

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / February 2023, Volume 95, Number 5

Wednesday, February 8th, 2023

"Community Safety and Criminal Justice Reform"

Community Safety and Criminal Justice Reform encompass many issues that the League researches at local, state and national levels. We are interested in what citizens, elected officials, public safety personnel and community agencies can do to address these issues.

We need to know more about restorative justice; the jail and bail systems; gross injustice in who is stopped, arrested, and imprisoned; and public perception of crime rates and recidivism.



Our February meeting discussion will be led by a panel of prominent local authorities: **Mr. Jeremy Dzubay, Chief Assistant Public Defender, Monterey County**; **Mr. Cesar Lara, Director, Policy & Programs, MILPA** (Motivating Individual Leadership for Public Advancement), and **Mr. Tyler Williamson, Mayor, City of Monterey**.

This is an important and timely topic for our local communities as well as across the nation. As there will be a question and answer session, please send suggested questions for the speakers in advance to LWVMryCo@gmail.com.

(continued on page 2)

How to Attend Our Virtual Meetings

The free **February LWVMryCo General Meeting** and presentation described above will use the **Zoom Web Conferencing** platform and **Zoom Chat** for Q&A.
11:45 am Zoom Check-In / 12 noon Meeting Begins.

All current LWVMryCo members will be sent a link to the Zoom meeting from lwwmryco@gmail.com on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, February 6th** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

Not a member? Non-members can send a message to LWVMryCo@gmail.com requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. **You can also join by phone:** numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

Can't get into the meeting using link/instructions?
Contact **Tama Olver (831) 648-8683**.



Public Defender Jeremy Dzuby provides quality legal representation for persons charged with crimes who can't afford legal counsel. Dzuby has special interest in and knowledge of the 4th Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable search and seizure. A graduate of the **California Western School of Law**, he was admitted to the **California State Bar in 2005**. Prior to his current office, Dzuby represented defendants in the US Federal courts and litigated cases in California, Alabama, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.



MILPA Program and Policy Director Cesar Lara works to help formerly incarcerated youth, or those who have been involved with the justice system, by advocating to end mass incarceration, instead investing in community-based resources focused on education, job training, and mental health, enabling everyone to lead healthy and successful lives.

Lara is also the **Executive Director, Monterey Central Labor Council**. He has served on a

number of statewide and local boards, including the **Teamsters**, the **Central Coast Citizenship Project**, **Building Healthy Communities**, and the **United Farmworkers**. He was a **Congressional Aide to Representative Sam Farr**. The child of immigrant farmworkers, Lara is a **CSU Chico graduate** (International Relations).



Monterey Mayor Tyler Williamson was elected in November 2022. His "*Moving Monterey Forward*" campaign promised government transparency, strengthening community engagement, and broader citizen representation on city boards, commissions, and committees.

Williamson was a **Monterey City Councilmember** for 4 years, and has served for 12 years as **HR Specialist** at the **Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)**. He was cofounder of **Monterey Peninsula Pride** and a member of the **Monterey County Housing Committee**. He believes in regional partnership and bringing everyone to the table. Williamson has a **BS Human Communication** and a **Pre-Law Minor** degree from CSUMB, and a **Master of Business Administration** from NPS.
Beverly Kreps and Sharon Miller

★ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2023 ★

For many Central Coast residents January's storms brought hardship, with long utility outages and devastating destruction of property. Throughout our state two dozen people lost their lives. **Natural disasters highlight the importance of having a responsive, effective government at all levels.** Most obviously in case of disaster we rely on our government agencies and officials for emergency response; in the longer term, sound choices regarding policies such as land use planning, transportation infrastructure, and oversight of public utilities are equally important to our welfare in the face of extreme weather.



The LWVMC promotes effective government in myriad ways. It facilitates candidate forums, compiles and distributes voter guides, and presents the pros and cons of ballot measures, all with the aim of helping voters make their own informed choices about candidates and issues. We support voter registration and access so that citizens can express those choices with their ballots.

Additionally, we keep our fingers on the pulse of a number of local policy areas, offering monthly informational presentations, and on occasion, using our well-researched policy positions as a

basis for public comment regarding ordinances or agency actions.

Our local league has chosen “**climate change—mitigation and resilience**” (along with housing, water, and criminal justice) as an area of special emphasis; in a year when the fire season, extended by a warming climate, gave way to fierce storms, also bolstered by a warming climate, that emphasis appears particularly apropos.

