

# LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS<sup>®</sup> OF MONTEREY COUNTY "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / March 2024, Volume 96, Number 6

## Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 "Voting Matters: What About Turnout?"



**W**e have heard that turn-out drives election results. But to be able to turn out, a potential voter first has to be registered. And in Monterey County, an estimated 1 in 6 eligible voters have not registered to vote, at least, not yet. **We have a long way to go until all citizens are able to participate in shaping their own political environment.**

In this presentation by **Vinz Koller**—a member of the **2020 Electoral College**—we will take a closer look at **population demographics, registration patterns, and turnout**. We will also consider ways the League could increase voter registration and voter turnout in Monterey County.

Mr. Koller is a political scientist and sociologist at **Social Policy Research Associates**, based in Oakland where he conducts research and consults for the **US Departments of Labor, Education and Justice** as well as their state counterparts.



Over the years, Koller has also managed numerous political campaigns and voter registration drives, and has been an **Elector in the presidential elections of 2008, 2016, and 2020**. Koller studied English and Political Science at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, and received his Master's degree in International Policy Studies from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Monterey.

**George Riley**

### ***How to Attend Our Virtual Meeting***

The free **March 13th, 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 [lwwmryco@gmail.com](mailto:lwwmryco@gmail.com) on the **Monday before the meeting** (e.g., on **Monday, March 11th** for this month) with instructions on how to join the meeting.

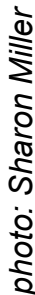
**Not a member?** Non-members can send a message to [LWVMryCo@gmail.com](mailto:LWVMryCo@gmail.com) requesting an invitation to receive the link and instructions. **You can also join by phone:** numbers for audio-only will be provided along with meeting numbers and codes.

**Can't get into the meeting using link/instructions?**  
Call **Tama Olver (831) 869-2748**

That said, LWVMC's board has noted with concern **significant delays in several critically important County planning projects** (see letter, p. 7) Unfortunately, it is not clear that these delays will necessarily lead to excellent outcomes.

Furthermore, while stretching out the timeline for addressing issues may allow the County to spread its planning costs over a period of years, we must recognize that ***the community as a whole pays in other ways when services, ordinances or enforcement are not in place.***

- Do you live on a busy, high-visibility,
- high-traffic area? We have signs to put in your
- yard, or hang on your balcony, window, or
- fence to encourage passersby to vote.



Contact **Marilyn Maxner**,  
*montmm06@gmail.com*, (831) 649-0335  
**Olivia Mandilk and Arlene Guest**

One case is the proposed **vacation rental ordinance**—eight years in the making! Our thanks to **Supervisor Mary Adams** and **Acting Director of Housing and Community Development Craig Spencer**, who gave a highly informative and well-attended presentation to the LWVMC's February membership meeting on the status of the ordinance (see full meeting video at [lwvmryco.org](http://lwvmryco.org)).

Our League's interest in this topic mainly relates to whether vacation rentals have **negative implications for affordable housing**. Though the uncertainty surrounding vacation rental regulation has posed difficulties over the past decade, (especially in unincorporated parts of the County), we hope that in belatedly finalizing an ordinance the County will benefit from the recent experience of other localities in regulating short-term rentals as well as the latest economic studies on the impact of short-term housing on local housing stock.

With the **March Primary** upon us and **November Presidential Election** galloping our way, I want to thank all League volunteers who are helping provide **Voter Service** this election year. I look forward to seeing many LWVMC members on Zoom on March 13<sup>th</sup>, when **Vinz Koller** will give a demographic perspective on voter registration and participation (*details on page 1*).

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## BENEFITS OF USING VOTE411

Looking for information about candidates on your ballot for the Primary election? Check out **VOTE411.org** to read about the candidates in their own words! A 36-second **YouTube** video ([tinyurl.com/Vote411info](https://tinyurl.com/Vote411info)) provides an overview of the **"VOTE411 Voter's Guide."** Or, scan the **Vote411 QR code** on this page.

