

## FALL 2022



### ***Coming Events:***

**December 15:** Holiday Party

**January 2023:** Mental Health Study Panel Forum; Climate Workshop; Know Your Rights: Public Meetings in California (January 31 by the California League)

**February:** State of the Community Event

**March:** Yolo County Women's History Month Celebration (March 18); Membership Mixer (date to be determined)

**April:** Democracy Works Award; Youth Empowerment Summit (Y.E.S.)

**June:** Membership Annual Meeting

### ***Board Meetings:***

**December 13,** 1:30pm

**January 10, 2023,** 1:30pm

**February 14,** 1:30pm

**March 14,** 1:30pm

All Board meetings are via Zoom until further notice. Please contact President Karen Urbano at [woodlandleague2021@gmail.com](mailto: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

Now that the mid-term election is behind us, we can concentrate on other important issues and events. We will conclude our busy year with a Holiday Gathering. As is our custom, we are asking attendees to share your bounty by bringing donations of shelf stable food for the Woodland Food Closet and specified donations for Fourth & Hope. A list of those needed items will be included in your invitation, which will be sent by a separate email soon. That gathering will be a nice time to

socialize with your fellow League members.

For 2023 we are planning several activities, such as continuing work on our mental health study, getting back to an in-person State of the Community lunch which will feature an inspiring speaker, and offering an essay contest focusing on democracy, with cash prizes, to local high school seniors. And so much more that you will want to take part in.

Our member renewals are at 43 now. So, thank you to those of you who have renewed! If you haven't yet done so, please fill out that form or renew on our website; see the article below for further information. You can use PayPal or send in your check. We don't want to lose you!

A happy and peaceful Holiday season to all.

FOR REGULAR UPDATES, VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)



THE NEW YEAR

## By Judy Wohlfrom

The holidays are here and we are already looking to the New Year to schedule our League activities. First, the 2022 Holiday potluck celebration for members and their guests, showcasing your appetizers and desserts, is scheduled for Thursday, December 15, from 5:00 to 7:00pm at the home of Karen and Ramon Urbano. Keeping with our tradition of giving, we will be supporting the Woodland Food Closet and Fourth & Hope with your generous donation of goods to be collected at the potluck. Parking is limited, so when you receive your invitation, please contact Karen Urbano in advance at [woodlandleague2122@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandleague2122@gmail.com) so she can provide the address.

Following is an outline of our general plans for the first half of 2023. Please keep an eye out for announcements of these events and activities. Your help and participation will be greatly appreciated:

### January

- Moving forward with our League's study of mental health in Yolo County, we are planning a paneled forum to continue educating ourselves on the needs and existing supports within our county. Janet Ruggiero is chairing the study and provides more information in an article below.
- A Climate Workshop with the Woodland City Council and the Woodland Sustainability Committee is tentatively set for a City Council meeting, with an exact date to be set. The workshop/meeting will be open to the public.
- As noted in the State news below, the California League will be hosting a presentation about the Brown Act.
- As you can also read in another article below, our High School Essay Contest committee is hard at work. They hope to receive essays no later than January 27, 2023. If you know of a local high school senior, please make sure they get the contest entry form.

### February

- The State of the Community Luncheon is being planned for the second or third week in February. More details will be forthcoming.
- The High School Voter Registration program will begin this month. Please contact Norma DeLiberty at [norma@deliberty.net](mailto:norma@deliberty.net) if you wish to learn more or assist with this important activity.

### March

- The Women's History Month Celebration will take place on March 18 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at the Gibson House. We have been invited to have an information table at the event. Please contact Norma DeLiberty if you would like participate.
- A membership mixer is also scheduled to happen in March, and our board will be working to draft our membership annual meeting packet/agenda in preparation for the June Meeting.

### April

- The Democracy Works award ceremony and the Y.E.S. (Youth Empowerment Summit) events are this month.
- The By-laws and the Mental Health study updates are also due this month.

## June

- Our Annual Meeting will take place.

We are planning a full and exciting year and look forward to seeing you at these many events. A warm and bountiful Thanksgiving wish for all.



