



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 24, Issue 1

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org



Program Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 1:45-4:00 pm.

Bennett Valley Senior Center
704 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Please join us for this important meeting. We want your input on two major areas:

- The National League's recommended Program: The Campaign for ***Making Democracy Work***, which encompasses
 - Voting Rights
 - Improving Elections
 - Campaign Finance/Money in Politics
 - Redistricting
- Our local League's priorities on Rebuilding Sonoma County. Where should the League focus in order to assist the rebuilding of our county?

Bring your ideas, expertise and enthusiasm!
We hope to see you there!

President's Message



From
Rebecca Jones
LWVSC President

Happy 2018 to you all! As we move into a new year, we are beginning to gear up in a number of areas.

January 27 we will have a member meeting for our 2018-2019 Program Planning. Last year, we had an excellent meeting concentrating on the program priorities for California. This year, we will be focusing on the national, LWVUS priorities of Making Democracy Work. This includes the following priorities: Voting Rights, Redistricting, Campaign Finance and Improving Elections. We will be discussing how we can support these priorities locally. In addition we will discuss local issues such as housing/homelessness, immigration, climate, and upcoming election activities. One of the LWVC priorities is the Make it Fair campaign which is a move to get an initiative on the ballot for 2018 to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Proposition 13. For more information on this, see <https://lwvc.org/our-work/issues/government/make-it-fair-campaign>.

The January 27 meeting will be from 1:45-4:00 at the Bennett Valley Senior Center. More details will be out shortly but be sure to mark

your calendar for this important meeting where your input is critical.

February 10 we will be holding a three hour facilitator training session on Civil Discourse. We have seen a serious degradation of civil dialogue in our politics and in our society. This class will help us take some first steps in getting the skills to improve the way we speak and interact with others especially those that we do not agree with. I believe that this is an opportunity for League members to be an even more influential and positive force within our community. The class will be from 1:00-4:00 at the Bennett Valley Senior Center and will cost \$25. Please see the article on Civil Discourse in this edition of the Voter.

In **March** we will have our Spring Luncheon. This is always a very special and popular event with an engaging speaker. Our speaker will address the local issues that our county is facing as a result of the October fires. More information will be forthcoming.

March/April we will be taking part in a library panel program on Women's Rights. Our League has agreed to partner with the Sonoma County Libraries for the important series 'Together at the Table' which will be scheduling several different forums. The two Women's Rights forums will be held at the Rincon Valley Library and the other at the Sebastopol Library. Times and dates to follow.

The upcoming primary and general elections of the year will include candidate forums for Sheriff and ballot initiatives. There will be much to do around voter registration, get out the vote, and voter education.

As you can see, we have a busy year in front of us. I hope you all had a peaceful and rejuvenating holiday season filled with gratitude for what we have and hope for what can be.

Civil Discourse Facilitator Training

In today's world the negative, destructive and confrontational approach to communicating seems to be the norm. This incivility creates division and inhibits practical problem solving in our country. The Civil Discourse movement is aimed at reviving civility in our public discourse and addressing the need to change the tone of our current politics.

Our League is holding a three hour facilitator training session on **February 10, 2018 from 1:00-4:00 at the Bennett Valley Senior Center. The cost will be \$25.** We are inviting our League members as well as members from other organizations in the community. We hope to begin to build a group of community minded people whose skills can foster conversations that bring together people of different political views so that they can listen to each other, build relationships and talk about ways to work together to solve problems. This class will be our first step at establishing civil discourse skills. From there, we as a League will begin to formulate how best to develop and use these skills.

If you are interested, please email Rebecca Jones at rebbelle.jones@gmail.com and mail your \$25 registration fee to the following address by January 19 in order to secure your spot! We will need your email address in order to send class materials to you before the class date.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SONOMA COUNTY
555 FIFTH STREET, SUITE 300
SANTA ROSA, CA 95401

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

Together at the Table--Climate Change
Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 6-7:30 pm.,
Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library
Monday, January 22, 7-8:30pm.
Sonoma Valley Regional Library

Program Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 1:45-4:00 pm.
Bennett Valley Senior Center
704 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Civil Discourse Facilitator Training

Saturday, February 10, 2018, 1:00-4:00pm.
Bennett Valley Senior Center.
704 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Together at the Table--Blackness in America

Wednesday, January 31, 7-8:30pm.
Roseland Community Library
Wednesday, February 28, 7-8:30pm.
Forum Room, Petaluma Regional Library.

Lunch with the League

March—Watch this space for more information

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting:

1st Tuesday, 10-noon.

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

2nd Wednesday, 10:30-noon

Book Club:

3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

Voter Service Committee Meeting:

4th Thursday, 10-noon.

LWVSC meetings are held in the third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office, 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon request. All other meetings are open.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.

