

Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Election Year Information

If you are looking for information this election year, here are links to two websites that will help:

This is the website for the Santa Cruz County Elections Department:

votescount.com

Our county elections website is an easy place to find answers to all your voting questions.

This is the website for the California Secretary of State's Office:

sos.ca.gov

The Secretary of State's Office has information about the entire election and voting processes – in several languages.

Remember – it's a man's world – unless women vote!

Two Planning Meetings in 2025

We have scheduled two planning meetings for early 2025:

State Program Planning on January 28^{th.} Local Program planning on March 4th.

Both will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Sandy Warren's home.

It's That Time Again — Time to Renew Your Membership

Thank you for your membership in the League of Women Voters. Your interest and support are truly appreciated. It's time to renew your membership for our fiscal year that runs from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

You can use the form on the next page, or go to our website at:

https://my.lwv.org/california/santa-cruz-county/join

President's Message

When you renew your League of Women Voters membership, you are supporting a lead group in the fight for expanding voter rights, ending partisan gerrymandering and advocating for electoral reforms. You are also supporting action and information programs nationally, in California, and in Santa Cruz county. LWVUS has been providing leadership for the past 104 years, and LWVSCC is approaching 60 years since our founding. During that time, much has been accomplished. There is still much more to do. Please renew your membership for 2024 - 25, so we can continue to provide information to voters and engage in advocacy based on positions taken by our members through study and consensus over the years. Renewal details are included in the letter in this VOTER, which you may want to print and send with your check, or you may prefer to use our web site to renew online. With your continued support, we will be able to continue helping inform and register voters, making democracy work, and sponsoring programs on our priority issues. ----Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

LWV of SANTA CRUZ COUNTY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

		ided in the local membership roster
by marking (X) in the appropriate	_	
Mailing Address		
Note: Contact information is for L organizations.	eague business only and is	not shared with other
Name(s):		Phone:
Address:		
Email Address(s):		
Individual Member @ \$65/y	year	
Primary household Member	· @ \$65/year	
Student Member @ \$10/yea		
Donation to LWVSCC		
Total		
payable to League of Women Voto renew your membership online, vi	ers of Santa Cruz County o	• •
To make a tax-deductible donation Mail your check(s) with this form		
Your continued support helps keep	o our democracy working.	
Thank you.		

Our Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting this year was held on June 22 at the Seascape Golf Club in Aptos. The meeting began with a talk by Lisa Wooninck, Superintendent of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Her talk is summarized later in this newsletter. It was also video recorded by Pam Newbury and is available in its entirety on our website.

After determining that we had a quorum, we adopted meeting rules from Roberts Rules of Order.

Treasurer Geri McGillicuddy delivered her report, followed by Budget Committee Chair Pam Peterson, who presented the proposed budget for FY 2024-2025. Geri pointed out that there are unknowns in the budget regarding dues because of the restructuring of the payment system by LWVUS in 2025. There may also be higher costs due to election year programs. The proposed budget was passed.

Barbara Lewis reported that the Board recommends retention of all local program positions based on previous study and consensus. League members also suggested that the program topics in FY 2024-2025 include Climate Change and Voting Rights. The program was accepted.

Laura Grossman read the slate of nominees for the Board of Directors Officers and Directors for 2024-2025. Nominees are:

OFFICERS

President	Barbara Lewis
1st VP/ VOTER Newsletter Editor _	Marilyn Radisch
2 nd VP/Membership Chair	Laura Grossman
Secretary	Lydia Nogales Parker
Treasurer	Geri McGillicuddy
DIRECTORS	
Program Chair	Stephanie Harlan
Publicity Coordinator	Mindy Ryan

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Anderson (Chair), April Knobloch, and Sandy Warren

The 2024-25 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee were elected following this presentation by Laura Grossman on behalf of the 2023-24 Nominating Committee.

Lisa Wooninck's Presentation

At the League Annual Meeting on June 22, Lisa Wooninck, Superintendent of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, gave a presentation entitled **Intro to the Monterey** Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Priority Issues.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was established by the federal government 32 years ago. Although it's named for the beautiful Monterey Bay, the sanctuary encompasses 276 miles of coastline from Marin County to Cambria. At its deepest point, it is more than two miles deep and it is larger than Yellowstone National Park. There are two sanctuary centers - in Santa Cruz and San Simeon where you can find out a lot about the sanctuary, its history and all the conservation work it is involved in.

1972 was a year of great legislation for the environment. It was the year Congress passed the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Bill, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the National Marine Sanctuary Act. (Why aren't we this good anymore?)

Marine sanctuaries are a place for community engagement, volunteer programs and public events. In allowing for a healthy ecosystem, sanctuaries also help us build healthy economies. The US currently has 16 sanctuaries, encompassing 620,000 square miles of ocean. Five of the sanctuaries are on the west coast, one is in the Great Lakes – and the total number is growing. If we think of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary as a national park, it is closer to densely populated areas than any other national park. The Sanctuary maintains its biodiversity through the upwelling that brings in food that many organisms depend on.

A marine sanctuary also needs care, and there is a team that works on needs, including managing human behavior. The team includes federal employees and contractors, who set up dialogues with the communities that live adjacent to the Sanctuary. They work on projects as varied as promoting sustainable fishing and doing outreach to school groups. The Sanctuary also has a volunteer Advisory Council, which includes representatives from agriculture, tourism, fishing, the college connection, conservation, fundraising and art.

One of the main priorities of the Sanctuary is to maintain the health of the kelp, which supports many marine species, as well as tourists who snorkel in the kelp. Kelp is large brown algae that grows mostly in cool oceans and on shallow reefs, although some grows deeper in tropical areas. There are two types of kelp – giant kelp, which is found more in the south, and bull kelp, which is found more in the north. Kelp is a dynamic system, and we are now seeing more giant kelp enter the sanctuary, where there was once mostly bull kelp.

Ocean warming has caused chaotic events in the ocean. Because of warming, there are more sea urchins mowing down the kelp, which won't recover naturally. Less kelp means less habitat for other species. And because of warming oceans, the urchins aren't edible by other species (including humans). They have become zombie urchins. A large part of the California coast is affected by this chaos. Kelp loss

is the greatest around the Monterey Peninsula, but most of the kelp grows around Big Sur.

What can be done to restore the kelp? The urchins can be removed – but that can't be done just once. UCSC has some funding to work on kelp renewal. They will work with MBARI (The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute), the Aquarium itself, as well as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary is working with the other four sanctuaries on the west coast to lessen ship strikes on whales. They are working on two approaches: shifting shipping lanes and getting ships to slow down. They are trying to shift shipping lanes away from the places whales would be found. They are aiming at smaller areas for shipping in areas where whales feed, thereby causing less occurrence of the two coming together. They are working with shipping companies to get them to voluntarily slow down. If the ships slow to 10 knots, there is less mortality in cases where there is a strike. This is especially important between May and December, when more whales are moving through the Sanctuary, and it is also important further south, around the Channel Islands. They are making progress: over the years between 2017 and 2023, cooperation from shippers grew from 45% to 67%.

Shipping companies can now enroll in a program called Blue Whales and Blue Skies. In addition to limiting whale strikes, this program has also led to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. According to their website, since 2014, this program has led to a reduction of over 108,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and over 3,200 tons of NOx emissions, as well as cutting whale strikes by an estimated 44%. This has led to cleaner air, safer whales and a quieter ocean. The Scripps Oceanographic Institute is studying this program, and there is legislation currently in Congress to get the whole west coast ocean involved in this program.

