



League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County
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League of Women Voters® of San Joaquin County

THE VOTER

DECEMBER 2019

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A photograph of a lit candle in a metal tin, surrounded by pinecones and evergreen branches, set against a dark background.

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Learn more about the League at sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

KATHY CASENAVE LWVSJC President



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2020

Our San Joaquin County League is continuing to plan for the March 3 primary candidates' forums, high school voter registration activities, and general membership meetings on a variety of issues. There is one other important activity that the Board would like members to consider: the formation of an Observer Corps. Other local Leagues have established a corps with good success. What is an Observer Corps?

The League believes in government transparency, and a good way to ensure transparency is for League members to attend government proceedings and report to the general membership and to the public. It also is a way to watch for issues on which the League should be taking action based on our local positions.

What's involved?

- Getting a copy of the agenda (usually posted online)
- Attending the meeting, wearing a League of Women Voters button.
- Filling out an Observer Report and submitting it to the Board.

The Observer normally does not speak at the meeting but outside of the meeting can ask questions of staff and officials.

Training can be provided. If we get enough members committed to this, I think it would be of value to the League and to local citizens.

Please consider this and let us know if you are interested and what government entity you would like to observe. The best way to do this is by emailing lwvsjc@gmail.com.

Officers

Kathy Casenave, President
Tara Gallegos, 1st Vice President
Diane Park, 2nd Vice President
Judith Buethe, Secretary
Bev Blum, Treasurer

Directors

Lauren Ah-Tye
Jeri Bigbee
Susan Mora Loyko
Dee Mateucci
Gretchen Newby
Jane Wagner-Tyack

Nominating Committee

Bea Lingenfelter, Mary Bava, Bill Loyko,
Lauren Ah-Tye

Portfolios

Webmaster – Walt White
Social Media – Tara Gallegos
Voter Services/Speakers Bureau –
Dee Matteucci, Bea Lingenfelter
Advocacy – Diane Park, Cate White

Voter Editors

Copy Editing – Jane Wagner-Tyack
Design and Layout – Tara Gallegos

TANDY HUGHES GOTSCHALL

Former League President

May 30, 1947 – June 22, 2019

Tandy Hughes Gotschall, librarian and League member, passed away earlier this year in her home in Arroyo Grande, CA, where she moved in late 2017 to be near her newest grandchild Charlotte Leone Hughes. She died peacefully at home.



She was a devout member of the Lincoln Presbyterian Church along with her husband Jerry Hughes, who passed away suddenly in 2001. She met Michael Gotschall through the church and they married in 2006. Tandy was a vivacious and outgoing person with a straightforward manner and a talent for making life-long friends.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MARCH 3, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

**NOVEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 6
CANDIDATES' FILING PERIOD**

**DECEMBER 26
CERTIFIED LIST OF CANDIDATES
FINALIZED**

**JANUARY 23
SAMPLE BALLOTS MAILED**

**FEBRUARY 3
VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOTS**

Tandy was born in Sacramento and lived all over the United States as the daughter of an Air Force Colonel. She lived in the Midwest before coming to Stockton as a librarian at the

Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library where she worked in several capacities for 16 years.



Tandy was President of the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin

County for the 1993-1994 year and received the Helen Pearson Award in 1995. Her commitment to the League was carried on by her daughter Peaches Ehrich, who was League President in 2008-2009.

