

WINTER 2023

Coming Events:

March 18: Women's History Month, Gibson Mansion

March 27: Mental Health Study, Norton Hall

March 30: Cesar Chavez Day, Woodland Community and Senior Center

April 16-29: County-wide High School Youth Voter Registration Drive

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

June: Membership Annual Meeting



Board Meetings:

March 14, 1:30pm

April 11, 1:30pm

May 9, 1:30pm

June 13, 1:30pm

July 11, 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



Greetings to Woodland League members and friends. We are looking forward to a busy spring. I hope you will find a way to participate. Your board is working hard for you.

If you attended our State of the Community Luncheon on February 8, the first we have held in person since 2019, I hope it was inspiring for you. If you missed it, you missed a well-attended and informative event with our featured speaker, Yolo County Administrator Gerardo Pinedo. He filled us in on his role as the county official who directs and supervises the administration of all appointed department heads. So many thanks go to Judy Wohlfrom, League Vice President and organizer extraordinaire, who put it all together.

As I was taking part in an interview of State Senator Bill Dodd, Lorna Carriveau stood in for me at the Yolo County Board of Education to accept a resolution entitled “Celebrating Women Who Tell Their Stories”. See her article and the link to the proclamation elsewhere in the voter.

Going forward there are several ways you can add value to our League. You can become a government observer by attending and reporting on open public meetings from Woodland City Council to Boards of Education to the Board of Supervisors. You can learn about Adult Mental Health issues as we continue working on the study you approved at our last Annual Meeting. You can assist in registering new voters in many ways at local high schools this spring and at some of the following events.

Your League will have a presence at several events coming up, from the Women’s History Month celebration at Gibson House to Cesar Chavez Day in March and the Senior Resource Fair in May, both at the Woodland Community and Senior Center. Bring your friends and join us.

Finally, there are a couple of changes to what was planned earlier for this spring. The YES! (Youth Engagement Summit) event with high school students throughout the county has been postponed to this coming September. We're also postponing the annual Democracy Works award event to this coming fall, a move in keeping with its more traditional date.

Regardless of the season, our League will be busy this year with your help. Democracy works best if we are all involved!

I hope to see you soon!



HELP WANTED - VOTER SERVICES AND REGISTRATION

By Judy Wohlfrom

League Sisters and Brothers, we have just successfully finished up our fund-raising State of the Community luncheon, but as you learned from Karen Urbano's article above we have a full calendar of upcoming events. Several of these opportunities will take place at venues where we can showcase our endeavors to provide voter services and help with vote registration.

Tabling at special events: We need volunteers to set up tables and be the face of our League during events, sharing our mission and educating those interested in our activities. Each event needs a minimum of 2-3 volunteers. Let me know which events you would like to be part of on the tabling team. Let's fill out our upcoming events now.

High school student voter registration : On March 14, the County Board of Education will present a resolution in recognition of Yolo County High School Education Weeks April 16-29 (click here - **flyer** - to view the draft flyer for more information). In collaboration with the Yolo County Elections Department, the Davis Area and Woodland Leagues will be on hand to receive the Resolution.

Our League is seeking help from members to assist with a variety of activities during the county-wide registration drive in late April. We are also very much in need of assistance with planning and visiting Woodland high schools to help eligible students register or pre-register to vote. We've visited our high schools successfully for several years, but must rely heavily on members to make it happen. Click here - **letter** - to learn more about how you could help with encouraging our youth to register and vote.

I look forward to hearing from you. You can either call or text me at (707) 315-1229.



From left to right: Armando Salud (Deputy Director, Elections Office and Yolo County Office of Education Trustee), Tico Zendeya (Executive Director, RISE Inc.), Vicky Fernandez (Woodland Mayor), Gerardo Pinedo (County Administrator and featured speaker), Angel Barajas (Yolo County supervisor), Karen Urbano (League President), Mayra Vega (Woodland City Council), Tania Garcia-Cadena (Woodland Mayor Pro Tempore), Jake Whittaker (former Woodland Joint Unified School District Trustee), and Jesse Ortiz (Yuba Community College Board Trustee).

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

By Lorna Carriveau

Our thanks to you, our Board (especially Vice President Judy Wohlfrom), County Administrative Officer Gerardo Pinedo, and the many guests who attended the February 8 State of the Community luncheon.

First, Mr. Pinedo shared his background – the son of immigrants from Jalisco, Mexico, who has spent the last 28 years working at local, state and federal levels of government – and his gratitude for serving in Yolo County, which he characterized as being open and thoughtful in how it governs. He then gave an excellent presentation (**Powerpoint**) providing an overview of the county government structure, a snapshot of Yolo County specifics, his commitment and priority areas, and challenges and opportunities for our great county. He noted that shortly before this event, the Board of Supervisors created its first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion position.