VOTE411 is committed to ensuring voters have the information they need to successfully participate in every election. Whether it's local, state, or federal, every election is important to ensuring our laws and policies reflect the values and beliefs of our communities. To look at your **personalized voting information**, enter your address on the VOTE411 website [www.vote411.org/plan-your-vote](http://www.vote411.org/plan-your-vote).



From January 11 to February 15th, I made a total of four contacts with each candidate in this upcoming election—**only seven of the fourteen candidates running for office in Monterey County completed their VOTE411 Profiles!** As

of publication of this March issue of The Voter, candidates who had **not** completed their Profiles are: **Phillip Nickerson, Soledad City Council**, contact via business **"Personal Touches,"** (831) 521-5481; **Michael Oxford, State Senate, District 17**, [Oxford2024@jwpaine.com](mailto:Oxford2024@jwpaine.com); **JW Paine, State Assembly, District 29**, [jw@helpjw.com](mailto:jw@helpjw.com); **Jeremiah Pressey, Supervisor, District 4**, [info@jeremiahpressey.com](mailto:info@jeremiahpressey.com); **Eric Tao, State Senate, District 17**, [drtaoeric@gmail.com](mailto:drtaoeric@gmail.com); **Tony Virueta, State Senate, District 17**, [tony@tony4senate.com](mailto:tony@tony4senate.com).

If candidates on your ballot have not completed their Profiles, **especially if you're one of their supporters**, consider sending a brief encouraging message for them to complete their free Profiles.

It's easy, doesn't take much time, and gives simple directions to access and complete. If candidates tell you they need their access code, let me know at [centralcoastgrace@gmail.com](mailto:centralcoastgrace@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Olivia Mandilk**



### UPDATE: MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT



There is reason to believe **independent oversight of our Monterey County Sheriff's department** will eventually be in place, despite **Monterey County Board of Supervisors'** lack of progress to date. Noted expert in the field **Mike Gennaco** shared this information with representatives of interested groups from Marin to Monterey Counties in a Zoom presentation on **February 6th**.



Communication with affected communities and access to those in power leads to positive change, such as rating more effective qualities for promotion and recruitment of personnel. **Transparency leads to trust.** Oversight prevents things from unwinding, like an insurance policy against expensive liability and litigation. It also makes officers jobs easier and more effective because of a fresh set of eyes.

Several members of our League and coalition partners took note of the success stories of law enforcement agencies with independent oversight from around the state, spurring others to look favorably on such oversight, with or without subpoena power.

Oversight will take different forms in different areas, with varying levels of authority, ability, and access. But the paradigm is definitely shifting, and our League is working toward whatever it takes to make our communities safer.

**Sharon Miller**



## LWVMC PROGRAM PLANNING

Live discussion at our **February 12th Program Planning meeting** resulted in several decisions. First, there was **no call for any new studies**. We already have extensive local, state and national positions to provide a solid foundation for advocacy on a broad array of policies.

Also, a focus on **“climate change adaptation and mitigation at the local level”** was added to **water, affordable housing and local justice reform**, which were reaffirmed as areas of emphasis. We anticipate that the public will want to learn more about the effects of sea level rise on local infrastructure. The **Climate Action Plans** of the County and municipal governments also bear examination. These proposed areas of emphasis will be presented to the full membership for a vote at our **May 8th Annual Meeting**.



Finally, we decided to support LWVUS's proposal to focus for the next two years on **“Making Democracy Work.”** This program encompasses advocacy in a number of areas including **improving ballot access, improving redistricting practices, fighting gerrymandering, and reforming the Electoral College system**. While some LWVUS members have suggested adding climate to the LWVUS program, we decided that the National League can have its greatest impact in **strengthening democracy**.

We will convey our views to LWVUS. Final decisions will be made at the hybrid **2024 Convention, June 27 to 30**, in Washington DC and online. If you'd like to represent our League as a Convention Delegate in person or virtually, let me know!