*Long-time member Lucinda Talkington is enjoying the wonderful salads served for dinner.*



*Presenters Ian Evans, Adult & Aging Branch Director, and Karleen Jakowski, Mental Health Director (l-r), from the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency.*

## MEMBERS MIXER - A GREAT EVENING

Our Members Mixer on September 21 was a perfect combination of lovely weather and setting, dining, and conversation. First, we would like to thank Karen Urbano for hosting the event and Lorna Carriveau, Carla Cox, Norma DeLiberty, and Judy Wohlfrom for providing an array of salads and cookies. Second, our thanks to Janet Ruggiero who arranged for Karleen Jakowski, Assistant Agency Director, Mental Health Director, and Ian Evans, Adult & Aging Branch Director, from the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency to visit and give a highly informative presentation.

In support of our members' approval of mental health as the league's next study topic, Janet asked Karleen and Ian to present an overview of mental health and the agency's recent efforts to provide support for our growing population. Highlights of the presentation include:

- An organization chart showing the major departments staffed by over 800 employees, all working together under one roof since 2015;
- Informative statistics about our county's population and the department's primary focus on its relatively small portion of MediCal recipients with serious mental health problems;
- Information about the adult system of care, children's system of care, and new and/or upcoming services; and
- The department's ongoing efforts to reach the LatinX population, expand support in unincorporated areas and smaller towns, and partner with

entities such as school districts, wellness centers and criminal justice partners to provide more mental health services where needed.

Click here – [Yolo County Mental Health](#) – to review the full PowerPoint presentation.

The dinner gave attendees an excellent opportunity to meet and chat, and Karleen and Ian generously gave of their time and knowledge to help us all better understand the complexity of mental health challenges and services in Yolo County.

Please contact Janet Ruggiero at (530) 666-3294 or [jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net) if you would like to learn more about our league’s proposed study of mental health. You can learn about previous League studies and positions on our website by clicking on this link:

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



*Incumbent Rogelio Villagrama and challenger Catherine Saetern from Area 7 respond to questions from the League and public.*



*Long-time member Roz Stone greets guests to the Forums.*

## **FORUMS – WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Our League held forums for Woodland Joint Unified School District (WJUSD) school board candidates for Areas 2 and 7 on October 5 at the school district office. Although lightly attended in person, the livestream was watched by almost 100 viewers and the recordings have been viewed by over 300 interested persons.

It took many hands to make the event a success. Our thanks to WJUSD Superintendent Elodia Ortega-Lampkin for allowing us to hold the forums in the District facility, and to District office staff for their generous assistance. We are also grateful to Woodland TV for broadcasting and livestreaming the event, which you can access by visiting our website at

<https://my.lwv.org/california/woodland>.

Incumbent Jake Whitaker and challenger Emily MacDonald from Area 2 and incumbent Rogelio Villagrama and challenger Catherine Saeturn from Area 7 provided useful insights into their candidacies in response to questions developed by the league as well as those submitted by the public via email or collected from the audience. Karen and Ramon Urbano did an excellent job moderating the event with help from timekeeper Mary Helen Seeger and her daughter-in-law, Janice. Roz Stone greeted guests (see photo above); and Judy Wohlfrom and Roberta Devine collected audience questions which Richard DeLiberty and Lorna Carriveau organized.

Finally, we fully appreciate the hard work of Norma DeLiberty and Carla Cox to organize the event. Their efforts were also recognized by attendees, 75% of whom completed surveys of the event, with the majority Extremely Satisfied.

Forums are important opportunities for voters to better know candidates in as fair and unbiased a setting as possible. We look forward to holding more in the future in support of our democracy and an informed electorate.

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## AN HONORED MEMBER

In a celebration of 2022 Yolo County Philanthropy Day, on November 15 the Yolo Community Foundation recognized 27 volunteers and donors who have made an impact on Yolo County. One of the honorees was Woodland league long-time member, Roz Stone.



