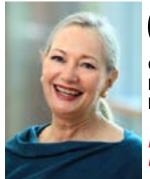


"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / February 2024, Volume 96, Number 5

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024 Zoom Meeting "Regulation of Short Term Rentals in Unincorporated Monterey County"



n Wednesday, February 14th (*Valentine's Day and the LWV's Birthday*)

Monterey County District 5 Supervisor Mary Adams will lead a virtual presentation on the regulation of Short Term Rentals in Unincorporated County. Supervisor Adams will share the screen with Craig Spencer, Acting Director, Monterey County Department of Housing and Community Development. A Q&A session will follow the presentation.

Note: This was originally planned as an in-person event, but the UU Church is unavailable due to a scheduled PG&E power outage in the area to undertake work.

Residents in areas like **Carmel Valley, Carmel Highlands, Toro Park,** and **Pebble Beach** are worried that STRs will change residential neighborhoods into commercial zones, will increase levels of noise, traffic and security issues as visitors come and go; and will result in homes being used for visitors instead of much needed housing for members of the community. As a result, this has been a contentious issue that has baffled planners for several years.

Because of the many diverse opinions, it has taken years to prepare the plan and supporting documents. *(continued on page 2)*

How to Attend Our Virtual Meeting
The free February 14th, 2024 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 lwvmryco@gmail.com on the Monday before the meeting (e.g., on Monday, February 12th 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?
Call Tama Olver (831) 869-2748.

(continued from page 1)

As reported in the January "Voter," the County released the long-awaited "Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Vacation Rental Ordinance" (go to tinyurl.com/MontereySTRordinance, and click on "Complete Draft Environmental"

Impact Report (DEIR) Document Combined").



As a result, Monterey County is now in the process of updating the "Vacation Rental Ordinance for Coastal and Unincorporated Inland Areas," which will provide guidance on where and how many STRs can legally operate.

George Riley

→ PRESIDI

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FEBRUARY 2024

or a century the League has remained firmly dedicated to its non-partisan policy. In a time of extreme political polarization, partisanship, and often an undue focus on personality, we remain non-partisan, unwavering on the principles of democratic inclusion and sound policy-making. That means that we never endorse a candidate for office. It means that we never reflexively support legislation or policy based on which political actors endorse or oppose it.

Non-partisanship should not be confused with an unwillingness to engage in vigorous advocacy.



Our organization's founding foremothers (such as Lucy Burns, in workhouse prison, left) certainly understood that a "fight for right" is worth doing. Despite doubt and derision, and sometimes at great physical risk, the suffragists won the right for women to vote. We now wear their mantle.

It's a humbling joy to work daily with LWVMC members and directors, watching your passion in action. You are certainly among the most civic-minded residents of Monterey County. It therefore takes some chutzpah for me to ask that you do even more—but the peril to our democratic system has rarely been greater. Fortunately, the presidential election cycle coincides with Leap Lear. Even accounting for the fact that we must sleep, eat, and put in regular working hours on Leap Day, we receive the gift of several "bonus"

hours" this critical year. Imagine what we might accomplish if we were all to invest those hours in strengthening our country's democracy!

I hope reading this newsletter will spark ideas on how you can promote the democratic project. Consider blowing your leap year "annual bonus" in one chunk by spending a few hours registering voters, assisting with a candidates' forum, working at the polls, or joining 411 (see below). Spend an hour at our upcoming Program Planning Meeting (see page 3) or assisting the ad hoc committee organizing the High School Art Contest (see page 4).

An incremental approach requiring just a few minutes at a time can make a big difference too. You might share your copy of "The Voter" with a prospective League member; post a yard sign promoting voting at a visible intersection near your home, or email the link to Vote411 to friends and family.

I'd love to hear from you about where you will invest your bonus minutes!

Marianne Gawain

We still need Volunteers for the California March 2024 Primary!



Can you make a few phone calls to urge candidates to participate?

