

SPRING 2023

Coming Events:

May 25: Senior Resource Fair, Woodland Community and Senior Center

June 3: Davis Pride Festival, Central Park

June 21: Summer Solstice Event and Annual Meeting

September: Members Mixer/Mental Health Study; **YES!** Event

October: Democracy Works; High School Voter Registration

Board Meetings:

June 6: 1:30pm

July: No Board Meeting

August 8: 1:30pm

September 12: 1:30pm

October 10: 1:30pm

November 14: 1:30pm

December 12: 1:30pm

All Board meetings are via Zoom until further notice. Please contact President Karen Urbano at woodlandleague2021@gmail.com if you would like to attend an upcoming Board meeting. ***We encourage members to attend Board meetings and hope you will not only attend from time to time but also provide feedback about meeting times.***



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OUR LEAGUE NEWS



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Karen Urbano

We are winding up a busy year as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic that kept us virtual. It is heartwarming to be able to see people again in person, mostly unmasked.

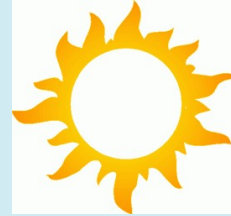
Your small board of directors has been working hard to keep us functioning and each of them deserves a huge round of thanks. To Vice-President Judy Wohlfrom, events coordinator extraordinaire who has brought our wagon load of displays to so many places to help get our name out into the community. To Treasurer Carla Cox who continues to keep our funds in order and notices details that others miss, mainly your president. To Secretary and Communications Editor Lorna Carriveau who compiles the details from our board meetings and writes articles and press releases in her double duties. We wouldn’t be still in business without these three people. Gracias! Merci! Danke! *THANK YOU!!*

A big thank you also to board member Janet Ruggiero, past president and leader of our Mental Health study. (BTW – she could use some help too.) And to Norma De Liberty who organized our Voter Services before the 2022 elections.

Wouldn’t you like to join this team and help spread the work around? There are also a few who are serving, although not on the board. Catherine Portman, Maria Lago and Laura Caruso-Kofoid organized and judged the recent high school essay contest. Christine Shewmaker keeps us up to date on environmental issues affecting our city and county. Others serve on committees: Judy Simas, Richard DeLiberty and Maria Lago served on the finance committee and drew up the budget that you will vote on for 2023-2024. They also are starting the planning process for how our League can spend its Education Fund (Ed Fund) monies. Carol Souza-Cole would love to have you step up and take on some of this important work as she and Laura Caruso-Kofoid are leading board and committee nomination efforts. And a special thank you to those who have

helped staff tables the many times we have been out in the community this year: Maurice Rassmussen, Gloria Boccolini and William Horn, and, of course, our own Judy Wohlfrom who manages the set ups. If I have omitted you, please forgive me. You are needed and are valuable to our continuing existence, however you contribute.

Thank you all! Hope to see you at our Summer Solstice gathering and annual meeting!



SUMMER SOLSTICE EVENT – ANNUAL MEETING

Come one, come all to our Summer Solstice dinner and special presentation on June 21 at the historic Woodland Hotel!

The evening will begin at 5:30pm, starting with a dinner catered by Cracchiolo's, then a presentation by Mindy Romero, Ph.D., the founder and director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID).



Dr. Romero is the founder and director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID), formerly known as the California Civic Engagement Project, which is now part of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and based in Sacramento. Dr. Romero is a political sociologist and received her doctorate in Sociology from the University of California, Davis. Her research focuses on political behavior and race/ethnicity, and seeks to explain patterns of voting and political underrepresentation, particularly among youth and communities of color in California and the U.S. She has spoken about civic engagement and political rights in numerous venues, testifying before the National Commission on Voting Rights and the California Legislature, among others. Her research has been cited in major news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Politico* and the *Huffington Post*.

The League will hold its annual meeting following Dr. Romero's presentation (shortly after 7:00pm). Members of the public are invited to stay for the meeting if they wish. All League members are strongly encouraged to attend this important meeting and provide their input and approval of new By-Laws, the Program, budget, and election of board members for 2023-24.

More information about the event, how to become a sponsor and to purchase tickets is available on the League's website at

<https://my.lwv.org/california/woodland>. **TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BEFORE JUNE 15!**

Sponsors will be listed in a special issue of THE VOTER, on our website and Facebook page and in articles published locally. Also consider purchasing an individual ticket for yourself and a ticket as a gift to a friend or potential member – an excellent introduction to our community involvement.



