



## **May 2023 VOTER Newsletter**

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- 2023 Annual Meeting Announcement
- Voter Services
- Embracing the Political Divide
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- City News & Updates
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### **2023 ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

# LWV Southwest Santa Clara Valley 2023 Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 10th, 2023**

- 10:00am-11:30am: Business Meeting
- 11:40am-12:30pm: Luncheon (\$30 per person)
- 12:30pm-1:15pm: Invited Speaker
- 1:15pm-1:30pm: Closing

- Reports from Board members & Committees
- Proposed FY2023 Program Plan
- Members' Luncheon
- Talk by Shannon Bushey: "Ensuring the Security of our Elections"



**Florentine Trattoria, 14510 Big Basin Way #11, Saratoga**

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/DkjzdbE81Nxiq75M6>



We are excited to invite you to our 2023 Annual Meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 10th at Florentine Trattoria restaurant in Saratoga. At the meeting, you will have the opportunity to hear reports from our Board members, Officers, and Nominating Committee. We will also present the Program Plan for the upcoming year and share the accomplishments and challenges facing our League.

Following the business meeting, we will hold a Members Annual Luncheon where you can connect with fellow members. We are pleased to announce that Shannon Bushey from Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters will also join us for a brief talk about the Security of the Elections.

To help us better plan and prepare for the event, we kindly request that you RSVP using the online registration as soon as possible; please feel free to invite your friend to join us.

We hope to see you at this important event and share our progress with you. Thank you for your continued support.

**LWV-SWSCV 2023 Annual Member Meeting**

**Registration Form:** <https://forms.gle/DkjzdbE81Nxiq75M6>

**Date: June 10th, 2023**

**Time:**

- **10:00am-11:30am: Business Meeting**
- **11:40am-12:30pm: Lunch (\$30 per person)**
- **12:30pm-1:15pm: Speaker (Shannon Bushey: Ensuring the Security of our Elections)**
- **1:15pm-1:30pm: Closing**

**Location: Florentine Trattoria, 14510 Big Basin Way #11, Saratoga, CA 408-741-1748**

If attending lunch, please indicate in the registration form your lunch choice from one of the following main dishes:

- Seafood Salad
- Caesar Salad with Grilled Salmon
- Chicken Marsala
- Eggplant Parmigiana (Vegetarian)

## **VOTER SERVICES**

### **SENATOR CORTESE'S ANNUAL BUS TRIP FOR EDUCATION:**

"Greetings and Happy Spring Season,

I am thrilled to announce that my office will be hosting the **20th Annual Sacramento Bus Trip for Education** on Wednesday May 17th at the State Capitol.

For two decades, our annual bus trip has brought education advocates, school board members, students, and community members from Senate District 15 to the State Capitol to meet directly with state officials and legislators. Attendees learn about pending bills and discuss education as a state budget priority. This trip always occurs after the Governor releases a revised budget proposal in May. In most years, about half of the state budget supports public schools and higher education.

This all-day event on **Wednesday May 17th, 2023**, includes free transportation and breakfast and lunch thanks to our generous sponsors.

**Register:** [www.Tinyurl.com/2023SacBusTrip](http://www.Tinyurl.com/2023SacBusTrip)

**When:** Wednesday May 17th, 2023

**Where:** Buses Depart at 6 a.m. from San Jose State University Park and Ride Lot (1281 S 7th St) and travel to the State Capitol and back.

**Contact:** [Roy.Tongilava@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Roy.Tongilava@sen.ca.gov) with any questions.

Thank you and I hope you will be able to join us.

Be well, Senator Dave Cortese"

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY:

The Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County, also known as the County Council, meets every other month to discuss topics which impact all five Leagues in our county. Each League is represented by their president or designee. Currently, Eleanor Yick is representing our League.

This year, the LWV of SCC has been actively involved in support of **AB 1227**, submitted to the legislature by Assemblymember Evan Low, that supports the use of Ranked Choice Voting in Santa Clara County. Upon our recommendation and request, LWVC submitted a letter of support for this legislation and Dora Rose, LWVC Deputy Director, attended a hearing to reiterate the League's support.

Recently, the LWV of SCC also continued its support for the submission of a **CEDAW** ordinance to the SCC Board of Supervisors. After 24 years a full CEDAW Ordinance, with Board Policy and Leg File for Implementation, were agendized for discussion and vote at a Board of Supervisor meeting in April.

The local implementation of the United Nations **Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** will result in women and girls fully exercising their human rights including an adequate standard of living, education, bodily integrity and health, while acknowledging the multiple aspects of women's and girls' identities, including race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexuality, nationality, age, family status and immigration status.