Marianne Gawain

## LWVMC HIGH SCHOOL POSTER ART CONTEST "YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE"

### First Contestant

On February 1st, **Sophia Kemmerly, Carmel High School** was the first contestant to submit a poster to the contest “Your Vote is Your Voice—Register and Vote”. **Students have until March 11 to submit posters** encouraging broad participation in registering to vote, voting, and encouraging others to do so.

and winning posters will be displayed in **Carmel, King City, Marina, Monterey, Salinas, Soledad, and Watsonville libraries**, and the **Peace and Justice Center, Seaside** from March 23- April 24.



Contestants can use the QR code here, or on flyers posted in more than 40 schools, in County libraries, at LWVMRY Facebook, LWVMryCo.org, or go to [lwwartcontest@gmail.com](mailto:lwwartcontest@gmail.com) for general information, guidelines, and application forms.

### Display of Contest Posters

A panel of judges will review submissions and select the **\$200 Grand Prize winner**, the **\$75** and the **Certificate of Merit** awards. Submissions

### Thanks to Joy Osborne Trust

The prizes and contest expenses are funded through a generous memorial gift from the family of the late **LWVMC Member**

**Joy Osborne's Trust**. Response from her family regarding the contest said that it sounded to them like *"... something Joy would wholeheartedly support, and with her characteristic enthusiasm!"*

### Want to help?

We need help in translating the guidelines into Spanish, and in delivering contestant posters to display sites.

Contact: **Marianne Gawain, Sandy Hoag, Olivia Mandilk, or Shelley Sweet**



## LWVMC MEMBER PROFILE: LINDA GIN



**L**inda Gin has been a League of Women Voters member for nearly 50 years, first joining the **Salinas chapter**. *"The reason I joined was that there were so many issues going on in Salinas at the time and I just couldn't get enough information on them,"* she recalls. **"Former Supervisor Barbara Shipnuck, whose son went to Roosevelt Elementary School with mine, asked me why I wasn't a member of the League. I joined and ended up becoming Treasurer in my first month."**



*Trust Officer,"* she recalls. *"I was a Trust Officer for 43 years. B of A sold its Trust Division to Wells Fargo Bank in 1987, so my job moved to that office. I retired as Vice President Trust Officer for Wells Fargo in December 2011."*

Looking back, Linda wonders why she agreed to fill a Board position so soon. She had a background as an accountant and assumed that being Treasurer would require just simple accounting. *"But it included a commitment to join the monthly meetings and give all the information to the Board,"* she says. *"In the early days, our League had many young members. Board members hosted meetings in their homes, which allowed for babysitters for young working mothers as needed."*

In subsequent years, Linda held League positions as **Secretary, Voter Service** and **Publicity Chairs**. She also handled publicity after the Salinas League merged into LWVMC. In Salinas, she served as **Board & Commissions Chair**, to recruit interested and qualified LWV members to serve on assigned seats for City Boards and Commissions. Those members would then need to be approved by the Salinas City Council. Currently, she's on our **Nominating Committee**.

Born and raised in Salinas, Linda graduated from **Hartnell College** and became an accountant. Then she went into banking after a neighbor recommended that she interview for a job with Bank of America. *"I flew from Monterey Airport to San Francisco for training to become a B of A*

Linda has also served the public in many other ways. *"I was on the League's Agriculture Study Committee and was able to secure funding for our study from Bank of America. I served on the Hartnell Foundation Board and termed out after two four-year terms. I'm still involved with the Hartnell Council of the Arts—that's been 19 years now. Also, I'm involved with the Women's Leadership Council at CSU Monterey Bay for 20 years. We raise money for re-entry students and emergency funds for students."*



*"I was on the state mandated Ombudsman Board (now under the umbrella of Alliance on Aging), whose purpose is to provide funding for volunteers' out-of-pocket expenses in visiting long-term care facilities in Monterey County,"* she adds. *"It's difficult to recruit volunteers to visit with residents for issues about their care."*

In addition, Linda has just ended her position as **Principal of the Chinese Mandarin School**, which is under the umbrella of the **Chinese Association of Salinas**. *"I was also the Financial Secretary,"* she says. *"We made a decision not to continue the school after the pandemic because Zoom just didn't work well for our students."*

Linda married **Allen Gin** in June of 1962 and they have two sons, one who lives locally and the other in Long Beach, along with four grandchildren. In retirement, the Gins are doing as much travelling as they can manage. *"We have two timeshares,*

*(continued on page 6)*

one in Palm Springs and the other in Las Vegas. As we age, it's difficult to take land tours and we are now



cruising more with shorter or less land tours. Our last cruise was from Monaco to Barcelona with the highlight visiting Familia Sagrada!"

