



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 24, Issue 5

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org



Saturday June 2, 2018

9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Finley Community Center, Cypress Room

2060 College Avenue, Santa Rosa

AGENDA

Registration and Coffee

Business Meeting

Lunch, followed by Speaker

GUEST SPEAKER: SHERIFF GIORDANO

We are pleased to have Sheriff Giordano speak to our organization. He did an impressive job during the confusion and pressure of the October fires. He has been asked to give his perspective of the events during that tragedy. He also has a valuable insight into what is needed for our community in meeting future needs during unexpected events that challenge Sonoma County as well as policies dealing with the undocumented immigrant members of our community.

Please Bring...

For lunch bring a salad or dessert to share, and your own plate, utensils, and cup. League will provide the bread and beverages, including and goodies to be served at registration.

President's Message



From
Rebecca Jones
LWVSC President

The last couple of months have been incredibly busy for our League. In March we had new member meetings, tabled at events, heard from Susan Gorin at Spring Lake Village, had our Spring Luncheon and did a lot of planning for the upcoming primary election. In April, we held or took part in three Sheriffs' forums, one Clerk-Recorder-Assessor forum, tabled at more events, spoke to students at schools, did an interview on KBBF to publicize the League and spoke at library events. In May, we will be doing two Pros and Cons on ballot initiatives, and will hear from Mike Thompson at Spring Lake Village. I can't thank our members enough who have put so much time and effort into putting all of this together!

As we move toward the end of our fiscal year that ends on June 30, we are planning our Annual Meeting on June 2 which is an important voting member meeting. We will be voting on small changes to our Positions, the nominations for board members for the new year, the budget for the 2018-2019 year and our local program priorities for the new year. This is a great opportunity for some of our committee members to give us updates on what they have been working on and to get your inputs on our priorities. Your participation is important.

Once we have finished the business portion of the meeting, we will be welcoming our guest speaker, Sheriff Giordano. He will be speaking on the many issues related to the Sheriff's department as well as commenting on the fire.

We will allow plenty of time for questions. Keep in mind that we cannot have him comment on the candidates for the Sheriff's race since we cannot appear to endorse or oppose any candidates.

In mid-May, we will send out a link to the annual meeting kit which will contain the agenda, the changes to our Positions, our Budget for the upcoming year, the list of Nominees for board positions and our program priorities. Please review these before the meeting.

As is tradition, our annual meeting is a potluck. So please come, bring a snack or dish to share and plan on taking part in an interesting and informative meeting to wrap up our busy year.

Voting Information for Those Displaced by the Fires

The following site provides extensive information on how to register and vote for those displaced by the October 2017 wild fire. Please share with anyone you know who may need this. .

<http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CRA/News/Voters-Displaced-By-The-October-2017-Wildfires/>

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

Ballot Measures Pros and Cons

Saturday, May 12, 2-3:00 pm.

Earl Baum Center, Room 3, [4539 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401](#)

Wednesday, May 16, 7-8:00 pm.

Rincon Valley Regional Library, [6959 Montecito Blvd, Santa Rosa, CA 95409](#)

LWV Sonoma County Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 2, 9:30 am.-2:00 pm.

Finley Center, Cypress Room, [2060 College Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401](#)

Election Day

Tuesday, June 5

See our [website](#) for other important election dates and information and links to videos of forums, or go to [Voters Edge](#) .

53rd National LWV Convention

Thursday, June 28--Sunday, July 1, Chicago

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting: 1st Tuesday, 10-noon.

Advocacy Committee Meeting: 2nd Wednesday, 10:30-noon

Outreach Committee Meeting: 2nd Thursday, 10:00-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 to all.

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

Regional Measure 3 on June Ballot

RM3 on the June ballot increases the tolls on the seven state-owned bridges in the Bay Area by up to \$1 in January 2019, \$1 in 2012, and \$1 in 2025. Drivers who cross two bridges during commute hours will get a 50% discount on the toll increase on the second bridge. The Golden Gate Bridge is not state-owned, so is not affected by RM3. The revenue will be used for transportation improvements in the nine-county Bay Area. About 69% of the \$4.5 billion spending plan will go to transit improvements and 31% to highway projects.