Roz, shown in this photo on the left with League member Catherine Portman on the right, was recognized by Fourth & Hope for volunteering since its inception. She faithfully cooks dinner for their clients two to three times a month. Fourth & Hope noted that:

*“On Christmas Day in 1981, Roz, along with other church members, hosted the first meal for 17 unhoused individuals. Two years later the meal program doubled. During this time, Roz was a nurse at Yolo General Hospital where she helped with outreach to ensure those who were hungry received a meal. One program participant said Roz was the best woman he had ever met, and she saved his life.*

*Nearly four decades ago, Roz stated, 'We started with the feeding but then we hoped to go on to a place for people to clean up, wash their clothes, have their meal, and stay overnight out of the cold.' In 1985 volunteers formally organized the Yolo Wayfarer Center Christian Mission (now Fourth & Hope), which has helped thousands of people. 'I am so lucky. I was a single mom and welfare helped me through nursing school and ever since things have gotten better. I am healthy for being 80 years old, and I think we all have to give back,' she said.*

*Thank you, Roz!"*

Woodland League member and Fourth & Hope Vice President Catherine Portman added: "I first met her when she was asking for the leftover food from Women's Hx [History] lunch. She said she gathers up food to make meals for the homeless shelter. She stores food at the Methodist church. She rounds up church ladies to make meals and then serves the meals to clients. She recruited me to make meals and serve. She also buys tickets for herself and a couple girlfriends (who can't afford it) to attend Fourth & Hope fundraisers. She received a scholarship from Soroptimists so she could go to nursing school."

We echo Catherine's sentiments: "Yes, Roz is a truly remarkable woman! Remains positive in difficult situations. A real leader." Our thanks to Roz, among many others, for making such a difference in our community.



## **VOTER SERVICES REVIEW**

**By Norma DeLiberty**

Below are all the voter registration and education tabling events we participated in between September 1 and the November 8 midterm election. Voter registration was offered to all qualified citizens, including preregistration for 16 and 17-

year-olds. Volunteers also provided educational materials, including the Easy Voter Guide and the Voter's Edge bookmark, to the public.

**September 15:** Woodland Community College "National Hispanic Heritage Month" Kickoff. Volunteers included Karen Urbano and Carla Cox from our league, as well as Judy Higgenson and Michelle Famula from the Davis Area league.

**September 17 and 24:** Woodland Farmers Market. Volunteers assisting at both events were Gloria Boccolini, Maurice Rasmussen and Richard DeLiberty. In addition, Roberta Devine and Judy Wohlfrom also helped on September 17 and Joanne Fuller and Carla Cox on September 24.

**October 7:** Latino Chicano Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. Volunteers assisting were Gloria Boccolini, Maurice Rasmussen and Carla Cox.

**October 15:** Breast Cancer Awareness Event at Woodland Community College. Volunteers included Ramon Urbano, Carla Cox, Judy Wohlfrom, and Karen Urbano.

In addition, starting in mid-October, Judy Wohlfrom, Richard DeLiberty and I distributed voter guides to several nonprofit and for-profit locations in Woodland as well as easily accessible locations in Dunnigan, Esparto and Guinda. We truly appreciate all of those locations being willing to assist our efforts to provide nonpartisan voter information to area residents.

This spring we will continue our voter registration activities as needed. My sincere thanks to the many league members and others who make our voter registration and education efforts possible.



## WHAT IS VOTER'S EDGE?

By Carla Cox

As a new member of the League of Women Voters, I saw the logos for Voter's Edge and heard that LWV California was promoting the website, but I didn't pay much attention. This summer, thanks to some gentle encouragement from our Voter Services Director Norma DeLiberty, I decided to volunteer to be the Yolo County Coordinator for Voter's Edge <https://votersedge.org/ca/>. Now I'm a believer!

Voter's Edge California is a free, non-partisan online resource that provides voters with information about the candidates, propositions, and ballot measures on their ballot. The website is a joint project of Maplight and League of Women Voters California Education Fund, both non-profit organizations committed to providing comprehensive, unbiased voter information. The November 2022 election was the first in which Yolo County was a participating county, which meant that our local candidates for city councils and school boards and our local ballot measures were listed on Voter's Edge in addition to the State offices and propositions. This gave all candidates in Yolo County the opportunity to submit information about themselves and their campaign for posting on the website. Participating candidates must agree to be truthful and to focus on their own priorities and goals without any mention of the other candidates. As a user of Voter's Edge, I find it a pleasant change to read about the candidates and issues without the attacks and vitriol that so often appear online and in campaign material.

If you haven't used Voter's Edge as a resource, I hope you will take a look at it, and use it in future elections. Be sure to tell your family, friends and colleagues



about Voter's Edge! I told my family and friends about it and received a lot of positive comments from them.

In my opinion, Voter's Edge is a great example of ways that the League of Women Voters is bringing our mission of educating voters into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You can click on this link – [Voter's Edge](#) – to learn more.