When asked what she'd like to see for LWVMC's future, Linda replied, "We need to get the younger generation involved in the political process. How can we encourage high schools to emphasize how

important it is to be informed voters? I remember **Florence Curlee** speaking to high school students before elections to explain who's running for office and why it's important to vote.

"I was also contacted by a Hartnell College Political Science Professor to host a ballot information meeting for students and it was well-attended. Perhaps we can use these examples to reach out to high schools and colleges?"

Certainly, many LWVMC members share those concerns.  
**Nancy Baker Jacobs**

## WE REMEMBER

### MARY ANN "CORKY" MATTHEWS



Long time League member **Mary Ann "Corky" Matthews** passed away in November 2023, aged 93. The nickname "Corky," was given to her at Stanford

University, deriving from her family name "Corthall," which she embraced and used her entire life.

**Legacy.com** said she was "... an avid botanist, conservationist, environmental activist, newsletter writer and editor for various publications, author of the **"The Plants of Monterey County: An Illustrated Field Key,"** ardent rock climber, hiker, backpacker, skier, mountaineer, and life member of the **Sierra Club** and **American Alpine Clubs.**"

**Janet Brennan** said: "Corky was a master of her field of expertise. I don't think there was a plant that she could not identify. I went with Corky and **Joyce Stevens** on a field trip to the Camp Roberts area probably 10+ years ago. Even though Corky needed assistance in walking, she led us through the plants and flowers with enthusiasm and grace."

**Dennis Mar**

### DR. DEBORAH TURNER

We note with sorrow the sudden passing of **LWVUS President Deborah Turner, MD, JD.** Dr. Turner had a pioneering medical career, an **M. D. Anderson**

**Cancer Center Fellowship**, and was the first Black American to be **Board Certified in Gynecological Oncology**, practicing for 35 years in Iowa and internationally.

As a League leader in Iowa, Dr. Turner strengthened relationships between State and local Leagues. She chaired **LWVUS's DEI Committee**, where she focused not only on racial equity but on intergenerational dynamics and socioeconomic differences.

The League elected Dr. Turner as its **20th President in 2020**. While attending the **National Convention in 2022** I watched her preside over a gathering of passionate and opinioned delegates with wisdom, grace and good humor.

Let us honor her memory by heeding her call to **"Keep on keeping on!"** **Marianne Gawain**







*This letter was approved at the February Board meeting.  
We will consider referring a similar letter on this topic to the Monterey County Grand Jury.*

Glenn Church, Chair  
Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901



SUBJECT: *Status of Housing Element,  
Climate Action Plan, and  
Short-Term Rental Ordinance*

February 16, 2024

Dear Chair Glenn Church:



The **League of Women Voters of Monterey County** has followed the development of the **Housing Element**, **Climate Action Plan** and **Short-Term Rental Ordinance** based on League positions on affordable housing and climate change. The status of each program follows:

- ✘ The **Housing Element** was not submitted to the State Housing and Community Development by the December 31, 2023 due date.
- ✘ The **Climate Action Plan** has been under preparation for several years but has been delayed due to lack of staffing and resources.
- ✘ The **Short-Term Rental Ordinance Draft Environmental Impact Report** was released in December with comments due by January 29, 2024 after eight years in preparation.

Delays in preparing these documents should be addressed by the Board of Supervisors. In particular, we are concerned that submitting the Housing Element after the due date has made Monterey County subject to the “builders remedy,” which would enable developers to override existing land use plans and regulations. Its delay also has effects on the availability of affordable housing and on climate change. Given the current impacts of climate change on our local economy and environment, the County should prioritize actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, the delay in preparing a Short-Term Rental Ordinance has resulted in on-going confusion and frustration for local residents.