Please join the LWVMC's online Program Planning Meeting at 10:30am Monday, February 6th, to discuss state and local priorities for the coming year.

On a brighter note, the sun now shines down on California's significantly replenished reservoirs, giving us a moment of respite in the midst of a historic drought. Be assured that LWVMC is continuing to monitor the horizon for constructive solutions to our region's ongoing water crisis.

Speaking of reservoirs, as 2023 is an “off year” for elections, it is a good time for those of us in the League to rebuild our own reservoir of energy and resources in preparation for 2024, which is sure to be a lively presidential election year.

As always, I'm eager to hear your suggestions for strengthening community outreach, enlarging our membership, and building alliances with groups that share our concerns.



My Valentine's list this year is a long one as it includes every one of you! Thank you for being a partner in our work of “**Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy.**”

Marianne Gawain

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS ★★

Each year LWV California has local chapters interview their own Legislators, covering set topics, with questions of local interest as time allows. This year's topics are: *Shrinking California's Voter Participation Gap; Equitable Funding for California School Facilities Programs; Sustainable and Equitable Water Resource Management; and Legislator's Legislative Priorities for 2023.*

Using newly redistricted representation for Monterey County, we held Zoom interviews with:

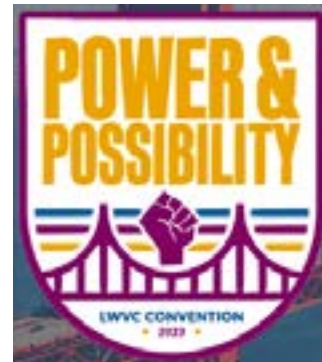
Assemblymember Robert Rivas (newly elected Speaker), on January 23rd (in partnership with Santa Cruz and San Jose/ Santa Clara Leagues); **Assemblymember Dawn Addis**, on January 31st (in partnership with the Santa Cruz County and the San Luis Obispo Leagues); and with **Senator John Laird**, to be held February 14 (also in partnership with LWV Santa Cruz County and LWV San Luis Obispo County Leagues).

Thanks to all who participated. I will report more fully on this very important survey which enables the League to meet our goal of “**Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy.**” **Tama Olver**

★★ LWVCA 2023 CONVENTION

WVC Convention is back IN-PERSON ONLY May 19-21, Hyatt Regency San Francisco!

We need volunteer delegates to **represent LWV Monterey Bay** at this event, where you will meet like-minded passionate and engaged members



from all over California. You will vote on official League business, attend unique training, education, and entertainment sessions, and hear from League leaders and outside speakers on current issues.

Want to know more? Need financial assistance? Contact **Marianne Gawain, Pam Stewart, Howard Fosler, Sharon Miller, Carolyn Swanson, Amanda Whitmire**, and others who have attended and highly recommend the experience!

Details are still coming, but preliminary information is at <https://lwvc.wordpress.com> and <https://my.lwv.org/california/sacramento-county/event/league-women-voters-california-convention-2023>.

COMING IN MARCH: EXAMINING THE SUPREME COURT

We're pleased to announce that the in-person Lunch and Learn we had to cancel in January has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, March 8, 2023**. **Professor Mickey Welsh** will speak on **"Examining the Supreme Court: Local Implications of Recent Rulings."**



Happily, Mickey pointed out that we might even have a few more court decisions by then to add to this discussion.

Due to weather impacts—including power outages to the Unitarian Universalist Church and pine trees that had fallen on the building and parking lot—we reluctantly decided to cancel the January 11 meeting. The fifty reservations we had for lunch by then show the strong interest in having in-person meetings, as well as enthusiasm for the topic.

Our last in-person Lunch and Learn was in March, 2020 at the UU Church and our speaker was **Monterey County Supervisor Jane Parker**. It has been three years since we gathered together for this event, so we're looking forward to seeing you all in March.

Beverly Bean

What's WORTH SEEING at LWVMRYCO.ORG

General Meeting videos: <https://my.lwv.org/california/monterey-county/videos>



"Climate Change: Advocating for Action"

(May 10, 2022)

A topic pertinent to this month's **President's**

Message regarding recent

storms and climate change (page 2), this meeting noted that the first step in a collective response to a major threat is communication. **Sarah-Mae Nelson**, innovator and **specialist in education, science and climate change communication**, discussed updated research and thinking on how to be a strong, effective collective voice because of the "... need to talk about climate change as easily and often as we talk about any other challenge we face."

