



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

December 2020

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President's Message

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Calendar

Tuesday, December 8, 2020
 10 a.m. to noon
 LWVSCC Board Meeting
 Virtual meeting via Jitsi
 To attend, email rsvp@lwvsc.org

Tuesday, January 8, 2021
 10 a.m. to noon
 LWVSCC Board Meeting
 Virtual meeting via Jitsi
 To attend, email rsvp@lwvsc.org

Monday, January 11, 2021
 2 p.m.
 Ending Human Trafficking
 Free and Open to the public
Presented by the Santa Cruz Chapter of American Association of University Women
 Register at santacruz-ca.aauw.net

Tuesday, January 26, 2021
 1 to 3 p.m.
 State Program Planning
 Virtual Meeting
 Meeting details will be sent in January

Note: Due to the pandemic, we will be using Jitsi, a secure and free video conferencing system, for our December 8 Board of Directors meeting, which will start at 10 a.m. To attend, send an email to RSVP@lwvsc.org.



Thank you to all the brave workers who diligently made this election happen by counting votes, overseeing the vote counts and distribution of ballots, staffing the polls, and in some cases defying death threats and political pressure to do their jobs. Locally, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Santa Cruz County Clerk Gail Pellerin, who happens to be a member of our League of Women Voters, for her clear presentations to the community and oversight during this historic election at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, an election that included increased use of drop boxes and mail in ballots. The 2020 national election featured record turnouts and participation, with the League of Women Voters at the forefront of the fight against voter suppression and for making sure every vote counts. Leaders and volunteer workers throughout our country have worked tirelessly to expand the vote and counter the ongoing voter suppression efforts throughout the United States.

Thank you to Dorothy Fry, Kit Hein, and Sandy Warren for doing the presentations on the pros and cons of the ballot measures, both in the program we co-sponsored with the American Association of University Women and in other community presentations.

The Schools and Communities First (Proposition 15) campaign, with League members Pam Newbury, Devon Caroselli, and Jan Karwin working to educate our community on its behalf, was successful in Santa Cruz County, receiving 58.3 percent of the vote, but lost by several percentage points statewide. I want to thank all those who worked on this campaign getting signatures on petitions, building coalitions, and communicating the need for increased funding for the public schools and local governments and trying to restore social justice. The unanticipated adverse economic climate for businesses caused by the pandemic likely played a role in the statewide result.

During this centennial year, we celebrated the victory of the suffragists, after a 72-year battle, in securing the national right to vote for women. We will have more to celebrate in 2021 and will witness the next chapter in the historical march toward social justice. I look forward to seeing you then, if virtually, and thank you for your support of the League of Women Voters with your membership dues and donations.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

Voter Service Report

With the historic election with Kamala Harris as our first woman Vice-President Elect, we have cause to celebrate in our centennial year of women's suffrage. In August, I accepted a Centennial Proclamation on behalf of the League at a Santa Cruz City Council Zoom meeting. The City of Santa Cruz proclaimed August 26 as the Day of the Centennial for the 19th Amendment.

At the local level, our Voter Service team supported voter education online with Zoom presentations. We moderated a candidate forum for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board with Dinah Sapia as moderator and Kit Hein as timekeeper. In October we had State Ballot Measure presentations for four organizations, including an LWV-AAUW co-sponsored forum for our memberships. My thanks to Kit Hein and Sandy Warren for being my fellow presenters. I also want to thank Cecilie Schulze for coordinating the Voter's Edge website for our local League. Voter's Edge provides voters with in-depth information about the election. League volunteers contact local candidates to post their information on the website.

The Santa Cruz County turnout for the November 3 election was outstanding: 84.34% of the 170,514 registered voters in the county voted; 132,339—77.6%—cast their votes by mail (either by USPS or drop-off ballot boxes). Only 11,475—6.7%—of voters came to vote in person.

The local election results can be accessed on the county election site, votescount.com. To check updated election returns for state ballot measures go to electionresults.sos.ca.gov; to read quick reference guides for each proposition, visit voterguide.sos.ca.gov.

In November, Santa Cruz County's Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Gail Pellerin, announced her retirement, effective December 30, after 27 years in the County Clerk's office. Gail, a longtime member of LWVSCC, has spoken at many of our League meetings with lively and informative presentations on the latest election and voting information.

She is recognized as a leading voice on California elections, and formed a highly organized and competent Elections Office team to ensure election integrity and voter access for Santa Cruz County. Gail is a past president of the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials and also the author of several guidebooks to assist voters in navigating election procedures.



Retiring County Clerk Gail Pellerin addressing a League meeting in 2015.

Gail has dedicated her career to ensuring that our right to vote is protected and expanded. We are very grateful in Santa Cruz County to have had Gail as our leader in elections.

—Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-chair

State Program Planning Meeting

Each local chapter of the League has an opportunity once per year to discuss what issues we should consider for in-depth study. This January, we will consider what topics of interest the California League should study during the 2021-2023 cycle. Members in local Leagues throughout California can recommend topics for consideration; and each local League will consider those topics and any recommendations from the state League. If enough local Leagues recommend a topic, it will be voted on at the statewide convention in May, 2020.

Our League will meet to discuss state program planning via Zoom Tuesday, January 26, from 1-3 p.m. Each of you is invited to attend, listen to the history and related issues of each proposed topic, and help us come to consensus on which topic you find most relevant and important to California.

Please consider sharing your thoughts with other members in our chapter. If you have a topic to suggest for statewide study, please let us know well in advance of the meeting (email league@lwvsc.org). Save the date on your calendar; information about attending this virtual meeting will be sent out in January.