SO MUCH HAPPENING!

By Judy Wohlfrom

As we are wrapping up our 2022-23 year, I want to report our successes as they pertain to Membership and Community activities. My current primary duty as your Vice President is membership: to recruit new members, to encourage members to participate in our League's activities and to support the state and national League

positions and their various goals. Our membership is currently at 44 persons, slightly lower than last year. We need more and younger members to be both more inclusive and successful. One step we are taking toward that goal is translating our application form and League Information brochure into Spanish.

This past year our League was invited to several events to support voter education, registration and new membership:

- Freeman School United Way Fair,
- Local Summer Farmers' Market,
- Women's History and Celebration at the Gibson House,
- Cesar Chavez Celebration at the Community Center,
- The City of Winter's Youth Day, and
- Senior Resource Fair at the Community Center.

Our thanks to everyone who has volunteered to support these tabling events. They were excellent opportunities to engage our many communities, encourage voter registration and voting, and discuss voting security.

Other events sponsored by our League for members and the community this year were:

- League Retreat Mixer,
- League New Member Mixer with Mental Health County Experts,
- Holiday Potluck Mixer,
- State of the Community Luncheon, and
- Mental Health Forum to explore baseline resources within the community.

We will be creating a new calendar full of opportunities in the coming fiscal year

following the June 21 Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting to learn more!

HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION NEWS

By Carla Cox

This year's high school voter registration effort differed from our League's past programs as we did not have a member available to organize our in-class presentations. Instead, League members collaborated with the Yolo County Elections office and Davis Area League on outreach tabling at Yolo County high schools, providing voting information while registering and pre-registering eligible high school students. (The photo below shows me standing to the left of Maria Coronel of the Yolo County Elections Office at their information booth.)

League members Judy Wohlfrom, Gloria Boccolini and Maurice Rasmussen also represented our League at the popular Winters Youth Day event on April 29, sharing a booth with Yolo County Elections office staff and providing voter registration information to Winters residents.

While response from Yolo County high schools was not as robust as hoped for, Davis Area League Voter Registration director Judy Higginson and Maria Coronel are optimistic about future efforts and plan to repeat the Countywide Youth Voter Registration drive in the next school year.



MENTAL HEALTH STUDY EVENT

By Lorna Carriveau

The League of Women Voters conducts studies on topics of interest to its members and community in addition to its non-partisan voter education programs and activities. This year and next the Woodland and Davis Leagues are collaborating on studying adult mental health in Yolo County under Janet

Ruggiero's leadership. This past September, Health and Human Services Agency staff informed us about the many ways the agency is providing mental health-related services to adults and children throughout the county with the help of many partners. On March 27 we learned about mental health needs and services from staff at CommuniCare Health Center in Woodland, Fourth & Hope, and the Yolo County District Attorney and Public Defender offices. The event was held at Norton Hall in Woodland.

We are grateful to these invaluable organizations for their ongoing work to improve the health of our communities. Sara Gavin, Chief Behavioral Officer, CommuniCare Health Center, spoke of their dedicated staff and creative partnerships with CalWorks, school districts, Probation Department, District Attorney's Office, and others to provide mental health and other services. She also noted Yolo County's early commitment to mental health services.

Amara Pickens and Carson Cozad of Fourth & Hope discussed their organization's growing housing capabilities and work with CalAIM (a state program working to transform Medi-Cal) in order to provide more community and behavioral health support.

Joe Gocke of the Public Defender's Office and Martha Wais and Nicole Kircaldy of the District Attorney's Office presented information about their collaboration with diversion programs, such as our county's Mental Health Court, Addiction Intervention Court and the Restorative Justice Partnership. Both departments are also working effectively with the Probation and Sheriff's Departments and Health and Human Services Agency to help individuals with mental health or substance use disorders facing felony or misdemeanor charges to receive needed support rather than serve jail time. (You can learn more about that partnership at the **Yolo County Community Corrections Partnership** webpage.) Recidivism rates are shown to fall when such support is provided.

A common theme throughout the presentations was the need to provide more varied and individualized support to ensure maximum effectiveness. There also are common challenges: insufficient staffing, difficulty coordinating services across counties, and letting the public know of services available to those in need as early as possible.

Our Leagues want to learn enough about mental health services in Yolo County so that we can reach consensus about the issue and form a position on further needs and opportunities. This event was a success in large part because of the thoughtful questions asked by attendees and their sharing of personal stories navigating current mental health systems. If you would like to participate in this venture, please contact us at **woodlandleagueneews@gmail.com**.