Phone script provided.

contact: Arlene Guest, VOTE411 Coordinator

arleneguest@gmail.com



All MembersWelcome! February 5th Annual Program Planning Meeting

LWVMC Members are invited to join in with the Board on Zoom at 10:30am, Monday, February 5th. The meeting link will be e-mailed to all members via GoogleGroup.

Let's discuss **local League priorities for fiscal year July 2024 to June 2025** (current priorities on water, affordable housing, criminal justice reform and climate change are at: http://tinyurl.com/LWVMCpriorities.

National League's Biennial Convention is in June, so here's an opportunity to give LWVUS grassroots input on its education and advocacy platform for the July 2024-June 2026 two-year cycle. Let's plan ways LWVUS can move its mission forward!

★"VOTING MATTERS:★ WHAT ABOUT TURNOUT?"

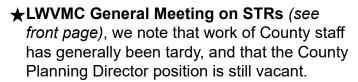
Our March 13th Zoom
General Meeting at 12 noon
will feature Vinz Koller, on the
challenges of voter turnout.

Yes, we know turnout drives election results, but to be able to turn out, **potential voters first have to be registered**. And all of you who've worked on voter registration know that's a hard road in Monterey County (where an estimated 1 in 6 eligible voters have not registered to vote). This may be significant to the upcoming November election.

As well as turnout, Mr. Koller will help us take a closer look at **population demographics** and **registration patterns**. He will also consider ways the League could increase voter registration and voter turnout. **George Riley**

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT





- ★Several other County plans have been delayed, specifically the General Plan update and the County Plan on Climate Action. At our previous meeting, we proposed a draft letter to the County, urging greater diligence and effort to address lingering delays in key staff work. Of particular concern was the "builder's remedy" which allows fast-track development without guidance from an updated General Plan. Our committee approved the draft, and forwarded it to the full LWVMC Board where it is being reviewed.
- ★Monterey County Superior Court Judge Thomas Wills has been named Oversight Judge for the Seaside Watermaster Basin.

- ★CalAm continues to be slow construcing extra wells for ASR needed to capture maximum water from infrequent heavy rains.
- ★Work on the Highway 68 and 9 roundabouts are moving forward. Although objections include costs (\$227 million versus AI controlled signals at \$500,000), and anticipated benefits include fewer accidents, added safety and wildlife corridors, and reduced GHG emissions.
- The Highway 68
 ★Coalition is suing
 the County for
 increases in car racing



at **Laguna Seca** (causing noise and traffic problems) without an EIR.

★The \$38bn new State Budget deficit will likely result in reductions in 2024-25 climate and environmental funding.

George Riley, Chair

LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: JANE MEADE-ROBERTS





ane Meade-Roberts is a relatively new member LWVMC, having September. ioined last "What spurred me to join," she says, "is being friends with Arlene Guest and she's been very, very active in the League." Jane reports that she also has "long ago recollections of the League of Women Voters because my mother was involved in it

in the 1950's. I remember being in places where she had meetings and we kids would be playing in another room" while the League met.

Our League is definitely not the first time Jane has been involved in the voting process. "I've been very active in registering voters," she says, "with various different people. We went to Hartnell and the Salinas farmer's market to register voters. But the last time we went to that same farmer's market, we were told we couldn't register voters there because they didn't want anything political or religious at the market."

After that incident, Jane and her colleagues changed their plan. "We switched to Everyone's Harvest, which has multiple markets all over the area. But Everyone's Harvest wanted me to be affiliated with a group, not just be a nice lady who wanted to register voters," she reports. So

that requirement was an additional reason for Jane to join our League chapter.

Jane grew up in Los Angeles and began her education at CSU Northridge before earning a Master's degree in Human Development with

a specialization in **Developmental Education** from **Pacific Oaks College** in Pasadena. She

became a school teacher, starting in Southern California and then, in 1984, when she moved to our area, in **Soledad**.



Her peak career accomplishment was in 2002, when she became the founding Director of Education of Oasis Charter

Public School in **Salinas.** "The purpose of the school was to educate responsible citizens for a democracy," she says. She retired in 2011, but adds that "when I retired, I figured registering voters was a logical extension of educating responsible citizens for a democracy."

