

SUMMER 2023

Coming Events:

September 19: National Voter Registration Day/Woodland Community College

September 21: "Climate and Conversation" Event

September 29: Youth Engagement Summit

October 20: Democracy Works Award

December: Holiday Celebration



Board Meetings:

September 5: 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

As I start my third – and final – year as your president, I am pleased to see our membership numbers increasing. To me this means that you recognize how important it is that our democracy thrives. You can do this by volunteering to help make sure all who are eligible are registered to vote and then be double sure that each person casts their ballot for every election. Your League is working hard to make that happen. I am honored to work with such a dedicated group of people doing just that.

2024 is a big election year and we could use your help. Remember that the League of Women Voters, nationwide, statewide and locally, does not support or oppose candidates for any political office. We do present forums for candidates so they can explain why they should be elected. Voters can then make their own decisions. The League, in some cases, does advocate for issues that have been agreed upon.

Either for aspiring office holders or for ballot initiatives, we want to be sure every voter has their own say. Do you want to assist with this effort? We especially need a couple of people to serve as Voter Services chairs on our board. Please help to make that happen!

DEMOCRACY WORKS - COMING SOON!

The Democracy Works award is scheduled to be presented on October 20, but we need nominations by *August 31!*

Every year our League presents its Democracy Works award to an individual and/or organization working to “empower voters and defend democracy”. Nominees are being sought from throughout Yolo County whose actions support people and democratic processes. These actions may include encouraging equal representation, promoting free and fair elections, expanding voter education and rights, advocating legislation that promotes democracy and communities, or taking grassroots political action.

Forms are available on the League’s website at <https://my.lwv.org/california/woodland/news/democracy-works-award> where you can also find a list of previous Democracy Works Award winners.

Interested parties can also request a nomination form by contacting the League

via email at woodandleague@gmail.com. Completed forms can be mailed to LWV Woodland, Attn: Democracy Works Award, P.O. Box 2463, Woodland, CA 95776 or emailed to woodandleague@gmail.com.

The 2022 Democracy Works award recipient was Tessa Smith, chair of the Yolo County Multi-Cultural Community Council, a group that advises the District Attorney's office on community and race issues.



CLIMATE AND CONVERSATION

We're very excited that the first event of the year will be "Climate and Conservation," a review of Yolo County's 2030 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) at 7:00pm, Thursday, September 21, in Norton Hall (70 Cottonwood Street, Woodland).

Kristen Wraithwall, Yolo County's sustainability manager since 2022, will present information on the 2030 CAAP. The CAAP serves as a comprehensive road map identifying opportunities to achieve reductions in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as well as to develop comprehensive strategies to respond to the growing effects of climate change on all people, industries and areas of Yolo County. More information about the CAAP is available at <https://www.yolocaap.org/>. Please also consider completing the CAAP online survey – **CAAP Survey** – by September 22.

Wraithwall, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard in environmental science and public policy and a Master of Science from Yale in environmental management, will discuss the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan process and timeline, its current survey, outreach efforts (especially to historically underserved communities), and regional collaborations and partnerships in California.

We urge members to attend as well as bring a guest to this free event where light refreshments will also be available. Donations are appreciated, of course, to make more programs like this possible.

Seating at Norton Hall is limited, so you are urged to send an email to woodandleague@gmail.com if you plan to attend and the size of your

party.

The inspiration for this event was the hard work of long-time League member, Christine Shewmaker, shown below with her League of Women Voters coffee mug. Christine worked on developing our League's positions on Climate and Water, and has been keeping the board informed on Yolo County's and Woodland's climate efforts. She received the Grace Hefner Award during our Annual Meeting in June for those efforts.

For information on the Woodland League's climate change position and advocacy activities, please visit

<https://my.lwv.org/california/woodland/recent-issues/climate-change>.



Dr. Mindy Romero presenting during the Summer Solstice Event.



Karen Urbano and Lorna Carriveau of the Woodland League, Judy Higgerson of the Davis Area League, and Jesse Salinas, Yolo County Elections Officer, at the Davis Pride Event.



A proud KinderCamp graduate with Faye Smith-Gee at the Yolo Family Festival event.

YOUR LEAGUE'S BUSY SUMMER

By Lorna Carriveau

Our League is busy throughout the year – no summer vacation for our important work. This past June and July we hosted one event, tabled at two events and held a board of directors planning retreat.

