issues. The members – women and men – inspire me now.

To support the league, I chose major fundraising activities, such as putting on luncheons, getting sponsors, selling tickets, reserving locations, purchasing food, cooking, setting up and putting away, etc. For my first three years I was on the committee and, after that training, I became Chair for approximately 20 years. I loved helping! I have also always tried to be present at events, presentations, forums, etc.

My special memories are of the luncheons. The camaraderie and networking among many of our league members and guests as well as between the guests and other guests have always been great fun. For me and others, doors have been opened!

FROM OUR PAST

By Lorna Carriveau

In keeping with our current focus on redistricting efforts, below is an excerpt from A View of Yolo County's History & Government published by the League in 1980 about Yolo County's government.

A look at the historical development of government in Yolo County is a look at stability. The Board of Supervisors, as described in the Constitution in 1850, with five persons representing five distinct areas by population, continues to serve its constituents as it did almost 130 years ago. While political parties have seen their popularities ebb and wane over the years, the basic process of government by local representation has remained historically intact. The size of government has changed proportionally with increased population, and the organization of administration of services has changed with the increasing complexity. In fact, the entire County administration was restructured in 1978-79 to make governmental decisions more clearly based on budgetary considerations.



**STATE/NATIONAL LEAGUE
AND COMMUNITY NEWS**



BUSY OCTOBER 2021

October 2021 was very busy for the national League. The following is a brief list of how the national League encouraged members to encourage voter rights last month by:

- Attending an October 19 event asking members to demand that the President work to pass voting rights legislation;
- Meeting at the U.S. Capitol Building on October 19 to help deliver petitions to allow statehood for Washington, D.C.;
- Supporting or attending a Freedom to Vote relay from West Virginia to Washington, D.C., that began on October 20; and
- Attending the virtual Women Power Democracy panel on October 20 as well.

Click on this link – [lwv.org](https://www.lwv.org) – to learn more.

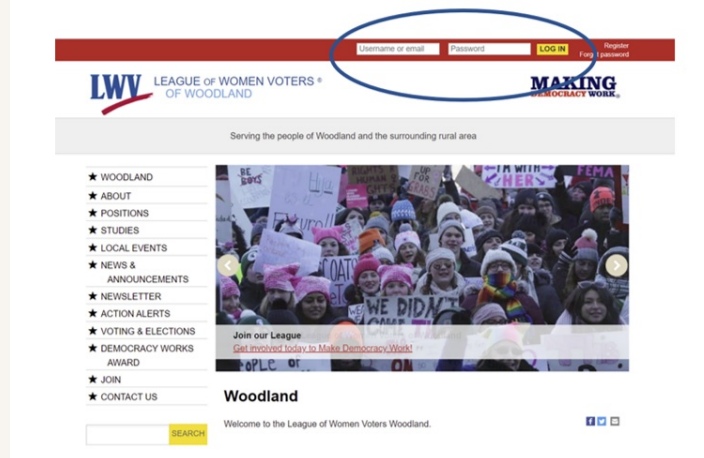
NEW CIVICS AND NEWS LITERACY GAME

Not sure of what's true in the news anymore? Concerned that young friends or family members may become disenchanted, disengaged and disenfranchised from understanding civics and the importance – and fragility – of democracy?

The League of Women Voters of Alameda has created an online, single-player game available on a computer or smart phone that is designed to help young voters and voters-to-be evaluate the accuracy and bias of the news media they read, hear and share, understand and exercise their voting rights in California, and be more informed citizens. This game isn't just for young people, though, since we are all susceptible to believing mis- or disinformation.

Click here - [Citizenship Game](#) - for more information about this game.

STAY IN TOUCH



WOODLAND LEAGUE WEBSITE – MEMBERS’ ONLY ACCESS

Below are instructions for league members to set up their “Members Only” site on our league website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/city-woodland>. NOTE: Before starting this process, if you have more than one email account, be sure that you use the one you gave the league when you became a member.

Use this link - <https://my.lwv.org/user/password> - to reach the page that allows you to request a password. You will enter your own email address in the box as directed. As directed, “answer” the robot, then click in the yellow box at the bottom that says “e-mail new password”.

You will be sent an email message from My League Online. So, go to your own email In Box and follow the link/instructions from the email message there which will include further instructions, including:

- Click on the link;
- Fill out your new password as prompted. Your password must be at least 10 characters long and should combine both lower- and upper-case letters and characters;
- Fill in as much information in your profile as you would like on the profile;
- “Answer” the robot;
- Click SAVE.

This process has now logged you onto the league website; another name for the website you may occasionally see or read is MyLO. Make sure that you remember/store your password to the website. You will now have access to the “Members Only” section of our website. Click on the Members Only name in the upper right-hand corner of our home page, and you will be able to access the league’s Membership Roster, current By-Laws and other useful information.

WOODLAND LEAGUE BOARD

President: Karen Urbano

Vice President (Membership): Catherine Portman

Secretary: **Vacant** (Lorna Carriveau, Acting)

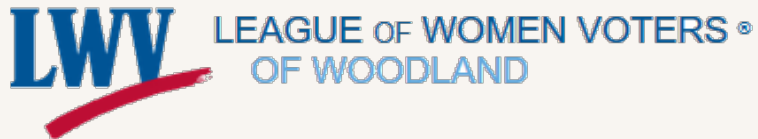
Treasurer: Carla Cox

Director for Events/Volunteer Coordination: Judy Wohlfrom

Director for Voter Services/Voter Registration: **Vacant**

Director for Voter Services/Voter Education: **Vacant**

Director for Communications/THE VOTER Editor: Lorna Carriveau
Director for Communications/Website Management, Publicity and Social Media:
Pat Butler
Directors for Studies/Positions: Elizabeth Kemper, Janet Ruggiero
Nomination Committee: Barbara Morrison (Chair), Janet Ruggiero, Lucinda
Talkington
Finance Committee: Judy Simas (Chair), Maria Lago, Evelia Genera



**P.O. Box 2463
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