Full implementation of CEDAW would ensure dignity and respect for women and girls in both public and private spaces, and end systemic forms of discrimination and violence towards women and girls in the United States.

The **Commission on the Status of Women** noted that: "The LWV of SCC (Council) helped us tremendously with this final push by initially sending your Letter of Support in May of 2022, followed by a recent letter, which reiterated our continued support. It's been a long 11 months since then, but we are finally at the finish line!!

Having the support of the LWV of SCC for this historic effort led by the Commission on the Status of Women is incredibly meaningful. The Commission celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year and we plan to have one big party in August on Women's Equality Day to celebrate the 50th Anniversary and the Adoption of the County's historic CEDAW Ordinance and Implementation.

For background information, the Ordinance addresses the following areas that the County manages with public funds and which we see as critical for the health and well-being of women and girls in our County:

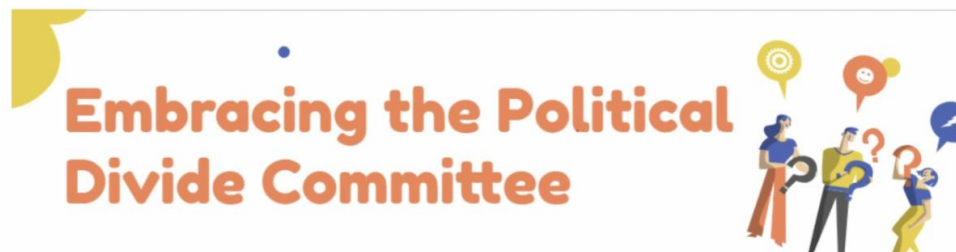
- Criminal Legal System
- Economic Development
- Education and Women's Leadership
- Gender-Based Violence and Harassment
- Healthcare

Housing and Homelessness  
Political and Civic Engagement  
Environmental Justice and Climate Change  
Transportation, Library Services, Parks and Recreation, and Environmental Health Services

With much appreciation and solidarity, the CSW CEDAW ad hoc committee

***Eleanor Yick, VP/Prog/Voter Services***

## EMBRACING THE POLITICAL DIVIDE



The Embracing the Divide Committee had the pilot meeting at the Pisco Bar in Saratoga Downtown on April 25. While enjoying some Peruvian appetizers, we chatted informally about the necessity of medical transition of children, the various gender identities, stereotypes for women, concepts on abortion and family structure in the younger generations. We learned from each other. Join us in the next committee meeting while enjoying Asian Fusion food.

### **Embracing the Divide Committee Second Planning Meeting (In Person)**

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Ginger Cafe, Sunnyvale (Check the [committee page](#) for updates)

Sign up by email: Liang Chao [LFCHAO@gmail.com](mailto:LFCHAO@gmail.com) and Linda Price [LindaPrice.CA@gmail.com](mailto:LindaPrice.CA@gmail.com)

### **RECOMMENDED READING:**

#### **“How Curiosity Will Save Us” and “I Never Thought of It That Way” - Monica Guzman**

Monica Guzman is a Seattle liberal, but her Mexican immigrant parents voted for Donald Trump. In her journey to debate and eventually understand her parents, she wrote the book “[I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times](#).” Below is an excerpt from her TEDx talk: “[How Curiosity Will Save Us | Mónica Guzmán | TEDxSeattle](#)”

In one Georgetown University poll this year Americans of all political stripes said division in the country is the number one issue affecting them personally. You look at the headlines and it makes sense. Our elected officials screaming at each other. Our loudest influencers screaming at each other and many of us doomed to scrolling on the internet ....

...

We have to get curious and not just with the people who comment on or criticize these views. No. With the people who actually hold them. Why? Because if you can't get curious across divides in a polarized world you can't see the world at all. Oh, you'll think you see it just fine and the people who agree with you will assure you of that. But your view will be sorely limited and you won't know what you're missing; but you can find out.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES - WATER**



### **Suffering from climate whiplash? Water resilience can help.**

During the LWVC April 20 webinar “Rebuilding Water Resilience from the Bottom Up,” Newsha Ajami, Ph.D., presented multiple ways we can manage the drought-to-flood world that is upon us. As the most important first step, Dr. Ajami proposed demand management, both for agricultural and urban users. She also discussed alternative water supply solutions such as stormwater and rainwater harvesting, reuse, conjunctive use and nature-based solutions, and emphasized increased water recycling at every scale (distributed, centralized—even per building).

Cost-effective, reliable and affordable service by water agencies would include a circular, data-driven and customer-centric model, according to Dr. Ajami.