Summer Solstice/Annual Meeting: We were very pleased with the strong turnout for our Summer Solstice presentation and dinner on June 21. The event took place at the historic Woodland Hotel and was catered by Cracchiolo's.

Among our many guests were Tania Garcia-Cadena, Woodland City Council member, and Armando Salud, Board of Education Trustee.

Dr. Mindy Romero, founder and director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID), gave a detailed presentation on her organization's research into Yolo County voter participation during the 2016-2022 general elections. Results show that Yolo County's turnout of eligible voters is a bit higher than state-wide turnout even among demographic groups that traditionally are not as involved. CID tracks voter turnout based on race, ethnicity and age in particular. The method of voting was also tracked for Yolo County in the November 2022 election as follows: 55.4% drop box, 34+% mail-in, and 10+% at a drop-off location, such as a vote center. She provided excellent insights into voter preferences and opportunities to improve voter turnout.

Our Annual Meeting of members was held immediately after Dr. Romero's presentation. A quorum of 21 members voted to accept the Treasurer's Report and proposed 2023-2024 budget, Bylaws, Program, and slate of Officers and Directors.

In addition, President Karen Urbano thanked the current board and acknowledged the many volunteers who helped at tabling events, high school voter registration, the high school essay contest, and served on committees over the past year. She then announced that Christine Shewmaker was the recipient of the Grace Hefner award for her work this past year serving as the League's environment guide and resource.

Davis Pride and United Way/Yolo Family Festival Tabling Events : Lorna Carriveau represented our League at the Davis Pride celebration on June 4, helping colleagues at the Davis Area League table provide voter registration information. A particularly lovely moment occurred when Yolo County Elections Officer Jesse Salinas personally helped a young man register to vote with his family as proud witnesses. While most visitors to the table acknowledged already being registered and voting regularly, a few took advantage of the materials provided to start the process.

New member and board Secretary Faye Smith-Gee and Lorna also represented our League at the Yolo Family Festival event hosted by the United Way on July 15. The event celebrated both the United Way's 100th anniversary and graduates of KinderCamp, a United Way program created to take students who have not been to preschool and prepare them for kindergarten. As usual, we made a difference. One young man who recently became a U.S. citizen spoke of difficulty registering to vote. He was very pleased that we could provide materials and recommendations on resources available to help him.

Helping others at a tabling event learn more about voter registration and resources pays off in so many ways. Please contact Judy Wohlfrom at jlwohlfrom49@yahoo.net if you're interested in volunteering.

Planning Retreat: The board of directors meets in August each year to plan for

the coming year. It's also an excellent opportunity for new board members to begin working with their colleagues and learning about our League. A major focus is developing a calendar so we can determine when key events might take place over the coming year. Events such as Democracy Works, State of the Community and Member Mixers or voter education/registration opportunities, such as high school registration opportunities, the Y.E.S. event, and possible candidate forums. You'll be hearing more as the year progresses!

MEET YOUR BOARD

We are very pleased to have several new League members and are always grateful for our longer-term members. Below is information about our current board members. Please note that we are still very much in need of someone to serve as the Voter Services Director. Ideally, two individuals would serve as co-directors to coordinate voter registration and voter education. We would provide lots of training and support, of course. Also, we need someone to manage our website.

Karen Urbano (President): I joined the League of Women Voters of Woodland over ten years ago and first became involved in the water study, as environmental issues were highest on my radar then. I was so impressed with this group of women that I stayed, becoming ever more aware of the importance of keeping our fingers on the pulse of government as well as encouraging others to do the same. What is the best way to do this? By being sure to vote in every election – local, state or national – and encouraging others to do the same. Our democracy depends on it.



Judy Wohlfrom (Vice President): It is hard to realize how the political atmosphere has changed so dramatically since the time I first was eligible to vote. Since joining the Woodland League about 4 years ago, I am thankful the critical work the League (nationally, statewide and locally) has done over that period. I take pride that my skills can have a small role in promoting the League of Women Voters' standards. Participation in supporting those standards highlights how everyone can contribute. My background included social work in the state welfare system, book production with McGraw-Hill, publishing and advertising with Pacific Bell/AT&T Yellow Pages, and fact finding through the Yolo County Grand Jury. My strengths common to those work experiences are behind-the-scene organization and building/tracking information to facilitate future activities. In addition, I have fulfilled my initial goal to join the League of Women Voters - becoming reacquainted with the Woodland community.