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## MENTAL HEALTH STUDY UPDATE

By Janet Ruggiero

As noted in the Members Mixer article above, this event was the kick off for our League's study this year on mental health services.



With the information the county gave us at that meeting about the variety of services they provide to all ages, the focus of our study should be on adult services, especially geographic areas with minimal services and residents most in need, such as those unable to afford such services including the elderly, unhoused and financially unstable.

Following the significant information we received earlier about how the County's Health and Human Services Agency functions and its services, it would be helpful at the next meeting, which we are planning to hold in January, to gather more information about other mental health services available in our county. This would include hearing from nonprofits who offer mental services as well as those nonprofits that receive services from the County and the nonprofits. The exact date for the meeting in January will be announced soon.

Subsequent meetings may be with representatives from two County Commissions: the Commission on Aging & Adult Services and the Local Mental Health Board.

The Yolo County Grand Jury is also working on the Yolo County Community Health Needs Assessment for 2023-2025. This will include developing the Community Health Improvement Plan which includes a section on mental health services for Yolo County. Hearing from them about their review would also prove helpful for the League.

As we move through this study, we are seeking answers to the following questions which may change as we obtain more information:

- What are the major issues for treating mental health facing adults within our community?
- Are the services we currently provide adequate in addressing the mental health issues facing our residents?

- What are we doing well and what areas need improvement?
- Do we have adequate facilities and funding to move us forward as a community in addressing mental health issues in Yolo County?

For those of you interested in working on this study, please do not hesitate to contact Janet Ruggiero at [jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmruggiero@sbcglobal.net) or call (916) 803-3453.



## DEMOCRACY WORKS WHEN WE DO

By Laura Caruso-Kofoid

At the Women's History event at the Gibson House last spring, our League announced a high school student essay contest. Members pledged money for the winner's prize with a subsequent donation to provide for honorable mentions. The contest is open to Woodland seniors who will graduate in 2023. One prize of \$500 will be awarded to the winning entry as well as cash prizes for honorable mentions.

If this contest is as successful as we hope and the board votes to continue it, in years to come the scope and parameters may change and education funds may be allocated to fund it. We share with you below the current committee's work and timeline as well as ways to become involved with this year's contest.

The first steps were the creation of the entry rules, a procedure for receiving the entries, and an apparatus for scoring the essays. Our thanks to those of you who have already been recruited as judges. Anyone who was not contacted and would like to be a reader should call Laura Caruso-Kofoid at (530) 867-4223.

Social studies teachers at our three local high schools – Woodland, Pioneer and Woodland Christian – received information about the contest in October, which included the How to Enter sheet which you can click here – [How to Enter](#) – to review. Please share this entry sheet with any high school students you know.

Committee members Catherine Portman, Maria Lago, and Laura Caruso-Kofoid are currently delivering additional copies of contest entry information to principals at the three high schools. Carla Cox will cover the extension schools. In this way, we offer the schools an opportunity to demonstrate that they are an integral part of promoting our democratic republic. We will also offer to talk to department chairpersons if they have any questions.

We appreciate your support of promoting democracy among our youth.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

The fall is when our league membership starts each year, so please join now or renew your membership. 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, you can either complete a hard copy of the form available at this link – [Membership Form](#) – and mail the completed form with your check (payable to LWV Woodland) to LWV Woodland, P.O. Box 2463, Woodland, CA 95776. Or you can apply and pay online via PayPal at this link on our website – [Join](#).

Want to do 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, observing local government meetings, distributing voter registration materials. Individuals can also donate directly to our Education Fund, a tax-deductible 501(c)3 fund, which allows us to support activities such as purchasing voter registration materials, conducting candidate forums and maintaining our website. You can learn more by clicking on our website link – [Education Fund](#) – or by reviewing the information on the back of the hard copy application form.

Thanks for your ongoing support on behalf of our community!

## OUR LEAGUE HISTORY



### 2012 Versus 2022

2022 has been a busy year so far for our League: high school registration and voter information tabling events throughout the spring and fall, candidate forums in the spring and fall for District Attorney and Woodland Joint Unified School District races, the State of the Community and Democracy Works

Award events, and starting work on a new study – mental health.