Jane has two children, a son who lives in South San Francisco and a daughter in Herndon, Virginia, whose one-year-old son is her first grandchild. Jane's husband, **Mike Roberts**, was a teacher at Oasis Charter. Also now retired, Mike sometimes helps Jane register voters, a joint activity that was photographed by **Dennis Mar** for last month's issue of **The Voter** (February 2024, page 6).



When Jane ran the charter school, some of its

activities were designed to train youngsters to be comfortable with voting and she suggests that the League might want to add to that model. "One of the things we did was, on the day of an election, we had a **Get Out and Vote** parade. The kids walked down the streets carrying kidmade non-partisan signs reminding adults to vote. That kind of activity reinforces the idea that voting is important. It's aimed at

younger kids and I would like to see the League support this kind of thing," she says.

Jane adds, "I think it's important to give kids opportunities to vote on various things so the idea of voting becomes an important part of their lives.

It can be things like should we play basketball or kickball? Plan a program for this day or that day? We need to be using that kind of



language with them much earlier than we do."

Certainly, LWVMC can agree that Jane Meade-Roberts' ideas about ways to involve both young and older citizens in the voting process are fresh and useful.

Nancy Baker Jacobs

CALL FOR YOUNG ARTISTS: HIGH SCHOOL ART CONTEST



WVMC is delighted to announce a graphic design poster art contest for Monterey County High School students



to promote registration and voting. The theme is, "Your Vote Is Your Voice—Register and Vote!"

broad participation in registering to vote and voting. Contest rules, including medium, size, etc., will soon be available on the *LWVMRYCO*. org website.

Or, you or student applicants can use the **LWVMC 2024 Student QR code** to take you directly to all the contest details as they are updated.

Dates and Deadlines

The contest will run from February 1st to March 11th. Student submissions will be on display from late March through late April at six Monterey County Libraries and at the Monterey Peace & Justice Center.



Winning submissions will be paired with text directing viewers to the LWVUS-sponsored website **Vote411.org** (see page 2).



There will be a grand prize award of \$200, and multiple merit awards of \$75. The grand-prize-winning poster will be used in our League voter registration efforts throughout this election year.

Student Qualifications

The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 who live in or attend high school in Monterey County. The Contest Committee is reaching out to art teachers, community groups and home schoolers to encourage participation.

Want to help? Have questions?

Contact any current committee member,

Marianne Gawain (contest copy, HS liason),

Shelley Sweet (display sites), Olivia

Mandilk (publicity), or Sandy Hoag
(operations). Any of us will be glad
to share the goals of the contest and

suggest ways you can be of service.

We need more people to help, especially if

you've worked with students, had experience with

contests, or just want to take part in this creative

Marianne Gawain

Contest Rules and Rewards

The student's challenge will be to design posters that **encourages**

February 2024

League of Women Voters of Monterey County http://lwvmryco.org

event!

LEAGUE MEMBERS IN ACTION! LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS



Our Call for Volunteers for Members to interview our representative **Senate** and Assembly members in the

January Voter was answered!

Dates for interviews are being set to speak with Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas. **Assemblymember Dawn** Addis. and Senator John Laird.



The results will be used to set California-level priorities and assess support from these elected officials. A report will be published after the process has been completed.

Tama Olver, Legislative Interview Chair

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

&Welcome New Members!≪

Carie Broecker and Jacqueline Simon

Thaddeus Hoffmeister

844 Terry Street, Monterey 93940 thoffmeister1@udayton.edu

Suzanne Worcester

933 Fountain Ave., Monterey 93940 (831) 869-8778

കThanks to Our Generous Donorsം ഒ **LWVMC General Fund** \$200 / Catherine Fanoe

Gift Membership Subscriptions \$130 / Sharon Miller



Send Membership Updates to Janet Brennan,

brennan janet@comcast.net



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 Welcome!