Sonoma County residents are expected to pay about 2% of the increased tolls. Items that benefit Sonoma County in the spending plan include \$40 million toward extending SMART to Healdsburg, \$120 million to widen Highway 101 between Petaluma Blvd. South and Novato, \$100 million to begin environmental and design studies for Highway 37 widening, and \$100 million for North Bay transit access improvements. There are also many projects in neighboring counties that will benefit Sonoma County Residents. Additional information on RM3 is available at <https://mtc.ca.gov/tags/regional-measure-3> and https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/RM_3_Ballot_Description_041218_Corrected.pdf.

The board of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area has voted to support RM3 and their letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission is at <http://lwvsonoma.org/regional-measure-3> along with a Pros and Cons for the Measure. Therefore, the LWVSC can also support RM3.

Submitted by Willard Richards

Members Corner Another Opportunity

Celebrate Cinco De Mayo



Under Our New Canopy

Our League will have a table at the Cinco De Mayo Celebration in Roseland on May 5th from 1:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

Some of the ten League members who volunteered at the April 21st Earth Day Festival had so much fun on the 21st that we are going to table again in Roseland. Come join us. Tabling at local events is a great way to reach out to our communities and increase the visibility of the League and the good work we do.

Please sign up for a tabling shift on May 5th in Roseland at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0945a4ae2aa3f49-srjc>. Have questions or need more information -- call or email Gayle McKinney-Peterson or Debbie Mc Kay.

Questions? Contact Debbie McKay: membership@lwvsonoma.org or 707-546-5943



Does My Vote Make Any Difference?

Do you ever feel your vote really doesn't matter? A lot of our citizens appear to be skipping voting. Only about 60% of registered voters in California voted in the last election.

Each vote does matter!

Below are some examples of decisions that changed history and were determined by just one vote:

- 1800: 1 VOTE made Thomas Jefferson president instead of Aaron Burr
- 1850: 1 VOTE admitted California and Oregon into the United States
- 1868: 1 VOTE saved President Andrew Johnson from Impeachment
- 1876: 1 VOTE made Rutherford B. Hayes a United States President and 1 VOTE elected the Indiana Electoral College member who voted for Hayes
- 1910: 1 VOTE decided the Congressional election in New York.

- 1920: 1 VOTE in the Tennessee legislature ratified the 19th amendment and gave women the right to vote.
- 1941: 1 VOTE kept the military draft operational just weeks before Pearl Harbor

Every Vote Counts, so use yours!

Submitted by Debbie McKay

Changes in the Voting Process Coming

“Sonoma County voters will likely see a new ballot format and new equipment at the polls beginning next year...” begins a report in the *Press Democrat* on April 13, 2018. The informative article, “Voting Gets Tech Treatment” by Guy Kovner, can be read at <http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/8213200-181/sonoma-county-previews-high-tech-voting>



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SONOMA COUNTY**

PROS & CONS OF THE JUNE 5 BALLOT MEASURES

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018
7 P.M. - 8 P.M.**

**RINCON VALLEY LIBRARY
6959 MONTECITO BLVD, SANTA ROSA**

***DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!
BE AN EDUCATED VOTER***

**www.lwvsonoma.org
707-546-5943**

Welcome New Members!

Beth Hadley
Alisa Goldberg
Beth Ann Mathews
Ingeborg Penner
Carolyn Sybelle
Janice Cader Thompson

We're so glad you're here!

Busy Times for Voter Service

A core value of the League of Women Voters is an informed electorate. That's why we feel so strongly about providing forums on the candidates, as well as ballot measures. The sheriff's race was important this year because it is the first time since in 25 years that we have the opportunity to vote for the office. In the past, the sheriff has retired early and the person who has taken his place, got the job. We held two forums - both in the unincorporated areas - Graton and Sonoma since the sheriff plays a huge role in the security of those areas of the county.

We also held a forum for the position of Clerk, Recorder, Assessor, Registrar of Voters as the League feels this position is crucial to ensuring honest and fair elections. With the political pressure from the White

House about illegal voting, this position is vital in Sonoma County.

