

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

"Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" / October 2025, Volume 98, Number 2

Wednesday, October 8th, 2025 "Deeper Dive Into Due Process"

Our October guest speaker at a virtual Zoom meeting was **Lisa Sperow**, the new **President and CEO of Monterey College of Law, Seaside** a local non-profit community-based law school with branches in **San Luis Obispo, Kern County, Empire**, and a **Hybrid Online** course (<https://montereylaw.edu/index-hybrid.html#>).



Ms Sperow reviewed the **Due Process** clause of the **14th Amendment to the US Constitution** regarding **Civil Rights** in depth Passed by Congress on June 13, 1866, and ratified on July 9, 1868. The Amendment extended liberties and rights granted by the **Bill of Rights** to formerly enslaved people. Major provisions of the Amendment were to grant citizenship to **"All persons born or naturalized in the United States,"** thereby granting citizenship to formerly enslaved people. Equally important was that **"nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."**

Ms Sperow's complete presentation can be seen online at tinyurl.com/LWVMCVideos.

Next In Person Lunch & Learn, Wednesday, November 12th

at the **Unitarian Universalist Church** <http://uucmp.org> 490 Aguajito Road / Carmel CA 93923

Topic "Immigration Enforcement in Monterey County:
School and Labor Force Impacts"

11:30 am **Doors Open & Registration Begins**

12 noon **Lunch** (optional) / 12:30 to 1:30 **Presentation**

Optional lunch is \$25 per person: grilled salmon, rice,
Greek salad, hummus, pita bread, and baklava dessert

by **Chef Faris Nimry, International Cuisine of Pacific Grove.**

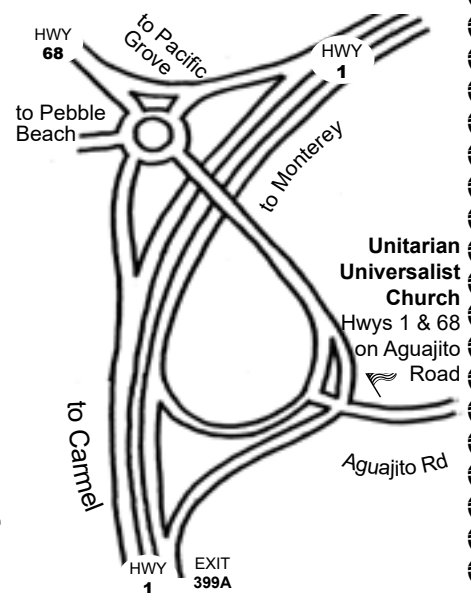
Reservations for lunch are required

and can be made through **Monday, November 10th.**

(Bev Bean: phone 236-1611 or e-mail beverlygb@gmail.com)

Pay at the door for lunch; meeting/presentation is **FREE.**

Reminder to Members: Reservations are a commitment to the caterer with a minimum number of attendees, and cannot be



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



People join the League of Women Voters out of a shared commitment to empower voters and defend democracy.

With our democracy now under threat, I have been reflecting recently on the importance of self-care for those of us who care so much. The current administration's efforts to "flood the zone" have left me personally struggling to stay focused and energized. So many things I have taken for granted now seem to need my immediate attention. I feel the call to help with a friend's loss of a government job, with the health of our local museum and library, with the integrity of elections and our Constitution, with our country's place on the global stage.

I've recently noticed that feistiness in others makes me smile. It connects with me on a heart-level that brings the world back into better focus. It brings me a bit of joy and connection, even with people I might never meet. Shared feistiness is becoming a touchstone for self-care, giving me the energy to stay in action, rather than hide from it all.

I'm curious about what you might be finding your touchstone to be. ***What gives you energy and frees you to act in support of our mission during these extraordinary times?*** If you want to talk, please contact me and I'll connect you with a member of the board to follow up.

Tama Olver

LWVCA SAYS "STAND UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE"



The LWVCA asks that all members urge Governor Newsom to sign AB 1071 (Kalra) immediately.

They say Newsom "... has been signing bills at a steady pace, but we are still eagerly awaiting his signature. It's a critical bill to strengthen the **Racial Justice Act (RJA)** and assert California's commitment to a justice system free from racial bias. **Help us get this reform across the finish line.**" As co-sponsors of both the original RJA and the **Racial Justice Act for All**, the California League remains deeply committed to ensuring the law works as intended. (<https://lwvc.org/urge-your-assemblymember-vote-yes-sjr-1/>)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ Paul Fleischman ★

★ Patricia Brown ★

★ Diana Vizzard ★

Shelley Sweet

STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST: FOSTERING DEMOCRACY



Inspired by the **LWVCA Convention's Youth Engagement workshop** to encourage students to engage in democracy, LWVMC will sponsor a **video contest for high school students**.

Our first **Zoom meeting** will be on **Tuesday, October 14th, 4pm**. The Committee will assist with outreach to educators and students, and brainstorm ways to publicise and show student videos that **encourage registration and promote voting**.