Carla Cox (Treasurer): I'm a retired teacher and small business owner who enjoys gardening, reading, volunteering with Yolo Basin Foundation, and trips to the coast whenever possible! Several years ago, LWV Woodland member Laura Caruso-Kofoid invited me to attend a State of the Community

Luncheon and join the league. In 2020, I was encouraged to get involved in voter services activities by then president Pat Butler and that experience hooked me! I am now enjoying my role as Treasurer, but will continue assisting in voter services and other League activities going forward. This is a wonderful organization and I'm delighted to be part of it!



— **Faye Smith-Gee (Secretary)**: I recently relocated from the Bay Area and am eager to become a contributing member of the Woodland community. Having grown up in Oroville, I have an understanding of life in an agricultural area. Inspired by my experience as a Yolo County election worker during last year's November elections, I joined the League of Women Voters to further support and promote democratic processes. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, walking my dog, practicing Tai Chi and Pilates, visiting family in Arizona, LA, and the Bay Area, reading, and cooking. I am excited to be on the board and look forward to contributing to our community.

Lorna Carriveau (Director of Communications): I'm enjoying my retirement after over 40 years working in human resource management and administration. I have just completed a very rewarding term on the Yolo County Grand Jury and now split my time between the Restorative Justice Partnership, League of Women Voters, Grizzly Peak Flyfishers (Bay Area flyfishing club), gardening, cooking, and visiting family in Oregon and Idaho. I am very excited about working with our board and members of the many Yolo County communities over the next year toward development of a county-wide League of Women Voters.



— **Janet Ruggiero (Director of Studies)**: Janet is a founding member of the Woodland League, serving as president from 1976-1977 and more recently as well as in various board positions as needed. She has been a member of several professional organizations related to city planning, served as Board member of the League of California Cities, Mercy Housing California and Friends of the Mission, has trained school board members in eight states through the De La Salle Institute in Napa, and is helping Holy Rosary Parish to plan and build its new church. Janet worked for many years in city planning and community development in Yolo County, the cities of Woodland and Citrus Heights and was recognized as a Woman of the Year by State Senator Bill Dodd in 2020. Janet and Elizabeth Kemper most recently completed the housing study and position for our league and received the league's Grace Hefner award in 2021 for their efforts.

We are very pleased with the addition of 10+ new members this summer. To help our new (and not so new) members, we will be hosting an orientation to the League via Zoom *soon*. Please contact Karen Urbano at woodlandleagueneeds@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.



September is also when our League membership starts each year, so please join or renew your membership now. Our members give us the strength to continue our work to empower our citizens to make our communities better for all.

To join or renew, click on this link – [Join/Renew Form](#) – to access the membership form and learn more about dues payments and volunteer opportunities. You can also mail a check (payable to LWV Woodland) to LWV Woodland, P.O. Box 2463, Woodland, CA 95776 for either individual dues (\$75) or household dues (\$105).

Interested in doing more than just join? We encourage all of our members to help us in any way they wish – large and small – such as sitting at a tabling event, calling members, participating in a study or other committees, observing local government meetings, or distributing voter registration materials. Individuals can also donate directly to our Education Fund, a tax-deductible 501(c)3 fund, that allows us to support activities such as purchasing voter registration materials, conducting candidate forums, and maintaining our website. You can learn more about our Education Fund at this link - <https://my.lwv.org/california/woodland/education-fund>.

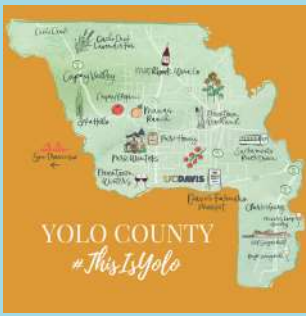
Thanks for your ongoing support on behalf of our community!



VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

By Carla Cox

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 19. We will be providing voter education and registration materials at Woodland Community College from 9:00am to 12:00noon that day. We also will be at the Woodland



COUNTY-WIDE LEAGUE UPDATE

By Lorna Carriveau

We are starting to lay the groundwork for developing a League of Women Voters of Yolo County. We're grateful to have the support of Local League Coaches Marie Baldiserri and Jacqui Canfield to help us understand the process and options should it be approved to form a county-wide League. Not only would such a change affect our current Woodland and Davis Area Leagues, but also involve working with the California League, Secretary of State, IRS, Franchise Tax Board, and other entities to ensure all ducks are in order.