If you missed Dr. Ajami’s presentation—or would like to see it again, or would just like to understand what terms like “demand management” involve—you can watch the webinar online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8URH6mjHS0>.

***Meg Giberson, Natural Resources-Water director***

## **MEET OUR MEMBERS: Yan Zhao**



Yan Zhao, our member since 2018, is the current Vice Mayor of City of Saratoga, serving her second term on Saratoga City Council. She was first elected to the council in 2018 then as Mayor in 2021, and was then re-elected with by far the largest number of votes in 2022. The election result in 2022 confirmed how much Saratogans appreciated her total commitment to the community.

Yan has been volunteering for the community for the past 20+ years. Besides six years on Saratoga City Council thus far, she also served eight years on the Saratoga Planning Commission, four years on Saratoga Madronia Cemetery District Board, and nine years on the Commission of the Status of Women in Santa Clara County.

It is evident that her passion for giving back to the community has grown consistently year after year, through the actions she has taken, guided by her wisdom and experience.

Yan holds a bachelor degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), and a master's degree from Santa Clara University in Electrical Engineering.

Yan has over 25 years experience in the semiconductor industry, with expertise in Analog IC design, technical marketing, business development and sales. She has worked for National Semiconductor Corporation, Micro Linear, Rambus, Analog Devices Inc., among other top-tier companies. She has been recognized many times as “top performer” by her employers.

Yan and her husband raised three wonderful children, all born in Saratoga; her children have gone through the public schools. Holding a full time job plus a demanding city council position, she manages to find some spare time to enjoy playing bridge and running marathons.



## CITY NEWS & UPDATES

### Campbell City Council

**April:** The City of Campbell received a grant from Silicon Valley Clean Energy for \$500,000 toward efforts to eliminate natural gas usage in the future Campbell Library remodel. This has the potential to reduce long-term maintenance costs as well as enhance citywide energy conservation efforts. The City of Campbell and the Santa Clara County Library District also received \$4,718,450 in additional funding from the CA State Library's Building Forward Grant Program which will be applied to safety and infrastructure improvements.

The City accepted a \$30,189 grant from the CA Board of State and/Community Corrections for an Officer Wellness Program. This will augment \$60,000 in funds for mental health for our police department. The funding will be for a dedicated mental health clinician for police department staff.

The temporary parklets in downtown have been removed and nine businesses have applied to be part of a new program of "semi-permanent" structures. Staff has developed aesthetic, safety and accessibility guidelines which these restaurants have to meet to ensure a consistent look downtown. Using money from federal COVID 19 relief funds, the city is supporting businesses with grants up to \$40,000 to support the construction and implementation of the new parklet structures. Construction must be completed by September 29, 2023.

*Jackie Costanzo, Campbell Observer*

### Los Gatos Town Council

**April:** Council members rescinded the censure of a Planning Commissioner. This action was taken to avoid a costly legal suit threatened by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) over the commissioner's First Amendment right to free speech. The censure for violating the Town's Code of Conduct was previously approved in February 2023. In November 2022, the commissioner had emailed her objection regarding the Los Gatos residents' referendum to the California Department of Housing and Community Development. Earlier, In October 2022, the residents' referendum had resulted in the suspension of the Land Use Element and Community Design Element of the adopted 2040 General Plan. The council's censure had been based upon the belief that, in her email, the commissioner needed to state specifically that she was not speaking "on behalf of the Planning Commission" to comply with the Town's Code of Conduct. The council believed she had not done so. The ACLU asserted that she had identified herself as a Planning Commissioner who was "speaking as a private citizen", and argued that was sufficient. Many residents had objected to the commissioner's description of the residents who organized the referendum, finding her words racist and classist.

*Lynda Jandron, Los Gatos Observer*

### Monte Sereno City Council

**April:** On March 28, the Monte Sereno Police Services delivered its report for July-Dec. 2022. Services are staffed by eight positions: one dispatcher, two police records specialists, one



parking control officer, and two community service officers. There are two police officers. Recent legal mandates for the Police Department were spelled out. These include State SB 2's police decertification; SB16's requirements for increased transparency regarding Peace Officer misconduct records; and, AB 481 requiring military equipment transparency. Policy updates include one for a drone team, and another concerning fleet and body-worn Axon cameras. There was an update on concealed weapons permits as required by Supreme Court Ruling, NYSRPA v. Bruen.