"Changing Values in Community Safety"

(November 10, 2021)

After our League voted to make **Criminal Justice at the Local Level** an issue for emphasis, we invited leaders in Monterey County law enforcement to discuss the issues. If you missed the November meeting, watch it before or following our **upcoming February 8th panel discussion on "Community Safety & Criminal Justice Reform."**



★LWVMC ACTION & ADVOCACY★

As well as reading **The Voter**, keep up with our League activities at LWVMryCo.org.

On our homepage, click on any of the titles with a ★ **star icon** at its left to find more in-depth information.

For example, clicking on the **Action & Advocacy** link reveals a further list for "**Studies**," "**Positions**," "**How we Take Action**," and "**Recent Letters**". Click on "**Recent Letters**" to find LWVMC letters to public Commissions, elected officials, Boards, and other local, state and national entities.

Debbie Majors-Degnan, Website Coordinator

STILL WANTED: SALINAS VALLEY VOTER SERVICE DIRECTOR

To fully commit to **diversity, equity, & inclusion**, we need a part-time but crucial volunteer to organize forums, encourage registration, work polls.

Mentoring provided.

Contact: **Marianne Gawain**
or **Dennis Mar**

LWVMryCo@gmail.com

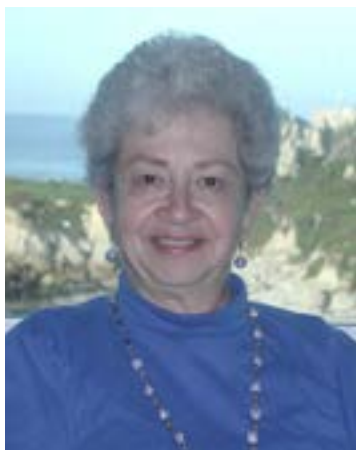


LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: VICKI PEARSE



Vicki Pearse first joined our League of Women Voters chapter nearly 20 years ago, when she and her husband, **John**, moved to Pacific Grove from Santa Cruz, where they'd lived for 30 years.

Vicki says she's been an active member of our chapter, but hasn't served on any committees, *"unless you count Regina Doyle's team of newsletter editors."*



Vicki is the founding editor of an international research quarterly and the author of numerous biology articles. She's also earned a number



of honors in the field, including becoming a

Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences. John died in 2020, but in 2021, Vicki and John were awarded

the **Panetta Sea Star** at the annual luncheon of the **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.**



However, after being recruited by **Dennis Mar**, she once worked at the polls and she's participated in both phoning and distributing door-hangers to encourage voting.



After growing up in Pittsburgh, PA, Vicki got her **BA and PhD degrees in Biological Sciences** from **Stanford University**, conducting her doctoral research at **Hopkins Marine Station**

in Pacific Grove, where she also met John. When they settled in Santa Cruz, her parents fulfilled a lifelong dream to retire in Pacific Grove. Then, in 2003, after her parents had died, Vicki and John moved into their house to spend their retirement years in this area.



"I am a biologist, author and editor," Vicki says. Both her parents, **Ralph** and **Mildred Buchsbaum**, and her husband were biologists as well. *"During our time in Santa Cruz,"* she explains, *"John was a professor at UCSC, teaching and doing research. I was engaged in research and was the co-author of two textbooks in invertebrate biology with John and my parents."*

Biology is definitely the family's professional focus. The Pearses' son, **Devon**, who lives in Santa Cruz, is a **NOAA biologist** working on the genetics of salmon.

"Besides loving nature, I have always been a reader and loved books and libraries," Vicki reports. *"My first ambition was to be a biology librarian."* Although her career took a different direction, she says, *"Since returning to P.G., I have been employed a few hours a week in the beautiful library at Hopkins, which specializes in marine sciences. I got to be a biology librarian after all!"*

She also serves on the steering committee of the **Center for Ocean Art, Science, and Technology (COAST)**, which uses art to educate the public about climate change's relationship to the oceans. Additionally, Vicki says, *"I've been one of 40 local volunteers in the **Central California Coast Black Oystercatcher Monitoring Project**. Its mission is to understand and stop the decline of these shore birds. Besides various predators and disturbance by human visitors to the shores, recently drones have become a real threat."*



I love these birds—they are among the most gender-equal animals. After they pair up, they do

everything together—find and defend territory, incubate the eggs, feed and protect the nestlings, educate the fledglings.”