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 Stant \$100 Susan B. Anthony \$ 95 Household (2 person \$ 65 Single membership (free) Student (16-24 years) a diploma or degree p	s, 1 address) , enrolled in
Name	(s)	
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City	State	Zip Code
Phone	e-mail	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
I [Please do NOT publish my addre number or email in The Voter nev	ess, phone vsletter
	bership dues & contributions <u>not</u> tax deductible, nor are do Florence Curlee Scholarshi _l	nations to the
However, donations to the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) are tax deductible.		

Fun Facts from Local League History

n the **December 1934 bulletin**, the **Monterey** Peninsula League of Women Voters said modestly that "Miss Brownie Lee Jones of San Francisco," will speak at their Luncheon Meeting on Women and Wages in Industry, as she was a "young woman thoroughly conversant with conditions throughout the country."

What they didn't say was that Jones was African American, and her goal was to help women workers, Black and white, become qualified to vote, and to aid unions to work on political and legislative action.

Was Jones so well known to our League at the time that she needed no introduction? She went on to serve as Director of the Southern School

for Women Workers, to promote labor education and interracial cooperation, and eventually moved into the field of civil rights.



I tried to find more about Jones. but there's so little about her as a pioneer and as a person. I couldn't find her photo, but think this picture of the National Council

of Negro Women from the same era captures the quality and standing of Brownie Lee Jones.

If you know more about Miss Jones, contact me! Regina Doyle

League of Women Voters of Monterey County
Office Mariposa Hall, 801 Lighthouse Avenue (corner of Irving), New Monterey CA 93940

Addresses and phone numbers redacted online: for information refer to by-mail paper copy or Handbook.

📆 Officers President Marianne Gawain

Vice President **Tama Olver**

Secretary **Dennis Mar**

Treasurer Marilyn Maxner

Policy Portfolios Government

(vacant)

LWV Action Janet Brennan

Natural Resources **Beverly Bean, Co-Chair**

League Activities Membership Janet Brennan

Publicity / Luncheons **Beverly Bean**

"The Voter" Editor **Regina Doyle**

Voter Service Pamela Stewart Jeanne Turner

Members At-Large **Whitney Gravel**

Olivia Mandilk

Sharon Miller

Shelley Sweet

Social Policy LWVMryCo The VOTER **Bev Kreps**

Published monthly except June/July/Aug/Dec Send articles & updates to ReginaDoyle@aol.com 🗰 Off-Board LWV California Jackie Jacobberger Natural Resources Committee George Riley, Co-Chair

Nominating Committee Elected

Nancy Baker Jacobs (2022-24) **Arlene Guest** (2022-24) Linda Gin (2023-25)

Appointed Dennis Mar Pamela Stewart

Vote411 Coordinator Olivia Mandilk

Voter's Edge **Arlene Guest**

Videographer Joe Asling

"The Voter" Biographer **Nancy Baker Jacobs**

Website Coordinator **Debby Majors-Degnan**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

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LWVMryCo Calendar 2024

FEBRUARY

High School Art Contest Opens

Monday, February 1st (details page 5)

Zoom Meetings
Monday, February 5th
10:30am Program Planning Meeting
11:30am Board Meeting
contact: Marianne Gawain

In-Person Lunch & Learn
Wednesday, February 14th, 11:30am
"Short Term Rentals in Monterey County"
Supervisor Mary Adams and Housing Staff
contact: George Riley

Natural Resources Committee Zoom Mtg. Thursday, February 15th, 12 noon contact: George Riley

APRIL

Board Zoom Meeting Monday, April 1st, 11:30am contact: Marianne Gawain **MARCH**

Board Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 4th, 11:30am

contact: Marianne Gawain

General Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, March 13th, 12 noon
"Voting Matters: What About Turnout?"
Guest Presenter: Vinz Koller
(details page 3)
contact: George Riley

Natural Resources Committee Zoom Meeting Thursday, March 14th, 12 noon contact: George Riley

General Zoom Meeting Wednesday, April 10th, 12 noon "Rank Choice Voting"

Natural Resources Committee Zoom Meeting
Thursday, April 18th, 12 noon / contact: George Riley