The Department is proud of its quick response times to calls for service, including an average time of 4.40 minutes for Priority One calls. There were only five vehicle collisions in Monte Sereno, including one hit-and-run. A two-year pilot program employing automated license plate readers located throughout Monte Sereno as a crime suppression and investigative tool, is in place. In the six months covered in the report, there were 40 mental health evaluations. For more information, see the March 28, agenda on Monte Sereno's website.

The Council considers safety of its citizens to be a paramount concern. Currently, that concern involves placement of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Neighborhood Incident Command Post (NICP) shed. These 10 x 10 foot sheds are available to CERT teams for use in emergencies such as earthquakes or wildfires. The sheds provide communication equipment, bottled water, etc. They are placed in a neighborhood location for receiving and relocating personnel in an emergency. Casualties can be cared for on-site, if necessary, and bodies may be stored there. Monte Sereno has one such unit in place but still needs another to support the western part of the city. The parking lot at City Hall is under consideration as a location, but it has two pending projects which will need to be coordinated with the NICP's. They include: (1) the design of the Community Room; and, (2) the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program. Removal and redesign of the asphalt parking lot at Monte Sereno City Hall may be required.

***Linda King, Monte Sereno Observer***

### **Saratoga City Council**

**April:** ORDINANCE 396: At its April 5 meeting, the City Council adopted the Urgency Ordinance, as amended, temporarily suspending through June 30, 2023, certain tree removal requirements for eucalyptus trees. This action was taken in light of the risks they pose to life and property as was exemplified during recent unprecedented storms. The action pertaining to the ordinance applies only to blue gum (eucalyptus globulus) and removes Section 1.B of the existing ordinance (regarding replacement trees).

***Michelle Shimada, Saratoga Observer***

## **BOARD BYTES**

**April 6, 2023**

1. The Board reviewed March YTD financials, which is in line with the budget.

2. As the League has officially converted to a 501(c)(3) organization, we are filing for tax exempt status with the Secretary of State.
3. The League received a generous donation of \$12,058.73 from the Hill Family Trust in memory of long-time beloved LWV leader, Dale Hill (1928-2022).
4. The LWVC Convention will take place during May 19-21 in San Francisco and the League will be sending 3 delegates.
5. A new section for Committees has been added to the League website, detailed information about each Committee can be found here:
  - [Education](#)
  - [Embracing the Political Divide](#)
  - [Housing and Transportation](#)
  - Judicial System Study
  - Natural Resources and Water

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **LWV SWSCV Board Meeting**

**Thurs. May 4 7:30 p.m. [via Zoom](#)**

### **LWV SWSCV Dale Hill's Celebration of Life**

**Sat. May 13 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of LG**

**15980 Blossom Hill Road, Los Gatos**

### **LWV SWSCV Embracing the Divide Committee Meeting**

**Tue. May 23 6:00 p.m.** Check [committee page](#) for updates

### **LWV SWSCV Board Meeting**

**Thurs. June 1 7:30 p.m. [via Zoom](#)**

### **LWV SWSCV Annual Meeting and Luncheon**

**Sat. June 10 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

## DONATE

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs. Please consider [making a donation](#) to our local League of Women Voters now during our annual finance drive. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization all donations are tax-deductible.

League of Women Voters SWSCV Donation

## JOIN US

Come to a LWV-SWSCV team meeting and learn about important issues affecting you and your community. You can make a difference! [Learn More About Our Work and Programs on](#)

our [Website](#).

## LWV SWSCV BOARD & ELECTED OFFICIALS 2022-2023

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

President, Sophia Kao  
Vice Pres/Admin, Tom Picraux  
Vice Pres/Voter Serv., Eleanor Yick  
Secretary, Frances Zhan  
Treasurer, David Lee

### DIRECTORS

Action/DEI, Eleanor Yick (Int.)  
Education, Eleanor Yick (Int.)  
Membership, Aileen Kao  
Observers, Al Stewart  
Public Relations, J. Reynolds-Grabbe  
Voter Editor, Victoria Zhang

### ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### National

President Joe Biden  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)  
Senator Alex Padilla  
<https://alex-padilla.com>  
Rep. Anna Eshoo  
<https://eshoo.house.gov>

#### California

Governor Gavin Newsom  
<http://gov.ca.gov>  
Senator Dave Cortese  
[Senator.Cortese@outreach.senate.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Cortese@outreach.senate.ca.gov)  
Assemblymember Marc Berman  
<http://asmdc.org/members/a23>  
Assemblymember Gail Pellerin  
<http://asmdc.org/members/a28>

#### County

Supervisor Joe Simitian: District #5  
[supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org)  
Supervisor Susan Ellenberg: District #4  
[supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:supervisor.ellenberg@bos.sccgov.org)

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