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MY LEAGUE STORY

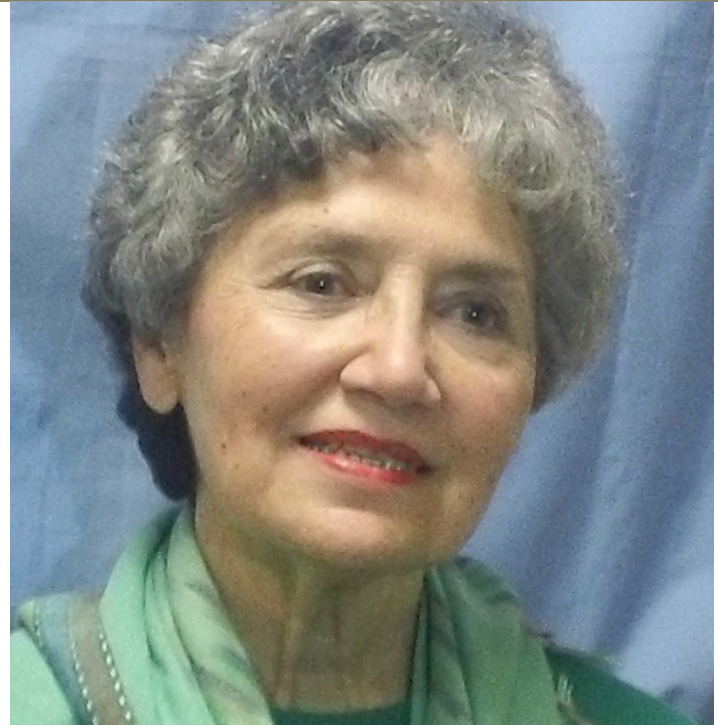
Vickie Markarian

Vickie Markarian remembers exactly when she joined LWVSJC—it was 2000, and LWVUS was doing its first National Mock Election. Kathy Casenave and Dee Matteucci had met Vickie at Toastmasters and were impressed with her speaking abilities, and they, along with her then-neighbor Margaret Johnson, persuaded her to join the League and work on the speaker's bureau. Not only that, they persuaded her to join the LWVSJC Board. "I jumped in with both feet," she recalls.

That first Mock Election was exciting, she says. "We were able to see returns from school districts all over the country, including how students voted. It was the most complete Mock Election the League did." Later, local Leagues ran out of volunteers and schools took over, in some districts even involving middle school students. For several years, Vickie continued to put together folders for teachers with ideas for activities—a natural task for someone with her experience as a high school English teacher.

Vickie was shocked at the first LWVSJC Annual Meeting she attended to receive the Helen Pearson Award. (With typical modesty, she doesn't mention that for years afterward, she herself spearheaded the annual effort to identify and recognize Helen Pearson Award recipients.)

Vickie says that she always enjoyed doing pros and cons and meeting people. For years she was also



responsible for doing Smart Voter and Voter's Edge, tracking down candidates to make their information available to voters. "If I'm going to join an organization," she says, "I always want to get involved."

At their son's urging, Vickie and husband Armen have recently moved from Manteca to Sacramento's Pocket Area, where they will be close to their son and his family, including granddaughters—the oldest five years old and in kindergarten, the youngest three years old and in pre-school. It was a quick relocation when her son found a house for them, and she is surrounded by things to be unpacked and furniture to find a new place for. But now she can enjoy regular visits when her granddaughters drop by.

“A Key Leader...”

Fellow Manteca LWVSJC members Bea Lingenfelter and Cate White were especially aware of Vickie’s League activities in the south county. Bea notes that Vickie, virtually single-handedly for years, contacted all candidates on primary and general election ballots to get their information for Smart Voter. “That is a gargantuan task,” says Bea, “but she tackled it every year. In addition, with Smart Voter, the county coordinators—which is what Vickie was—would make sure any local or regional ballot propositions were entered in to the Smart Voter website. That effort took hours and hours of time.”

Cate White describes Vickie as “a real trooper who did her part in a very modest and self-sufficient way.” She says that Vickie often would organize and moderate south county candidate forums for city councils and board of education candidates. “She was the go-to person and was often asked to moderate as a League member. She was a key leader in the Pros/Cons effort of League presenting in numerous locations and also training new League presenters.”

Vickie has also been the key person to get the Easy Voter Guides we needed in the county. She was the LWVC contact person for San Joaquin to get those Guides and distribute them to the right person or place.

All of us in LWVSJC will miss Vickie and her continuing interest in issues and commitment to voter services. The Board of Directors has given her a special award in recognition of her years of effort and dedication to our critical voter service mission.



HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION

Our great team of League volunteers continues to follow up with high school students and staff advisers as they implement voter registration activities on their respective campuses. Edison High, ABLE Charter, Lathrop High, Weston Ranch and Sierra High have all been registering peers during lunch times. Lunch times have proven to be a difficult time to have students focus on voter registration, since lunch times these days at high schools are approximately 30 minutes. However, our student leaders have been enthusiastic and persistent, advertising ahead of time to the Juniors and Seniors about voter registration days and campus locations and providing opportunities to register over several days. We applaud their enthusiasm.