Advocacy Notes

The committee has been concentrating on immigration and citizenship lately and anticipates having a speaker at its January meeting. There is a need to encourage immigrants to understand political issues and to vote. Other than that we continue to closely watch the topics of housing and homelessness. Additionally we had a brief report on the California league's work on bills in the legislature. Currently, the league is supporting 85 bills in line with its Positions, which alphabetically range from air quality to water. The position having the most supported bills (7) is voting rights.

Next meeting on January 10 at 10:30.

Gene Zingarelli, Advocacy Committee Chair
action@lwvsonoma.org

We're Having an Impact

An article in the SRJC *Oakleaf* on Housing referenced the League report on housing several times. Here is the link if you want to read the article:

<https://www.theoakleafnews.com/news/2018/01/03/should-i-stay-or-should-i-go/>

Membership Notes

League welcomed 26 new members in 2017.

Welcome New Members!

**Mary Jordan
Barbara Riley**

We're so glad you're here!

Sonoma County League Will Partner with the Library for

"Together At The Table"



"Together at the Table" is a grant-funded program offered by the Sonoma County Library scheduled throughout the coming year. These evening events will provide space for dialogue and reflection on specific topics of community interest. In Spring (date to be determined) the League will provide input on the topic of Women's Rights.

The following topics have been scheduled: for 2018:

Climate Change

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 6-7:30pm,

Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library

Monday, January 22, 7-8:30pm, Sonoma Valley Regional Library

Blackness in America

Wednesday, January 31, 7-8:30pm, Roseland Community Library

Wednesday, February 28, 7-8:30pm, Forum Room, Petaluma Regional Library.

Other topics that will be scheduled in 2018 are Women's Rights, LGBTQI and Income Inequality.

For more information on the program go to the following websites:

[.Sonomalibrary.org/togetheratthetable](http://Sonomalibrary.org/togetheratthetable)

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/7645183-181/sonoma-county-library-program-highlights?artslide=0>

Board Briefs

December, 2017

Victoria Fleming, Secretary

- A check was made out to Redwood Credit Union for \$1,000 for LWVSC support of the fire recovery efforts.
- Civil Discourse Proposal—The LWVSC has agreed to move forward with planning a February 10th workshop with a \$25 fee.
- Library Program – There will be two Spring 2018 meetings at different locations in Sonoma County. The LWVSC will present with the lead of Nancy Burrington about the role of the LWV in promoting the empowerment of women.
- A Program Planning meeting will be set for January 27th Bennett Valley Senior Center at 1:45 pm. The League is being asked by LVWUS to focus on National Program initiatives around Making Democracy Work.
- Spring Lake Village forum in February—Susan Rouder is working to secure a speaker for this engagement.
- Holiday party—December 9th at 2pm at La Rosa. Raffle tickets for wine and book and giving tree will be there to aid in fundraising.
- March Luncheon— Plans to set date, speaker and venue. Susan Rouder and Mary Virdeh are working to secure a speaker and a venue.
- Advocacy looking to explore if the LWV might speak about citizenship during classes held through Catholic Charities.
- Climate Change--Barbara Moulton participated in an event with 25 local environmental groups.
- Discussion and planning venues for upcoming debates and forums for upcoming Sheriff's race.
- The LVWUS will apply for a grant to go into schools to teach about voting.
- Voters' Edge position has been filled by Marie Wardell. Additional positions will be advertised early next year in the Press Democrat.
- Membership will be adding information to new member survey in order to match new members with areas for their participation.

DEMOCRACY is NOT a Spectator Sport
Get Involved with YOUR Government

Holiday Party

We gather to celebrate good friends and our accomplishments for 2017, and to look forward to the New Year as Sonoma County begins to heal and we carry on with our work to defend our democracy.



One of the highlights, the raffle of a bottle of Equality Vines new Suffragette Wine



From our National League

I want to share some of our top moments from the past year when you and other League supporters rallied to restore power in our democracy:

1. **Women's March:** In January, thousands of League supporters were among the marchers in Washington, DC, and cities and towns across the country — sending a powerful message that women's rights are human rights.
2. **National Voter Registration Day:** For the 6th year in a row, the League of Women Voters was the largest on-the-ground participant in National Voter Registration Day, registering more than 11,000 voters.
3. **VOTE411.org:** More than 1 million people used the League's VOTE411.org website to find election information and search on nearly 13,000 candidates in over 7,000 races.
4. ***Gill v. Whitford*:** In October, the League rallied outside the Supreme Court as it heard oral arguments in *Gill v. Whitford*, a landmark case challenging Wisconsin's congressional redistricting process.
5. **President Trump's so called 'Election Integrity' Commission:** The League mobilized thousands to rally against this Commission's

voter suppression efforts — from calling on state leaders to oppose the voter data requested by this Commission, to getting over 9,000 signatures on our online petition.

6. Changing the Rules at the Federal Election Commission:

The League collected over 12,000 petition signatures asking the FEC to require online campaign ads to include disclaimers about who is paying for them. The FEC unanimously agreed to move forward with updating the rules so that we know who is paying for online political ads.