Among Mr. Pinedo's priorities are partnering more with educational institutions, moving toward community models for libraries, and finishing the restoration of the former county court house. He also responded to questions about balancing urban and rural needs because of water scarcity, the importance of accurate messaging to residents, and support for the Health & Human Services Agency.

Second, President Karen Urbano welcomed many and diverse guests. These included current and former members or representatives of such as entities as the Board of Supervisors, Yolo County Office of Education, U.S. Representative Mike Thompson, State Senator Bill Dodd, Woodland City Council, RISE Inc., and local fire districts. Also in attendance were managers and staff from county

departments as well as members of the Davis Area league, Yolo County Grand Jury and our own league.

While our league's primary focus is on Woodland, we appreciate opportunities like this to inform and educate residents county-wide.



County Administrative Officer Gerardo Pinedo during the question and answer session.



Long-time members Janet Ruggiero and Laura Caruso-Kofoid.

A WINNER! – HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST

Thanks to the hard work of essay contest committee members Laura Caruso-Kofoid, Maria Lagos, Catherine Portman, and several volunteer judges, we have a winner of our league's Why Democracy Matters high school essay contest. The winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, made possible by the generous donations of League members. The committee is again hard at work planning events to honor the essay authors, their families and the teachers who helped make this contest possible.

The students from Woodland, Pioneer and Woodland Christian High Schools were asked to select one of the two following questions for their essay:

- What is it about living in a democracy that you value and why? It is appropriate to include examples from your family's and your personal experience.
- Powerful figures in our government and the media have suggested that representative democracy is outmoded and inefficient. They maintain that more authoritarian forms of governing are preferable and therefore our American democratic experiment should end. How do you respond?

We look forward to more opportunities to engage our youth in democracy.



regarding mental health services in Yolo County. This information will help us formulate our goals for this study. Woodland League members: if you are interested in working on the study, please contact Janet Ruggiero at jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net.

More information on the meeting will be sent out before March 27, including who will be speaking on this topic.



LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Each year California leagues are asked if they would like to interview their representatives in our state legislature. Typically, two or three leagues work together. They're given set questions from the State league, but can also mutually develop a question focused on their specific interests. Earlier in February our league participated in interviews with Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, representing the 4th assembly district, and State Senator Bill Dodd.

Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry and Senator Dodd responded to questions covering several topics: California's shrinking voter participation gap, funding for California's School Facilities Program, water resource management, and their own legislative priorities. A summary of the discussions will be forwarded to the State league and will be available both in a future issue of THE VOTER and in the Members Only section of our website.

A VERY MERRY HOLIDAY

By Lorna Carriveau

Once again, League members turned out for a relaxing and inspiring holiday party, this year

hosted by Karen and Ramon Urbano. As you can see from the smiles on guests Maurice Rasmussen, Gloria Boccolini and Maria Lagos in the photo, the food and beverages were outstanding – as always.



This year's party was particularly educational. Ramon Urbano, Judy Wohlfrom and Richard DeLiberty shared insights into the history of Yolo County, the good – agriculture and people – and not-so-good – how different ethnic groups were treated historically.

We appreciate all who come to our events and help us make a positive difference in Yolo County. Happy holidays everyone!



A SPECIAL DONATION

By Lorna Carriveau

Some stories are almost too good to be true. This is one of them.

Because our League had requested donations for Fourth & Hope (in addition to items for the Woodland Food Closet) to be collected at our holiday party, I went to the Woodland Walmart the afternoon of December 2 to purchase socks and other personal items for men and women. The socks section for men was locked up, so I found a staff person named Jerry and explained that I needed help accessing items and deciding which would be most appropriate to donate to Fourth & Hope. He was very kind and helpful. I then went to the women's section (unlocked) to select items and finally did a bit of shopping for another holiday gift drive I was supporting.

On my way to check-out, I saw Jerry looking in my direction. I laughingly asked whether he was waiting for me. He said, "No, I'm looking for a friend." When I reached check-out, Jerry stopped me and handed me a closed Walmart shopping bag. He explained that he has friends who have been through the Fourth & Hope program successfully and pointed out two other staff who were alums. In honor of the giving season, Jerry wanted to honor his friends and support Fourth & Hope. He gave me the receipt as well in case I was stopped on my way out the door. I thanked Jerry on behalf of the league and Fourth & Hope.