Sara Gavin, Chief Behavioral Officer, CommuniCare Health Center.



Amara Pickens and Carson Cozad of Fourth & Hope.



Joe Gocke of the Public Defender's Office and Martha Wais and Nicole Kircaldy of the District Attorney's Office.

CLIMATE ACTION

By Lorna Carriveau and Christine Shewmaker

Our League has supported sustainable climate action since the publication of its **position** at the 2011 Annual Meeting. The position, taken after considerable research, considered how climate change was affecting agriculture, forestry/urban forests, water, human health, and policy in Yolo County and made specific recommendations in response.

In 2020 the Yolo County Board of Supervisors approved a Climate Emergency Declaration (Resolution No. 20-114), which established the Yolo County Climate Action Commission (YCCAC). The purpose of the resolution was to “set a countywide goal of achieving a carbon negative footprint by 2030, while ensuring a just transition to an inclusive, equitable, sustainable, & resilient local economy.” The commission is an 11-member advisory body “charged with the development and implementation of the 2030 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (**CAAP**) and ensuring vulnerable, marginalized, and historically underserved communities are centered in the process.”


Supporting the YCCAC is the Yolo County Climate Action and Sustainability Program (**YCCASP**) within the Department of Community Services. This program coordinates climate action and sustainability efforts among County departments. The program also works closely with external partners, including local municipalities, regional agencies and community-based organizations, and local community leaders to align goals and collaborate on regional climate mitigation and adaptation.


The YCCASP is planning a series of outreach events and workshops this summer to engage residents, learn more about their concerns and provide program updates. Additionally, the release of a public survey is planned relationship to the development of the new CCAP. You can learn more by visiting the YCCAC's website at **YCCAC**, the YCCASP's **Facebook** page or by signing up for the monthly newsletter. Our League plans to keep members informed of noteworthy upcoming events, such as the release of the public survey.


Below is a summary table from the YCCAC webpage showing how Yolo County plans to go carbon negative.

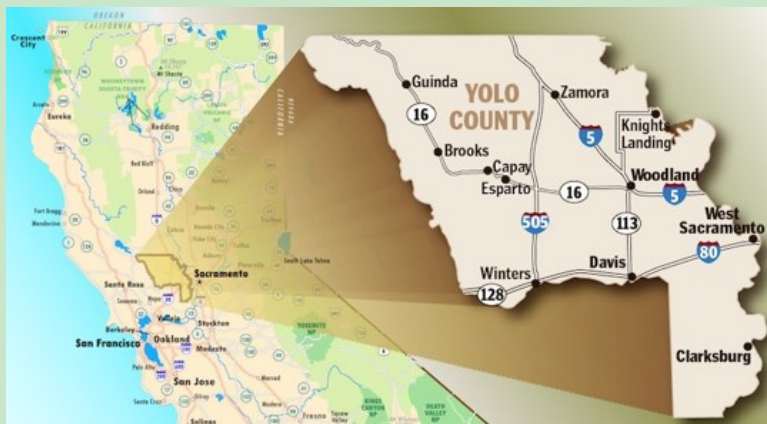
Our thanks to member Christine Shewmaker for her ongoing efforts to promote and keep our league informed on how our county government is promoting sustainability efforts. Please send an email to woodlandleagueneeds@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting our League's efforts in this critical area.

HOW DOES YOLO COUNTY PLAN TO GO CARBON NEGATIVE?

 The YCCAC has already identified **seven critical Early Action Projects** to implement while the CAAP is being developed, including expanding Carbon Farming practices; developing a plan to electrify the County's fleet; switching the County's electric accounts to **100% Renewable Sources**; and more!

 The YCCAC has launched **Equity & Engagement** and **Natural & Working Lands Working Groups** to begin soliciting public input on critical plan components.

 The CAAP will identify **mitigation and sequestration strategies** that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and help protect the County's residents and natural resources from the impacts of climate change.



OPINION: A COUNTY-WIDE LEAGUE?

By Lorna Carriveau

Organizations – like people – have natural life cycles. There's excitement and many adjustments when starting out, then maturity. Maturity may last years or decades. Eventually, however, an organization must decide whether to grow or decline.