Finally, on May 16th, the League will present the Pros and Cons forum which looks at the positive and negative aspects of each of the ballot measures. We also discuss who is backing each measure and how it is financed. This event will be held at the Rincon Valley Library from 7-8 pm. There are five state measures, four local measures and one regional measure on transportation.

There will be a links on the [Voter's Edge](#) and on the [League website](#) to any of the forums that have or will be taped. Visit them for more information.

Submitted by Donna Roper



Sheriff's Forum at Graton

Clerk, Recorder, Assessor,
Registrar of Voters Forum

[Link to Video](#)



Students Use League's Homeless/Affordable Housing Report

On Thurs., April 19th the students at Northwest Prep Charter School did a community presentation on Homelessness in Sonoma County where they answered their driving question: “Who are the homeless, how did they get there, and how can we help those in Sonoma County?” This presentation was the culmination of a semester long project, and began with a rapid fire 15 minute student presentation of facts about homelessness. After a brief presentation by Becky Margiotta, former director of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, on how they housed 100,000 low income people in New York, the students and audience moved out to the courtyard to see the various information booths set up by the students where they shared preliminary ideas on how to prevent homelessness. Our local League's report on Homelessness/Affordable Housing was a resource document used by many of the students in developing their presentations. For more information on the student projects go to <https://theinquiryteam.weebly.com/>.



Submitted by Debbie McKay

Together at the Table



The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County partnered with: ACLU of Northern California,, Sonoma County Chapter of National Organization of Women, National Women's History Project, and YWCA of Sonoma County, and the County of Sonoma Commission on the

Status of Women to discuss issues related to the status of women at the Rincon Valley Regional Library.



Member Profile

Donna Roper

Voter Service Chair



Donna Roper, the busy Chair of the League's Voter Services Committee, has had at the center of her professional and volunteer life education and service to others. Her involvement in social justice issues began in high school. After leaving the Boston area, where she grew up with three sisters, she traveled to San Francisco to continue her education in psychology at San Francisco State University. With a degree in hand, she began a career with the YMCA that lasted 25 years. While at the Y, she earned a master's degree in education that led to her setting up childcare centers and other educational programs in San Francisco.

Continuing her ability to select wonderful parts of the west to work and live, Donna transferred to the YMCA of Honolulu. After four years, in 2002, she returned to the mainland and settled in Sonoma County,

where she lives in a weekend home she had purchased years before.

In Sonoma County she began working at the Volunteer Center, Camp Okizu, a camp for children with cancer, and finally the River to Coast Children's Services (RCCS). Donna continues to work part time for the RCCS, a social service organization, which provides services for young families, importantly including subsidized child care for low income children.

Donna calls herself a professional volunteer. Currently, she is in the local Rotary Club, President of the Board for Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, and works as the de facto librarian at the Guerneville school. Her focus has been on the west county where she believes there are a lot of needs and not enough resources.

When not volunteering and serving others, Donna loves to travel. Each year she drives from California to Prince Edward Island, Canada, camping along the way and visiting friends. When at home she loves to garden and is in two book clubs.

Donna initially got involved with the League by helping to distribute voter registration cards in western Sonoma County and then becoming a moderator for some of the candidate forums. Now she is the League's Voter Services Chair, organizing candidate forums for the 2018 local elections. The League is fortunate to have someone in this position who is so committed to education, including the education of voters. We are also fortunate that Donna has an abundance of energy.

Submitted by Susan Rouder

Board Briefs

From April 3, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am with Rebecca Jones presiding. A quorum was established with seven Officers/Directors attending, three absent, and two non-board members present.