Some of the high schools have found the Fall time frame super busy with Homecomings, Senior



pictures, orders for graduation paraphernalia and other such activities. Those high school student leaders have decided to focus on early January for their voter registration efforts. Our League team of volunteers will be supporting those efforts as well in 2020. We continue to make classroom visits as requested to register students in those settings.

We have increasingly shared with students the Secretary of State's QR code that takes them immediately to the Secretary of State's online registration form. We provide students the option to use either the paper application or the QR code. We leave copies of the QR code for our student leaders to post around campus so that students can encourage others to register online. That has been quite effective.

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UPDATES ON LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

We continue to reach out to other high schools, connecting with Leadership classes and Student Government classes to offer encouragement and support for sponsoring voter registration campus activities. If you know of a high school contact person who might be interested in having these voter registration activities on campus, or if you would like to assist with these efforts, please email Bea Lingenfelter - beaal@comcast.net or Julie Schardt - juliaschardt@gmail.com



SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES FIRST

The League of Women Voters of California continues to work as part of a coalition of groups advocating for Schools and Communities First. This proposition, proposed for the November 2020 ballot, would require reassessment of commercial property every three years. Currently under Proposition 13, commercial properties are only reassessed when they change hands. However many such deals, especially those involving large corporations, are structured specifically to avoid reassessment. These practices are estimated to cost the state up to \$11 billion a year in tax revenue. Recovery of these revenues through the measure would provide additional funding for schools and local governments, enabling them to boost budgets for housing, healthcare, parks, libraries, and first responders. The measure does not affect assessment of residential property.

You may remember petitions being circulated for Schools and Communities First last spring.

However, after receiving feedback, coalition members felt that in order to gain the most support, changes to the proposition were necessary. These changes include:

- An increase to the number of small businesses exempt from reassessment
- Increased funding for every school in every district
- More specific information about how the phase-in period will be managed, both statewide and in county assessors' offices

To incorporate these changes, the measure has been re-written and re-filed, and new petitions will need to be distributed and signed in order to put it on the Nov. 2020 ballot. Passing the Schools and Communities First Measure in the Nov. 2020 election is a top advocacy priority for LWVC. Since it amends Proposition 13, it will take a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

LWVSJC will begin collecting signatures for the new petitions in November of 2019. The deadline for collecting signatures is March 20, 2020. Look for further information on distributing the petitions, and an informational forum early this spring

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

WE NEED YOU! Join a Commission or Board

San Joaquin County has several opportunities for residents to be appointed to commissions and boards, serving the community by providing advice, oversight, and/or input into government process.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Prevention Commission currently has vacancies and needs members of the community of all ages (including youths age 14-21) to serve. The commission provides oversight on the county's juvenile justice system, including annual inspections of Juvenile Hall. Serving as the eyes and ears of the community, Commissioners inspect, review and advise on the Juvenile site, facility, programs, services, oversight and conditions of confinement, under direction of the Juvenile Court and the auspices of the California Welfare and Institutions Code.

The Delinquency Prevention role of the Commission is to look into and be informed on delinquency prevention efforts in the county.

Applicants to the Commission are appointed by the Court, with some positions dependent on the recommendation of the Board of Supervisors. Some knowledge of the juvenile justice system is recommended, but not necessary to be appointed.

SJCOG Citizen's Advisory Committee

Measure K is the half cent sales tax dedicated to transportation projects in San Joaquin County. The original passage in 1990 began laying the groundwork for improved highways and local streets, new passenger rail services, regional bus routes, new bicycle facilities and rail road crossings. It was renewed in 2006 for 30 years.

The Citizen's Advisory Committee was established in 1991 to involve our local citizens from various backgrounds and interests in the development of transportation plans and programs.

The San Joaquin County Council of Governments, known as SJCOG, distributes the Measure K Funds. The League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County has been involved with the SJCOG Advisory Committee for a number of years.

For further information go to their local website at sjcog.org.

Other commissions and boards: There are many other county commission and board vacancies, including but not limited to the following: Agricultural Advisory Board, Behavioral Health Board, Boggs Tract Community Center Advisory Board, Children's Services Coordinating Commission, Commission on Aging, Council for Quality Education and Care of Children, Lodi Community Center Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, and San Joaquin Council of Governments Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Local cities also have vacancies on boards and commissions posted on their websites.

Some vacancies have specific requirements for appointment. For further information and the application process: www.sjcgov.org/department/cob/boards-commissions-committees.