Yolo County has had three city-based Leagues over the past few decades: Woodland, Davis and West Sacramento. The West Sacramento League ended some years ago. The Davis League also ended, but restarted fairly recently. The Woodland League has persevered and has been collaborating successfully with the Davis Area league on various projects over the past year or so: the 2022 District Attorney candidate forum, *YES!* (Youth Engagement Summit), Mental

Health study, tabling events at different venues, and the recent high school registration event.

While working hard and well, separately and together, both the Woodland and Davis Area Leagues are struggling to fill their board slates and grow their memberships. Each League is succeeding in the eyes of its membership and the public, but only because a handful of members is willing or able to do the work necessary. In the meantime, opportunities are lost. A survey was conducted during the 2022 District Attorney candidate forum with 100% of respondents Very Satisfied or Satisfied with the forum as “an opportunity to learn more about the candidates and their positions.” Yet forums do not happen in West Sacramento, Winters, the Capay Valley area, Clarksburg, or other rural areas of our county for local government or school district seats because they have no league focusing on their interests.

Woodland League members have also worked hard to develop a voter education and registration program in its local high schools. When the Yolo County Office of Education invited all Yolo County high schools to allow members of the Elections Office and Woodland and Davis Area Leagues to help with voter education and registration efforts over a two-week period recently, only three high schools accepted. At the moment, no one in the Woodland League has volunteered to be on the board of directors to oversee voter services for the coming year.

Every community is unique – geographically, demographically, economically, philosophically. That uniqueness must be respected. But there are times when interests cross community lines. Such as legislative interviews with members of the state assembly or senate, studies on topics of county-wide interest, high school and community voter education and registration. I live in Woodland and in Yolo County. I need both to be healthy for all my needs to be met.

During its 2022 Annual meeting, members voted to allow the Woodland League to explore the creation of a county-wide league. At the upcoming June 21 Annual Meeting, one item in the proposed Program is to “Form a committee to research and develop guidance for creating a Yolo County League of Women Voters in order to promote democracy throughout our county.”

There will be many challenges for such a committee, including, but not limited to, overcoming regional biases (city versus city, city versus rural), developing guidelines that allow for each community’s unique needs to be met while also providing support where needed, details about governance, concerns about partisanship. Other leagues in California have faced similar challenges and either grown or died. Fortunately, we will have the benefit of support from the state League with guidelines as well as coaching from members of other leagues that have expanded successfully.

I want to see a county-wide league because our focus on voter education and registration is essential for a strong democracy, but we cannot do it without more hands and more voices. The proposed committee should be made up of

people who have short or long histories with the League, those who firmly support a county-wide league and those who are skeptical, and residents from all backgrounds of life. If the proposed Program is approved, our League plans to reach out to all areas in Yolo County to seek volunteers for the committee so we can hear and respond to all voices. Together we are stronger.

I hope yours will be one of the voices.

NOMINATIONS FOR DEMOCRACY WORKS

Our League's annual Democracy Works event will take place this fall, so we're asking you to start thinking now about potential nominees. Since 2006, this award has honored individuals or organizations in our community working to empower voters and defend democracy. Activities recognized in the past have included encouraging equal representation, promoting free and fair elections, expanding voter education and rights, advocating legislation that promotes democracy and our communities, or taking grassroots political action. Last year's recipient was Tessa Smith (photo above), Chair of the Multi-Cultural Community Council, a group that acts in an advisory capacity for the Yolo County District Attorney's office with its mission to enrich understanding of the county's diverse population.



We embrace all communities in this award, so we encourage you to nominate individuals and/or organizations from throughout Yolo County. Please stay tuned for more information about the nominating process and event date. Thanks for thinking about democracy!

OUR LEAGUE HISTORY



MORE "PEACE" PLEASE

Do you think today's politics – nationally and internationally – are challenging? In 2008 we held an historic presidential contest between Barak Obama and John McCain. Other issues that year were Kosovo declaring independence from Serbia, Fidel Castro resigning as president of Cuba, sanctions against Iran and tensions between Palestinians and Israelis, the resignation of New York Governor Eliot Spitzer for being linked to a high-priced prostitution ring, and teachers striking for better pay (**2008 in Politics**).

Also in 2008, Audrey Doehne, past president and long-time supporter, received

our League's Democracy Works award. (Audrey is shown above in a Daily Democrat photo about our League's State of the Community luncheons. She is a master organizer and soup chef.) She was honored because five years earlier, when there was talk of war with Iraq, she organized a small group of people to stand in front of the Yolo County Court House holding a "PEACE" banner. You may recall seeing them and even giving them a "hi five", "thumbs up" or car honk, typically on the fourth Saturday of every month.