Yes, this is a true story. The smaller bag in the center of the photo above contains the items Jerry purchased from Walmart for me to give to Fourth & Hope. Since such generosity should also be rewarded, I not only shared this story with the League Board of Directors, but also with Walmart management so they could know of their and Jerry's value to our community.

OUR LEAGUE HISTORY



THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY ENDURES

Our League's State of the Community event began 28 years ago and has a history of reflecting our times.

The topics covered have been wide ranging, yet always spoke directly to our community. Most recently, the COVID pandemic caused the 2021 event to be cancelled and the 2022 event was held virtually. The 2022 event featured Woodland Mayor Mayra Vega, who highlighted the council's strategic priorities, and Woodland Police Chief Derrek Kaff, who addressed three key topics – homelessness, traffic and violent crime. Judge Daniel Maguire spoke on "The Past, Present and Future of the California Grand Jury" at the 2019 event. In 2018, then Woodland City Assistant/Director of Community and Economic Development Manager Ken Hiatt spoke on housing challenges in Woodland. And so on through the years.

The luncheon's format also has changed recently, in part due to less membership capacity. Many of our long-time members remember fondly the homemade soups served during past luncheons. The photo above is from the February 21, 2010, issue of The Daily Democrat announcing that "The Woodland League of Women Voters will be having their 16th annual State of the Community soup luncheon on Wednesday. The speaker will be the noted professor and consultant, Dr. Deb Neimeier, from U.C. Davis. Her talk is titled 'Climate Change. California's Experiment: Bellwether or Bust. It's Up to Us.'" The three chefs featured in the photo are Audrey Doehne, Judy Simas and Christine Shewmaker.

Food for thought and soup for the soul – not a bad combination to serve our community for almost 30 years.

STATE/NATIONAL LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

STATE NEWS

BE OUR DELEGATE? STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION

This year the State League will hold its 69th convention in San Francisco from May 19 through 21 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. Registration will open on March 1. The convention is a great opportunity for members who wish to serve as delegates on behalf of their league to meet delegates from around the state and learn more about state and national league positions, activities and opportunities. If you are interested in representing the Woodland League as a delegate, please send an email to woodlandleagueneews@gmail.com. We may be able to provide a small scholarship toward attendance.

NATIONAL NEWS

NATIONAL LEAGUE GREETES NEW CONGRESS

As you know, the League of Women Voters is nonpartisan, but devoted to promoting voting rights and democracy. On January 7, 2023, Virginia Kase Solomon, League of Women Voters Chief Executive Officer, issued the following statements after the 118th Congress elected Kevin McCarthy to be speaker of the House:

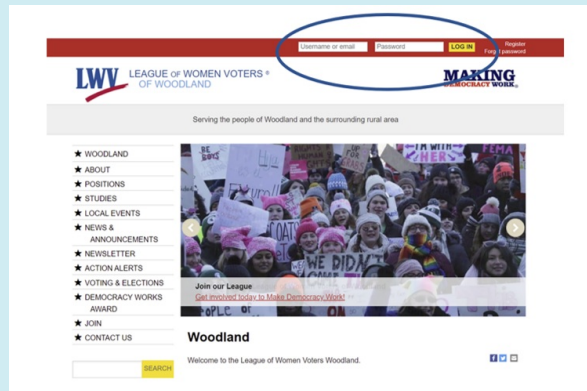
“After a historic delay in electing a Speaker of the House, we welcome the new Congress and urge our elected officials to get to the important work of governing this great nation.

“The American people who voted last fall expect our nation’s leaders to work in a bipartisan manner to shape the future of our country and our communities. We congratulate the new Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy, and Patty Murray, the first woman to be elected President Pro Tempore in the Senate. We urge both chambers to work together to put people over politics and preserve the democracy of this great nation.

“For more than a century, the League of Women Voters has worked to empower voters and defend democracy. We believe that voting is a fundamental principle and a vehicle for all Americans to have their voices heard. It is critical that this new Congress makes voting rights a priority in this country once and for all.

“The League of Women Voters looks forward to working with this new Congress and prioritizing the issues that impact our democracy and the American people the most.”

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

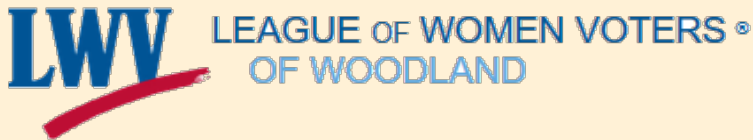
- President: Karen Urbano
- Vice President: Judy Wohlfrom
- Secretary: Lorna Carriveau
- Treasurer: Carla Cox

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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