2012 was just as busy! A review of Daily Democrat articles about our league's activities in 2012 reveals:

- The State of the Community Luncheon with guest speaker Jay Lund talking about “Managing California’s Water – From Conflict to Reconciliation.”
- A league-sponsored map display of newly drawn district boundaries for Yolo County Supervisorial Districts, boundary lines for the City of Woodland, California State Assembly District 4, California Senate District 3, and California Congressional District 3 for viewing during forums.
- A City Council forum with six candidates.
- A forum for Yolo County Superior Court judicial candidates.
- District 5 Supervisor candidate forum featuring Duane Chamberlain, incumbent, and Woodland Mayor Art Pimental, challenger.
- An Assembly forum featuring Mariko Yamada, incumbent, and John Munn, challenger (see photo above).
- Woodland Joint Unified School District candidate forums for Districts 3, 4 and 5.
- The 2012 Democracy Works awards to Silvina Frausto, Sacramento Valley Organizing Committee for bringing voter outreach to local Spanish-speaking communities, and the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency for securing safer water for Woodland.

Our thanks to everyone who worked so hard on our community’s behalf in 2012 and to those who continue to serve in 2022.

## STATE/NATIONAL LEAGUE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### STATE NEWS

**Brown Act Presentation:** The League of Women Voters in California will host an in-depth presentation on your rights to access public meetings in California on Tuesday, January 31, from 12:00 to 1:00pm (Pacific Time). Entitled “Know Your Rights: Public Meetings in California,” the presentation will focus on the Ralph M. Brown Act’s open-meeting requirements for local legislative bodies, including recent law changes that affect teleconferencing and decorum rules. The session will cover: your right to give public comment and what restrictions government bodies can place on the public; what government business can be done behind closed doors; common complaints from members of the public about accessing and participating in meetings; and where First Amendment speech protections intersect with the government’s ability to manage proceedings. Click here – [Presentation](#) – to register.

**How the League Takes Action:** While the League is nonpartisan, it does advocate in support of our mission, principles and programs. Often advocacy opportunities arise from member leagues or individuals. How does the League decide when to take action? Click here – [Take Action](#) – to learn more about the

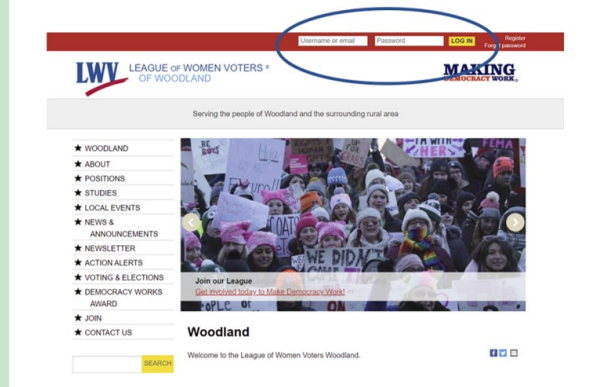
## NATIONAL NEWS

**Equal Rights Act:** Even today not all Americans are guaranteed equality under the law. First passed by Congress in 1972, the Equal Rights Act was ratified by the final state in 2020. The League of Women Voters is asking members to contact their state senators directly to remove the Act's ratification timeline. In March 2022, the House of Representatives passed legislation to remove the ratification timeline attached to the ERA. Now S.J. Res 1 awaits ratification by the Senate. Click on this link – [LWV and the ERA](#) – to learn more.

**2022 Midterm Election Impact:** Despite laws making voting more challenging for some, mis- and disinformation in the news and on social media, election deniers, and poll worker shortages, there was record-breaking voter turnout in many states across the nation, particularly related to early voting. Throughout 2022, over 750 state and local Leagues registered voters, trained volunteers, served as poll workers, and organized to get out the vote. Below is a snapshot of the national League's impact in the 2022 midterm elections as of November 10, 2022.



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.

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## WOODLAND LEAGUE BOARD

### OFFICERS

- President: Karen Urbano

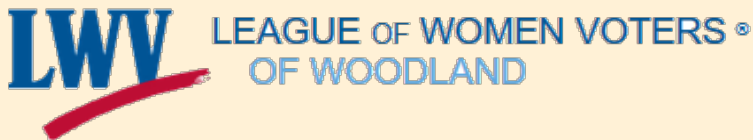
- Vice President: Judy Wohlfrom
- Secretary: Lorna Carriveau
- Treasurer: Carla Cox

### **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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