- ✓ Agenda and minutes of March 6 approved.
- ✓ Finances were reviewed. Budget inputs were requested for a committee meeting on April 18. Rebecca Jones and Gayle Peterson will attend the CA convention and be reimbursed to the extent agreed in the budget.
- ✓ Susan Novak provided a list of officer nominees for 2018-2019. Work will continue to complete nominations. Officers are voted in at the annual meeting.
- ✓ Rebecca will do an interview with Elaine Holtz on KBBF and highlight League events.
- ✓ Rebecca and Nancy Burrington met and reviewed our Positions and Policies and Procedures. Minor changes were reviewed, approved and changes to Positions will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual meeting. Discussion on whether roster updates should be sent to all members revealed the fact that the number of members clicking through to view The Voter is shockingly low. Suggestions for how to get feedback on The Voter will be taken up when there is more time. Copies of the updated Positions and Policies will be posted to the website.
- ✓ Rebecca expressed concern about the tone of the messaging supplied in the instructions for *Schools and Communities First* petitions as being strident and partisan. After discussion it was agreed that she would draft a resolution to be sent to the CA Presidents "chatroom" expressing our concerns

- ✓ Donna Roper reported on the planned forums for the June primary. Classroom visits for registering and preregistering students have been arranged for SRJC, Rancho Cotati HS and Casa Grande HS. Nancy B, Judy Levy and Julee Fullenwider will continue as contacts to the Sheriff's Forum we are co-sponsoring with the CAC of IOLERO. Marie Wardell is continuing to work on Voters Edge. Rebecca will send out a Mail Chimp reminding of all the upcoming forums.
- ✓ Annual meeting is set for June 2 at the Finley Center. Dissatisfaction was expressed about the League Luncheon. Other venues will be considered when time allows.
- ✓ Susan Rouder will pursue a meeting with Los Cien to explore how we can work together with them on issues
- ✓ Gene Zingarelli reported on a paper on the "Housing/Homeless Crisis" produced by Debbie McKay of the League and members of Santa Rosa Together and Homeless Action. It was approved that the group would work toward presenting the paper to the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Rosa City Council. Gene and Judy Levy will present voter registration information to 4 citizenship classes.
- ✓ Gayle Peterson requested a low-income membership and it was approved. She identified some immediate expenses for tabling and will submit ongoing expenses to the budget committee. Immediate expenses of \$500 were approved.
- ✓ Anita will be collecting and mailing petitions for the *Schools and Communities* petitions if they are brought to the office.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20.

Submitted by Nancy Burrington

Advocacy Notes

As usual we discuss many topics of which I'll report on three:

1) SB10: This bill in the State Senate would address racial and economic disparities in the pretrial system and not hold people in jail only because they cannot afford bail. This bill is supported by the LWV California.

2) Citizenship classes: Two members are presenting at the classes in the County to emphasize the importance of registering and voting, since only 18% of Latino citizens voted in the last election.

3) Regional Measure 3: This will be on the June ballot for the nine bay area counties. It would increase the bridge tolls (not the Golden Gate Bridge) by \$1/year for three years. The benefits to Sonoma County travelers are funds for widening 101 here and in Marin County, extending the SMART train to Healdsburg and beginning funding for the improvement of Highway 37. This measure is supported by LWV Bay Area.

Next meeting on May 10 at 10:30.

Gene Zingarelli, Advocacy Committee Chair
action@lwvsonoma.org



The League of Women Voters at the Earth Day Festival

We had a chance to try out our new professional canopy at the April 21st Earth Day Festival where we registered people to vote, had over 30 people sign our Schools and Communities First ballot initiative petition, and children voted for their favorite earth picture. Membership brochures, government guides and voter information was distributed. We let everyone know about our upcoming sheriff candidates' forum on April 30th.

We encouraged voters to reduce their Voting Habits Footprint by voting by mail, which saves time, money and reduces gas emissions! Apply to vote by mail at: http://vote.sonoma-county.org/content.aspx?sid=1009&id=1052#VBM_application

We also suggested that voters save some trees by applying to access their Sample Ballots online at: https://secure.sonoma-county.org/vote/sample_ballot_pamphlet_receive_mail.aspx?sid=1070

Jaden Burris won our Guess How Many Marbles contest sponsored by La Vera Restaurant. La Vera located at 629 Fourth Street donated a \$25.00 gift certificate as the prize. Many thanks to the eight League volunteers who so capably staffed our booth: Mary Virdeh, Carolyn Sybelle, Ethel Schy, Judith Levy, Chlele Gummer, Nancy Lewis, Rick Luttmann, Shirley Sullivan, and to our co-coordinators Gayle McKinney-Peterson and Debbie Mc Kay.