7. Defending the Affordable Care Act:

All year long, the League mobilized our networks to defend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and ensure those in need of insurance were informed about the ACA's open enrollment period.

This year, you helped the League of Women Voters prove that we have the resolve, the vision, and the capability to defend our democracy.



From the Office

In this section of the newsletter, we will share some of the informative and interesting items found in our office. Some of the “best finds” are about the history of League of Women Voters of Sonoma County. These paper records are stored in boxes. (No computer archives yet...)

Among the boxed treasures is a scrapbook which contains newspaper clippings beginning in 1951. One of the first clippings is the following article and a photo of the first board of directors:

League of Women Voters Organizes S.R. Chapter

A meeting to organize a Santa Rosa chapter of the League of Women Voters will be held at 8 pm Sept 12 in Santa Rosa. At that time officers and directors will be elected, by-laws adopted and a program for the coming year outlined.

At a pre-organizational meeting attended by 21 Santa Rosa women, Ruth Bates, Santa Rosa attorney was appointed temporary organizational chairman.

Conducting the meeting were Mrs. C. Raymond Clar, Sacramento, the northern vice president of LWV California and state chairman of the organizational committee and Mrs Hugh Rodman, member of the committee and past-president of the Mill Valley chapter.

The two women will name members of a local organizational committee which will be composed of nominating, by-laws and

program committees. Miss Bates, prime mover in establishing the chapter, said it would be on a provisional basis for one year, and its required program for the first year is a study of some phase of city government.

She emphasized that the league is “absolutely non-partisan,” its primary purpose being “to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

Members will invite candidates of all parties to express their view on issues before elections and will seek to inform the public by means of public forums, panel discussions, rallies, radio programs or newspaper and magazine stories.

All interested women are invited to attend the meeting which will be held at a place to be announced.

There are local leagues in 43 states and the District of Columbia, Hawaii and Alaska.





On the World Wide Web

Did you sign up for the Affordable Care Act? Many people did during the latest open season.
<https://www.politico.com/story/2017/12/21/healthcare-signups-surpass-expectations-312406>

How is the new tax bill going to affect your taxes? I think mine will be lowered by \$20.

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/13/politics/calculate-americans-taxes-senate-reform-bill/index.html>

Our recent fires have caused many people to consider. Where do we build our houses?

https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/12/15/california-needs-to-rethink-urban-fire-risk-starting-with-where-it-builds-houses/?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20171215NewsDaily&mc_key=003i000000WG2RjAAL

To receive Facebook updates as they happen, be sure to “Like” our LWVSC Facebook page! We'd be glad to be one of your friends.

Book Club Reads

January 18: Moderated by Mary Fricker

Astrophysics For People in a Hurry, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, 224 pages, 2017.

America's most approachable astrophysicist distills the past, present, and (theoretical) future of the cosmos into a quick and thoroughly enjoyable read for a general audience.

February 15: Moderated by Carole Sunlight

Quakeland: On the Road to America's Next Devastating Earthquake, Kathryn Miles, 368 pages, 2017.

We have been making enormous changes to subterranean America, and Mother Earth, as always, has been making some of her own. . . . The consequences for our real estate, our civil engineering, and our communities will be huge because they will include earthquakes most of us do not expect and cannot imagine—at least not without reading *Quakeland*. Kathryn Miles descends into mines in the Northwest, dissects Mississippi levee engineering studies, uncovers the horrific risks of an earthquake in the Northeast, and interviews the seismologists, structural engineers, and emergency managers around the country who are addressing this ground shaking threat

The 2018 Reading list is online at <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2018.pdf>

Please join us.

LWVSC Board of Directors

Rebecca Jones, **President**

Anita Lytle, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

Victoria Fleming, **Secretary**

Terry Wall, **Treasurer**

Gayle McKinney Peterson,

Membership Chair

Chlele Gummer, **Media Outreach**

Donna Roper, **Voter Service**

Mary Virdeh, **Program**

Nancy Burrington, **Member-at-large**

Juanita Roland, **Editor**

Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website. www.lwvsonoma.org

Connect with the League



LWVSC

www.lwvsonoma.org

www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty

LWV of Bay Area

<http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California

www.ca.lwv.org

LWV of the United States

www.lwv.org

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

Voter's Edge

<http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

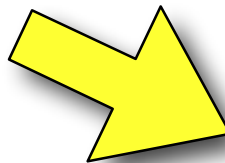
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.

Tell us what you think!
Send in your comments,
questions, and
suggestions.
Email, snail-mail, or call!

We want to hear from you!

*Become a Member of the
LWV of Sonoma County*



**JOIN
NOW**

or

**Make a
DONATION**

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Memberships Levels

<i>Susan B. Anthony</i> Individual Membership	\$65
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$100
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt</i> Membership	\$200 or more

**Membership dues and donations
are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law**

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

Voter Registration

Housing/Homelessness

Newsletter

Candidate Forums

Climate Change

Website Management

Transportation

Immigration

Local Governance

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

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The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.