For a Zoom Meeting invitation, contact **Marianne Gawain**



WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? JOIN A LWVMC COMMITTEE



MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING AND ONBOARDING COMMITTEE

Responsible for growing the chapter membership, orienting new members to what the local League does, and involving members in projects based on their individual interests. It also builds engagement and activities with current members. Co-Chairs: **Pam Bonsper** and **Shelley Sweet**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Be "table leaders" at Lunch & Learn events
- Introduce current members to committee structure and find out what they are interested in.

DEFENDING DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE

Organizes and supports activities related to the League's mission of Defending Democracy by: engaging members in activities and actions that hold government accountable to support and defend the Constitution; ensuring that the chapter and its name are present and visible in communities where discussion of nonpartisan defense of democracy is relevant; connecting with current and potential members at local defending democracy events, and helping to grow League membership and engagement; developing relevant communication messages and materials; and finding opportunities for action in communicating to interest groups and the public. Chair: **Tama Olver**

Volunteer Opportunities

This is a relatively new committee---we welcome LWVMC members who have a passion for our purpose to join us and help shape what we do. We currently have opportunities for volunteers to:

- Table at events
- Develop advocacy messages and materials
- Monitor action opportunities for communication to an interest group and the public
- Administer a Defending Democracy interest group using Mailchimp

GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

This committee is currently focused on implementing an Observer Corps to monitor and report back information from board meetings and activities of high-priority local governmental agencies (County Board of Supervisors, City Councils, County Board of Education, School Boards, etc.). This can be done by attending in-person or virtually, by reviewing minutes and videos, and/or scanning local news media. It is an excellent opportunity to become informed while promoting government transparency and accountability----all while learning and having fun with knowledgeable and dedicated League members. Chair: **Sharon Miller**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Monitor your selected board
- Write brief reports for publication in "The Voter" newsletter as needed
- Recommend Lunch and Learn Programs
- Suggest issues upon which the League might take a position (training, guidance, and opportunities for discussion are available)

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS COMMITTEE (SEASONAL)

This committee supports the annual call from LWV California to interview California legislators and gather information useful to their advocacy work in Sacramento. Participation in the process enables members to get face-to-face time with our legislators and learn a bit about nonpartisan political advocacy. The process usually begins in November and is completed by the end of January. Chair: **Tama Oliver**

Volunteer Opportunities

In roughly ascending order of level of commitment:

- Participate in an interview as an observer or moderator
- Pose a question to the legislator after some preparation on the topic
- Take notes for inclusion in a report submitted online to LWV California
- Schedule a planning meeting and interview in coordination with other LWV county chapters

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

This committee reviews legislative activities related to land use, affordable housing, water quality and supply, climate change, pesticide control, etc. We recommend legislative action to the Board on local issues for which the League has a position. Chair: **Janet Brennan**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Make recommendations for local action to the Committee and the Board
- Prepare letters, testimony, etc. on local action which has been approved by the Board

SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE

This committee currently advocates for citizens' oversight of the sheriff's department, monitors local organizations regarding diversity, equity and inclusion issues, and is alert to fair treatment of workers regardless of immigration status. We are open to following up on other social policy areas, as the need arises. This might include education, housing, probation, public assistance, consumer education, health, or recreation. Co-Chairs: **Beverly Kreps** and **Sharon Miller**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Participate and report on, either in person or through Zoom, relevant local meetings.
- Find pertinent information from media reports for "The Voter" and/or for Board action.

VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

This Committee's goal is to encourage informed and active participation in elections and civic activities. Leading up to an election we conduct candidate forums and Pros & Cons forums about the measures on the ballot to help educate voters. We also help register voters and work the polls on Election Day. We also may work on civics education projects or advocate for voting rights. Chair: **Arlene Guest**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Assist at candidate forums (various tasks are available)
- Assist with Pros & Cons forums
- Distribute Easy Voter Guides
- Work at the polls
- Participate in voter registration drives or tabling at events

OPERATIONS TEAMS

LUNCH AND LEARN

Topics and Speakers

The League Board chooses topics and recommends speakers at the June Directors Retreat based on our League's annual policy priorities. The committee suggests guest speakers, agrees on topics, and develops publicity announcement scripts for local radio, for "The LWVMC Voter" newsletter, and email notices for members. The chosen speakers present in-person or by Zoom on second Wednesdays of each month from September through May.

Luncheon Logistics Team

Coordinates the logistics of the seven monthly General Meeting L&Ls ("Lunch and Learn with the League") and the Annual Meeting. Arranges caterer, speaker requirements, venue, takes reservations, reports totals to venue and caterer, and purchases and maintains paper goods. On the day of the event, collects and brings prepared food from caterer, drinking water, tea, pitchers, ice, forks and serving utensils. Sets up buffet, cleans up, and returns containers to caterer. Chair: **Beverly Bean**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Help set up and clean up the day of the Lunch and Learn event.