Vicki has served other diverse organizations in this region as well, including the **Environmental Council of Santa Cruz, Save Our Shores, the Board of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, Everyone's Harvest,** and more.

When asked about what goals she has for LWV in the future, Vicki replied, *“The League’s mission of ‘Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.’ is more important than ever. Gerrymandering is an increasing threat to fair representation in governments at every level. The League’s information in the online voter guides and monthly meetings is a vital resource. But first, people must be motivated to vote, often needing to overcome major obstacles, and to seek a sound basis, free of the flood of disinformation. Defending and growing the vote are perhaps the most central goals.”*

Certainly, all of us can agree with Vicki Pearse on those points.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Change of e-Mail Address

Howard Fosler (Members, see print copy)

Send Membership Updates to
Janet Brennan, LWVMryCo@gmail.com

Commemorate LWV's 103rd Birthday

(Founded February 14, 1920)

**If you're reading this issue of *The Voter*,
you're probably a current member
enrolled through June 30th.**

You can send LWVMC an additional
contribution for the League's Birthday
or any time!



**Join the League of
Women Voters of
Monterey County**



FREE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

Students may join LWVMryCo via
the website without paying membership fees.

New Members Wanted!

*Any person age 16 or older
may be a member of the League.*

Use the form below or contact:

LWVMC Membership Director

Mail to **LWVMryCo PO Box 1995**

Monterey, CA 93942

Checks payable to **LWVMC** or
online with credit card or PayPal

Membership Levels

- ☐ \$250+ **Carrie Chapman Catt**
- ☐ \$200 **Sojourner Truth**
- ☐ \$150 **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**
- ☐ \$100 **Susan B. Anthony**
- ☐ \$ 95 **Household (2 persons, 1 address)**
- ☐ \$ 65 **Single membership**
- ☐ (free) **Student (16-24 years, enrolled in a diploma or degree program)**

Name(s)

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e-mail

☐ Please do NOT publish my address, phone
number or email in *The Voter* newsletter

Florence Curlee Scholarships

are available to pay household or single
membership fees. Contact:

Janet Brennan, LWVMryCo@gmail.com

Membership dues & contributions to LWVMryCo
are not tax deductible, nor are donations to the
Florence Curlee Scholarship Fund.

**However, donations to the League
of Women Voters of California
Education Fund (LWVCEF)
are tax deductible.**

WE REMEMBER SHIRLEY LOOMIS

Longtime League member Shirley Loomis died peacefully on Monday, January 2nd in her home at Carmel Valley Manor.

Shirley was married to Hersch Loomis since 1957, moved to the Monterey Peninsula in 1981. She was passionate about the arts wherever she lived, locally supporting the San Francisco Opera and Ballet, Carmel Bach Festival, serving on the Boards of the Monterey Symphony and Pacific Repertory Theatre, and a major force in forming the Sea Scribes Calligraphy Guild, among many other services to the community. She was also a great supporter of civic and local community causes, including our League.



League of Women Voters of Monterey County



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Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
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LWVMryCo Calendar 2023

FEBRUARY

LWVMC Zoom Meeting
Monday, February 6th
Program Planning: 10:30am
Board Meeting: 11:30am
 contact: Marianne Gawain

Lunch & Learn with the League
Wednesday, February 8th
"Community Safety and
Criminal Justice Reform"
(details front page)
contacts: Sharon Miller, Bev Kreps

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 9th, 12 noon
Mariposa Hall, contact: George Riley



MARCH

LWVMC Board Zoom Meeting
Monday, March 6th, 11:30am
contact: Marianne Gawain

Lunch & Learn with the League
In Person, Unitarian Church
Wednesday, March 8th
“Examining the Supreme Court:
Local Implications of Recent Rulings”
Professor Mickey Welsh
(details page 4)
 contact: Beverly Bean

Natural Resources Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 9th, 12 noon
 Mariposa Hall, contact: George Riley



The League of Women Voters California invites us to
"Watch Our Housing & Homelessness Speaker Series!"
 In January the LWVC compiled webinars of their
Housing & Homelessness Discussion Series.

Go to <https://lwvc.org/housing-homelessness-speaker-series>, or watch on *YouTube*.