An important first step is reaching out to our and Davis Area League members for their interest in forming a committee. We are also contacting individuals in West Sacramento, Winters, the Capay Valley area, and other small towns and rural areas throughout Yolo County to solicit their interest and help.

Finally, we are developing a survey of members of the Woodland and Davis Area Leagues for feedback about the pro's and con's of the project so we can do our best to meet all current and potential members' needs.

If you would like to learn more or join the committee, please contact Lorna Carriveau at carriveau@att.net. One of the first tasks of the committee will be to hold a virtual meeting with Marie Baldiserri and Jacqui Canfield. We anticipate this process taking two years overall given its complexity.

OUR LEAGUE HISTORY

"ANOTHER DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE"

By Lorna Carriveau

In February 2020, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote: another step toward American women's right to be independent.

Recently, I received a copy of *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage Movement* by Robert P.J. Cooney, Jr., from a member of the Davis Area League to share with our League. The book was published in 2005 and owned originally by Dorothy Brazelton, a long-time member of the League of Women Voters and Yolo County Women's History Month. The book is a detailed history of how women in the United States and elsewhere organized and persevered to become legitimate members of their democratic countries.

Reading through the 400+ page book quickly, I was struck by an image: a painting entitled "Another Declaration of Independence" by Paul Stahr published in a 1910 issue of Harper's Weekly which "borrows" from John

Trumbull's more famous earlier work, "The Declaration of Independence". The image reminded me of a group photo from our 2020 gala celebration of the speaker, Dr. Sally Rosch Wagner, and members of our League board who worked hard to make the event a success.

Our gala celebrating the 100th anniversary may not have been as elegant as the 1910 painting, but the spirit of democracy is as important now as it was over 100 years ago.



STATE/NATIONAL LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

STATE NEWS

SPECIAL LEAGUE RESOURCE

We have a hidden treasure: Marie Baldisseri, Local League Coach (LLC). LLC's are assigned by the League of Women Voters-California (LWVC) to provide coaching and training services to local Leagues.

Marie is a 30+ year member and past president of the LWV of North and Central San Mateo County. Over the past two years, she has attended most of our League's board meetings and been an invaluable resource to our board, providing insights from her own League and board experience as well as information about the many resources available through the LWVC.



As our LLC, Marie can provide us with training sessions, such as basic board orientation or in specific areas like setting priorities, increasing membership diversity, fundraising, and more. Marie has also shared information about LWVC online resources, helped with ensuring that our newly approved bylaws met LWVC requirements, and provided useful insights about League mergers from her own experience.

We truly appreciate having such useful and timely assistance from the LWVC and look forward to continuing to work with Marie.

Future of California Elections Conference: On October 16, the state League (LWVC) will host the Future of California Elections Conference in Sacramento

to discuss democracy, elections, and equity. Click on this link – **FoCE** – for more information.



FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS CONFERENCE
October 16, 2023 in Sacramento, CA
Future of CALIFORNIA ELECTIONS
SAVE THE DATE
"California's Rapidly Changing Political Environment and the Full Engagement of the State's Electorate"

NATIONAL NEWS

PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY ACT

On July 27, 2023, the national League of Women Voters (LWVUS) sent a letter to all members of congress urging support of the Protecting Our Democracy Act. Click on this link – **Protecting Our Democracy Act** – for more information.



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/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 Bylaws and other useful information.

WOODLAND LEAGUE BOARD

OFFICERS

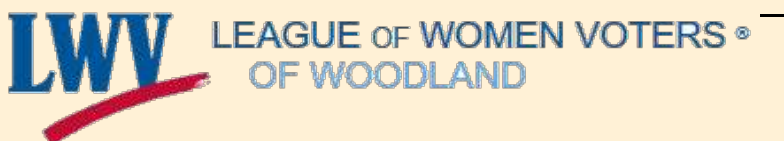
- President: Karen Urbano
- Vice President: Judy Wohlfrom
- Secretary: Faye Smith-Gee
- Treasurer: Carla Cox

DIRECTORS

- Voter Services/Registration: **Vacant**
- Communications - THE VOTER/Publicity/Social Media: Lorna Carriveau
- Communications - Website Management: **Vacant**
- Studies/Positions: Janet Ruggiero

COMMITTEES

- Finance: Judy Simas, Chair
- Nomination: Laura Caruso-Kofoid, Chair



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

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