The League urges the Board to address these major planning problems in a timely and effective manner and to provide adequate financial resources needed to complete the programs.

Sincerely,  
**Marianne Gawain, President**

## LEAGUE MEMBERS IN ACTION!

### Natural Resources Committee Update

The February 15th meeting was cancelled due to power outages.



Next Zoom meeting:  
**Thursday, March 14, noon**  
**George Riley**

### Nominating Committee Update

This year's Committee is thinking ahead to the **May Annual Meeting** we'd love **new people and new ideas on board!**

**What are your interests?** Open positions include **Publicity** (with written job description/instruction); **Government** (focus on any aspect of local governance you're interested in); and **Secretary**.

Or, take a **Member At-Large** seat on the Board to find what interests you, and get involved!

For more information, contact any Nominating Committee member: **Nancy Baker Jacobs, Linda Gin, Dennis Mar, Pamela Stewart, or me, Arlene Guest.**

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### Change of Address

**Kathy Dale**

38684 Country Terrace  
Fremont, CA 94536-6273

**Anne McGowan**

1110 Cass St.  
Monterey, CA 93940-4510

**Philomene Smith**

PO Box 4076  
Monterey, CA 93942-4076

Contact: **Janet Brennan**  
[brennan\\_janet@comcast.net](mailto:brennan_janet@comcast.net)  
(831) 659-2090



**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.

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)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

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, [Brennan\\_Janet@comcast.net](mailto:Brennan_Janet@comcast.net)**

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 Local Impact Fund (LWVCLIF)**

(formerly LWVC Education Fund)

**are tax deductible, but please continue to make the donations payable to LWVCEF.**



# LEAGUE MEMBERS IN ACTION: MARCH 5TH POLLING PLACE CLERKS

The LWVMC will staff two polling places for the **March 5th Presidential Primary**: the **Old City Hall, Del Rey Oaks** and the **Cabrillo Family Resource Center, Seaside**.

Poll workers are responsible for conducting voting activities in strict accordance with **California Election Code**. All volunteer clerks received two and a half hours of instruction on their duties by the Monterey County Elections Office in a training class in February. A more detailed report in the March **"Voter."**

Dennis Mar



Seven of the two dozen LWVMC election volunteers:  
**Anne Herendeen, Pam Stewart, Tamara Harris, Whitney Gravel, Dennis Mar, Catherine Crockett, and Kay Cline** / Photo: Kevin Hanstick



## 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.



### Off-Board

LWV California

Jackie Jacobberger

### ★ 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

#### Social Policy

Bev Kreps

### ★ 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

#### Natural Resources

George Riley,

Off Board Co-Chair

#### Nominating Committee

Nancy Baker Jacobs (2022-24)

Arlene Guest (2022-24)

Linda Gin (2023-25)

Dennis Mar

Pamela Stewart

#### Facebook/VOTE411

Olivia Mandilk

#### VOTE 411 Coordinator

Arlene Guest

#### Videographer

Joe Asling

#### "The Voter" Biographer

Nancy Baker Jacobs

#### Website Coordinator

Debby Majors-Degnan

### LWVMryCo The VOTER

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

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**LWVMryCo Calendar 2024**



**MARCH**

Zoom Meeting  
*Monday, March 4th, 11:30am*  
contact: Marianne Gawain

General Zoom Meeting  
*Wednesday, March 13th, 11:30am*  
*"Voting Matters: What About Turnout?"*  
*Guest Presenter: Vinz Koller*  
contact: George Riley

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

Board Zoom Meeting  
*Monday, May 6th, 11:30am*  
contact: Marianne Gawain

**MAY**

Natural Resources Committee Zoom Meeting  
*Thursday, May 16th, 12 noon* / contact: George Riley

**APRIL**

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

General Zoom Meeting  
*Wednesday, April 10th, 12 noon*  
*"Ranked Choice Voting"*  
contact: George Riley

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

In-Person Annual Membership Meeting  
*Wednesday, May 8th, 12 noon*  
*"Monterey County Grand Jury"*  
*Presenter: Marilyn Maxner*  
contact: Marianne Gawain