—Nancy Litvak, Program Chair

In Memoriam: Morgan Rankin

League Leader, Community Organizer, Sharks Fan

On October 15, long-time League member Morgan Rankin passed away peacefully, at home and surrounded by family and friends, from pancreatic cancer. She was a force in the community and in the League, and we will all feel her continuing presence in the many good works she has done and her absence in our hearts. Due to the pandemic, no memorial is currently planned, but, if possible, there will be one in 2021.

It was Morgan, a friend and neighbor, who drew me into League work many years ago, starting with small tasks and, as my kids grew older, always calling to get me involved in something new. I have many memories of her through the years, from first meeting her through placing an ad in the Bonny Doon Battle Mountain News, then through many events, meetings, and gatherings. Morgan constantly made connections and drew together many lives and communities.

Morgan was very active in League work from the 1990s to the 2010s. She served as president from 1991 to 1993 and again from 2001 to 2003; as membership chair from 1993 to 1999; and as voter service chair from 2006 to 2011. She was involved in countless candidate forums and voter education events; organized League programs and social events, registered voters, created and distributed membership handbooks; and held numerous garage sales and other League fundraisers. She chaired and co-chaired a number of studies, including the library study twice, and sat on numerous nominating committees. She hosted our League's annual meeting at her Bonny Doon home in 1999 and 2006, and she hosted other League functions there as well.

She went on a 1991 League trip to the Ukraine and Russia as well as one in 1993 to Moscow with League members Dana Thompson and Pam Kangas. She also represented our League at LWVC state conferences.

Barbara Lewis, our current League president, remembers Morgan: "She contributed in a major way to our group's programs, voter service efforts, and the VOTER. I will miss her enthusiasm and sense of humor." League member and past president Jan Karwin's favorite memory of Morgan came when another League member moved and gave Jan ten boxes of League files that had been in storage for decades.

Fortunately, Morgan was able to help sort through them, "Morgan had a good memory of our local League's history and good judgement about what documents were important to keep... We spent one whole day sorting through the ten boxes and managed to whittle the collection down to three boxes of papers worth retaining. It was a big tedious job and I was forever grateful to Morgan for her help."



Morgan Rankin (right) with her identical twin sister, Bourke Kennedy, in March of 2012.
Photo credit Bryce Newbury.

Morgan was also very active in her community, and was considered the "unofficial mayor of Bonny Doon," according to community member Georgia Randle. In 1976 Morgan started publishing a community newsletter as "a way of getting Bonny Dooners together." She edited 464 issues of the Battle Mountain News, every single one typed on a manual typewriter (Morgan never owned a computer or cell phone) and produced on the photocopier in her basement.

She served on the Bonny Doon Unified School District board, worked on the Bonny Doon General Plan, organized and taught swimming lessons for local children, helped start the local pre-school in the 1970s, created the Bonny Doon Directory of Skills and Services, and was involved with the Ladies of Bonny Doon Club. Morgan also served the greater Santa Cruz County community through taking on many civic duties.

Morgan was a fan of the arts and music, and she loved to travel. Above all, she was a huge fan of the San Jose Sharks ice hockey team and never missed a game if she could help it. In the words of fellow League member and friend Eloise Graham, "She was an amazing woman!"

—Pam Newbury, Voter Editor
With thanks to Eloise Graham for much detail on Morgan's League activities.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

___ \$65.00 Individual annual membership

___ \$100.00 Two members in a household

___ \$10.00 Student membership

___ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWVC Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Learn more about the League, read articles and see videos about past League programs, find out how to contact your elected officials, and much more on our website at lwvsc.org.

Ending Human Trafficking

An update on human trafficking during the pandemic

Human trafficking has not been slowed down by the pandemic. Learn how predators operate to manipulate our young people, how to respond if you recognize the signs, and what will prevent it from happening, at a [webinar](#) on National Human Trafficking Day, Monday, January 11, 2021 at 2 P.M. A representative from [Shared Hope International](#), an organization working to prevent sex trafficking, will provide an introduction and the latest update on what is happening on the internet with recruitment tactics.

The meeting will feature the film “Chosen,” the true story of two girls tricked into trafficking. Brianna—star student, cheerleader, waitress—and Lacy—who enjoyed church and school, but struggled to help care for her siblings—tell their own stories of how they were lured into the world of sex trafficking.

Social media has become a hiding place for sexual predators throughout the world. This makes recruitment of minors incredibly easy through the use of their smart phones and all internet platforms. This meeting continues the focus of the #End Human Trafficking Committee of the Santa Cruz branch of the American Association of University Women on protecting our youth from this horrific practice.

This webinar is free and open to the public. For more information, email misscalih@gmail.com. Register to attend at santacruzca.aauw.net.

Membership Report

Thanks to all continuing members who have renewed your membership and welcome to all our many new members! 2020 has been a challenging year on many levels, but I’m happy to relate that our members are people dedicated to supporting the League and its commitment to nonpartisanship and voter education.

A hearty shout out to Sandra Warren, our 50-Year honorary member! Thank you for your decades of support!

Please remember that during the holiday season, a gift membership or student membership can place someone on the path to a 50-Year membership! What a fantastic gift idea.

Wishing all our members and their families a safe and healthy holiday season. For now, our informative program meetings will continue in the virtual realm, but we look forward to seeing you face-to-face in the future at one of our gatherings.

Until then, stay well.

—Lydia Nogales Parker,
Membership Chair