ROSTER MANAGER

Reviews League member contact information and assists members in updating their records. Corrections must be made by the members themselves through their on-line accounts. The manager can help those without e-mail accounts.

Manager: **Dennis Mar** (*Volunteer Opportunities not applicable*)

PUBLICITY

This committee acts to publicize the general scope and specific activities of the League by issuing a timely flow of relevant information to the media and other interested groups or organizations.

Chair: **Beverly Bean**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers with expertise are needed to assist in publicity activities
- Volunteers are needed to improve and expand the work of the committee

VOTE411

Vote411.org is a website run by the National League that allows users to enter their address to find out what's on their upcoming ballot and find information about candidates and measures.

Chair: **Arlene Guest**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Find contact information for all candidates in each current election
- Call candidates that are not registered on Vote411 urging their participation (pre-written scripts provided)
- Copy official information on local measures into the back end of the website (training provided)

"LWVMC VOTER" NEWSLETTER

"The LWVMC Voter" is the primary method for communicating and informing our local membership. It is published and mailed eight times a year. Articles and photos are generated by members. The editor collects and edits the submitted material.

Editor: **Regina Doyle**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Write articles about League activities (Lunch & Learn meetings, current events, local participation in demonstrations, parades, elections, and other pertinent local activities)
- Photograph League events and League participation in local activities
- Write research articles on topics of interest to the League
- Interview and write "Member Profiles" (biographies) of League members

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

Posts specific activities about our League, helps post/archive League information, reports, and videos of meetings onto our website pertaining to meetings and activities to provide current and historical local League information available to members.

Chair: **Debby Majors-Degnan**

Volunteer Opportunities

- Provide information and news about our League meetings and community events for our website
- Provide photographs and captions on League events

***There is a lot of room for flexibility and creativity for our volunteers.
Your enthusiasm and ideas will be most appreciated. Please join us!***

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

☞Paul Fleischman☞

☞Patricia Brown☞

☞Diana Vizzard☞

Shelley Sweet

☞Florence Curlee Scholarships☞
are available to pay **membership fees**.
Contact: **Janet Brennan**, Brennan_Janet@comcast.net

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

**Donations to League of Women Voters of
California Local Impact Fund (LWVCLIF)**
(formerly LWVC Education Fund) **are tax
deductible with donations payable to
LWVCEF.**

☞Send Member Updates to: ☞

Janet Brennan brennan_janet@comcast.net

Bring along friends or family who might benefit from joining our League, to an
In-Person Lunch & Learn presentation (non-members are always welcome),
or invite them to attend a **virtual Zoom meeting** with you.

JOIN OUR LEAGUE OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

www.LWVmryco.org

Any person age 16 or older may be a member of the League of Women Voters Monterey County

No set yearly dues: Suggested level \$75 / minimum \$20 (suggested for students)

Everyone is an individual member:

No household memberships (e.g., two members sharing one mailing address)

For household members, if each individual pays \$50, total is similar to former household rate.

Dues for new or renewing members by credit card or e-mail:

Create or access your existing account on the national LWV database

1. Go to **www.LWVmryco.org** / 2. On the left-side menu, click on ****NEW** JOIN/RENEW/PROFILE** / 3. Follow prompts (you will receive access directions by e-mail)

Dues by check via US Mail:

Write a check payable to: LWVUS / Mail to: LWVMC, PO Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942-1995

Questions? Contact **Dennis Mar** at: LWVmryco@gmail.com

Board of Directors **League of Women Voters of Monterey County**

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Pam Bonsper

Shelley Sweet

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Tama Olver

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"The Voter" Editor

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Website Coordinator

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LWVMryCo The VOTER

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

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★ **LWVMryCo Calendar 2025** ★
OCTOBER

LWVMC General Zoom Meeting
held on Wednesday, October 8th, 12 noon
"Deeper Dive Into Due Process"
(see front page for details)

Natural Resources Committee
Zoom Meeting
held on Thursday, October 9th, 11:30am
contact: **Janet Brennan**

Board Zoom Meeting
held on Monday, October 13th, 11:30am
contact: **Dennis Mar**



NOVEMBER

Board In-Person Meeting
at Marilyn Maxner's house
Monday, November 3rd, 11:30am
contact: **Dennis Mar**

LWVMC General In-Person Meeting
Wednesday, November 12th, 12 noon
**"Immigration Enforcement in Monterey
County: School and Labor Force Impacts"**
Guest Speakers: **Dr. Deneen Guss,**
Superintendent of Schools
(Agriculture Speaker TBA)
contacts: **Marianne Gawain & Sharon Miller**

Natural Resources Committee Zoom Meeting
Thursday, November 20th, 11:30am
contact: **Janet Brennan**

★★★★★★★★★★

*We are a nonpartisan, grassroots organization working to protect and expand voting rights,
and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy.*