We continue to believe in PEACE and honor those who support it. Our thanks to Audrey and our other members who work on behalf of our League and communities.

STATE/NATIONAL LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY NEWS



STATE NEWS

STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION

The State League held its 69th convention in San Francisco from May 19 through 21. A major action was adopting a Program with issues for emphasis for 2023-2025:

- Making Democracy Work in California, with a focus on election reform, voting rights, expanding the electorate, redistricting, money in politics and civic education;
- Climate Change/Sustainability, including a focus on Water;
- Housing and Homelessness; and
- Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice Reform, expanding our education and advocacy on policing and criminal justice/juvenile justice reform.

As defined by the **State League**, a league's Program decides where and how it will focus its resources – member time, money, reputation – over the next year or two. Considerations are where the league will have the most impact and what will help build the league name and organization. For more information about the League's convention, actions and positions, click on **League of Women Voters California**.

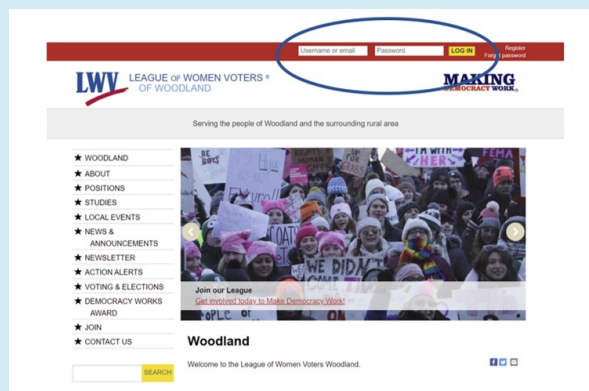


NATIONAL NEWS

LWV MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES POLICY

On April 29, 2023, the League of Women Voters approved a Members Rights and Responsibilities policy. The policy is available for review on this link – **Policy**. You will also find there links to Guidelines for Policy Compliance and Resolution and Frequently Asked Questions.

STAY IN TOUCH



WOODLAND LEAGUE WEBSITE – MEMBERS’ ONLY ACCESS

Below are instructions for league members to set up their “Members Only” site on our league website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/city-woodland>.

NOTE: Before starting this process, if you have more than one email account, be sure that you use the one you gave the league when you became a member.

Use this link - <https://my.lwv.org/user/password> - to reach the page that allows you to request a password. You will enter your own email address in the box as directed. As directed, “answer” the robot, then click in the yellow box at the bottom that says “e-mail new password”.

You will be sent an email message from My League Online. So, go to your own email In Box and follow the link/instructions from the email message there which will include further instructions, including:

- Click on the link;
- Fill out your new password as prompted. Your password must be at least 10 characters long and should combine both lower- and upper-case letters and characters;
- Fill in as much information in your profile as you would like on the profile;
- “Answer” the robot;
- Click SAVE.

This process has now logged you onto the league website; another name for the website you may occasionally see or read is MyLO. Make sure that you remember/store your password to the website. You will now have access to the “Members Only” section of our website. Click on the Members Only name in the upper right-hand corner of our home page, and you will be able to access the league’s Membership Roster, current By-Laws and other useful information.

WOODLAND LEAGUE BOARD

OFFICERS

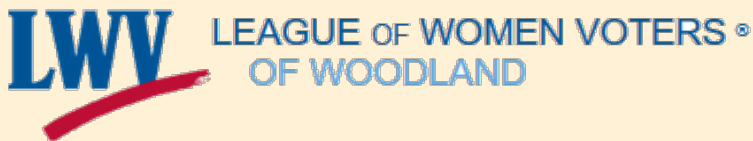
- President: Karen Urbano
- Vice President: Judy Wohlfrom
- Secretary: Lorna Carriveau
- Treasurer: Carla Cox

DIRECTORS

- Voter Services/Registration: Norma DeLiberty
- Communications - THE VOTER/Publicity/Social Media: Lorna Carriveau
- Communications - Website Management,: Carla Cox
- Event Administration/Volunteer Coordinator: Judy Wohlfrom
- Studies/Positions: Janet Ruggiero
- Y.E.S. Liaison: **Vacant**

COMMITTEES

- Nomination Committee: Lucinda Talkington, Chair
- Budget/Finance: Judy Simas, Chair



**P.O. Box 2463
Woodland, CA 95776**

League of Women Voters of Woodland | P.O. Box 2463, Woodland, CA 95776

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