Facing Questions Around Facebook

With all of the recent news surrounding Facebook's role in the 2016 elections and its handling of online users' data, you may wonder: Why even "go there" given concerns about privacy, the risk of data breaches and the realities of being manipulated and/or treated as a commodity by online advertisers? These are complex questions being discussed by many people in various venues these days.

Through creating Facebook [events](#) for the recent forums hosted by the local League, we have been able to reach additional participants by allowing individuals and community groups with Facebook pages, to "share" these events with others. You yourself can "like" an event, show that you are "interested" or "going" - And then share the events with your friends on your own page. As you share events and posts, you are increasing the reach of the League.

The League has a presence [locally](#), [state-wide](#) and [nationally](#) on Facebook, all with separate pages that you can search and "like" to follow. You can even search Facebook for other local chapters' pages and follow their posts. It can be interesting to read and participate in comments around any given post.

A recent Washington Post column called ["How Facebook Could Be A Force For Good"](#) shared [a study](#) that suggested that "social messaging on Facebook can be used to increase voter turnout, which is certainly valuable, but they also imply that social messages on Facebook may be useful for encouraging valuable behaviors in general. For instance, it's reasonable to expect that similar messages could be used to promote smoking cessation, physical activity, reduced truancy and many other positive actions. By partnering with governments to disseminate public service messages in a social way, Facebook may have another opportunity to improve the world."

So there are many ways in which Facebook benefits us, but we still need to be cautious and mindful of its use. In a recent Facebook post, we shared a piece in which KQED provided tips on ["Protecting Your Privacy Beyond Facebook"](#) for what you can do to manage your online presence wisely.

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

Submitted by Marjorie Lear

Book Club Reads

May 17: Moderated by Lee Lipinski

Ina Coolbrith, The Bittersweet Song of California's First Poet Laureate, Aleta George, 334 pages, 2015.

This book is a biography about a pioneer poet, Oakland's first public librarian and the most popular literary ambassador in the early American West. The book follows the struggles and triumphs of Coolbrith from her birth in 1841 as a niece of Joseph Smith to her death on the eve of the Great Depression as California's most beloved poet. Among her close friends were Bret Harte, Edwin Markham and Mark Twain.

June 21: Moderated by Ethel Schy

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind, Yuval Noah Harari, 443 pages, 2015.

Harari recounts how humans have developed from brutes to demigods in the course of their evolutionary history; a grand narrative, one would think, but he perceives it as a comic-tragedy, and details it with mordant humor. „,"Sapiens" is a characteristic work of "Big History" a relatively new field of research that spans everything from the Big Bang to speculations about the future . Harari is a lucid, charming writer, capable of encapsulating difficult concepts and complex stories and spinning them into a masterful synthesis.

July 19: Moderated by Juanita Roland

Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations, Thomas L. Friedman, 497 pages, 2016.

A work of contemporary history that serves as a field manual for how to write and think about this era of accelerations. It's also an argument for "being late"—for pausing to appreciate this amazing historical epoch we're passing through and to reflect on its possibilities and dangers. To amplify this point, Friedman revisits his Minnesota hometown in his moving concluding chapters; there, he explores how communities can create a "topsoil of trust" to anchor their increasingly diverse and digital populations.

August 16: Moderated by Carrie Anabo

Dark Money, Jane Mayer, 380 pages, 2016.

Jane Mayer shows in this meticulously reported history how a network of exceedingly wealthy people with extreme libertarian views bankrolled a systematic, step by step plan to fundamentally alter the American political system. The Koch brothers and some of the richest people on the planet formed a network whose core belief....that taxes are a form of tyranny; that government oversight of business is an assault on freedom...are sincerely held. But these beliefs also advance their personal and corporate interests.

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

Please join us.

LWVSC

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Rebecca Jones, **President**

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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



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LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California www.ca.lwv.org

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Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

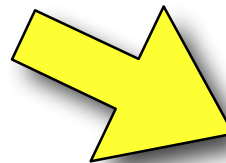
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

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*



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.

555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 546-5943

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