



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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Calendar

Tuesday

August 11, 2015

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Tuesday

September 8, 2015

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Tuesday

September 15, 2015

Noon-2 p.m.

Election Reform and Automatic Voting

Gail Pellerin,

Santa Cruz County Clerk/
Registrar of Voters

Downtown Branch

of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Meeting Room (second floor)

224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Brown bag lunch

Free and open to the public

Celebrate Women's Equality!

On August 26, 1920, women in the United States were granted the right to vote when the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was certified. In 1971 Congress designated August 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day.

Mark your calendar for our September meeting

Election Reform and Automatic Voting

Gail Pellerin

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters

Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Noon to 2 p.m.

Downtown Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Meeting Room (second floor)

224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Gail Pellerin, Santa Cruz County Clerk/Registrar of Voters

will address League members and the public on *Election*

Reform and Automatic Voting at the Downtown Branch of the

Santa Cruz Public Libraries in the meeting room on the second

floor. Bring your brown bag lunch. This event is free and open

to the public. No reservations are required.

President's Message

Dear Members:

As your incoming president, I am concerned with understanding and helping to resolve social and political problems. During the coming year, our Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters will continue the work of our former president, Peggy Marketello, with all members of last year's board of directors continuing, and Judi Orbach and Joyce Anderson also agreeing to serve.

At our June 6 annual meeting, founding president, Robley Levy, shared her memories and vision, inspiring us as we concluded the 50th anniversary celebration for our League. We thank Robley Levy for her excellent presentation and welcome her as a returning member of LWVSCC.

Thank you to the many members who responded so promptly to the membership renewal letter sent in mid-May. If you have not already responded, renewing without delay will help support the important work of the local, state, and national League of Women Voters in the coming year. We need your support to deal with threats posed by money in politics, climate change, and challenges to voting rights. Your support also helps provide public information on such social problems as substance abuse and affordable housing. I look forward to an interesting and challenging year ahead.

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

A National Monument in Santa Cruz?

Recently our local League was asked to consider supporting the campaign to make the Coast Dairies property (east of Highway One between Santa Cruz and Davenport) a national monument. This 5800 acre property, purchased by the Trust for Public Land in 1998, became the property of the Bureau of Land Management in 2014. Soon afterward, Congressmember Anna G. Eshoo (CA-18) introduced legislation (H.R. 908) to designate Santa Cruz County's Coast Dairies property as the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument (the name has since been changed to Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument).

Laura Kasa, Community Engagement Director for the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument campaign, spoke to the LWVSCC board at their May meeting, seeking LWV support for their campaign to persuade President Obama to designate the property as a national monument. Ms. Kasa, described the property and presented arguments in favor of designating it a national monument, then answered many questions and concerns expressed by League board members.

After some discussions of concerns about the impacts of national monument status on local communities, the board decided to hear from those opposed to the campaign before voting. At our June meeting, Ted Benhari, Chairman of the Rural Bonny Doon Association, presented the concerns of north coast residents regarding the proposal.

After considering both points of view, the board voted that the League take no position on the national monument proposal, meaning that we neither support nor oppose the designation. Those wishing to learn more about this issue can do so at cotonicoastdairies.org or www.friendsofthenorthcoast.org

Membership Report

Happy summer days, and hello to members of the Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters. It is a pleasure taking on this new job of membership chair. I am learning the process from Laura Grossman, our membership roster manager, and Barbara Lewis, past membership chair, who seems to have an infinite knowledge of past and present members. Barbara and I have switched jobs, and I am looking forward to becoming familiar with all our members and keeping in touch.

It is an honor to welcome Robley Levy back to the membership. She was our League's first president back in 1964. It was quite interesting to hear Robley speak at our Fiftieth Annual Meeting about those first days of the League, and hear about how her League work led her to be elected to the previously male-dominated Board of Supervisors. Our program co-chair, Jan Beautz, was also on that Board during those years. We are happy Robley has returned to us and welcome her back to the cause.

At our July board of directors meeting, I was happy to announce that 58 individual members and four families have renewed their membership dues, and counting our four honoree members of over 50 years (Marjorie Bourret, Marge Leavitt, Barbara Oldden, and Janet Welch), we are way ahead of where we were last year in renewals. This means we only have to contact and remind 22 of you to renew. Hooray! If you have lost your return envelope for your renewal, please contact us for another (membership@lwvsc.org or PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010), or find the old one hidden under that stash of important papers, and mail to us right away.

Cheers to all,

—*Peggy Walker Marketello*
Membership Chair

LWVSCC Appreciates Your Support!

Thanks to the following members who donated to our League's general fund and the education fund in 2014/2015:
Rusty Bowman, Paul Fleischman, Eloise Graham, Sue Holt, Jan Karwin, Robley Levy, Barbara Lewis, Carey Marsh, Cathi O'Neill, Pamela Peterson, Morgan Rankin, Candace Walker, and Ann Wise.

LWVSCC's 50th Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County held its Fiftieth Annual Meeting on June 6 at Seascape Golf Clubhouse in Aptos with featured speaker Robley Levy, our founding president and former Second District Santa Cruz County Supervisor.

A quorum of members was established and voted to adopt as-proposed the 2015-16 local program and elect the nominated board of directors (details of the program and board nominations can be reviewed in the annual meeting kit available at lwvsc.org (click on the Calendar page link to past events).

Robley Levy began her talk by describing Santa Cruz County as it was 50 years ago: a sleepy place dependent on tourism and retirees; summer cabins and aging beach resorts by the sea, surrounded by cow pastures, chicken farms, flower growers, and logging operations. Two-lane Highway 1 had yet to become a freeway, and UCSC was still in the planning stages. Conservative Republicans dominated local politics and planned for development and expansion.

With Cabrillo College newly opened in 1959 and UCSC set to open in 1965, Santa Cruz headed towards a different future steered by liberal, Democratic-leaning governance concerned with containing development and protecting the environment. At this point, an article in the newspaper attracted Levy and ten other women to Marian Colby's living room to meet with Barbara Klein and Ruth Monahan, members of the Los Altos League. This meeting gave birth to the provisional League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz.

Next, a group of 40 women met at Cabrillo College to discuss how to complete the requirements for becoming a League. A major question to be decided was whether to be a city or county League. Meeting at the centrally-located Cabrillo College helped shape the decision to become a county League. League policy required a "Know Your Town" study, but the next year they followed up with a "Know Your County" study.

The new League plunged into Voters Service with enthusiasm, registering voters, presenting ballot pros and cons, and holding forums. Our first forum at Bayview Elementary school featured Santa Cruz city council members. The second, for all countywide elective offices, filled Cabrillo College Theater with voters to see a massive lineup of candidates stretching across the stage.

Levy paid tribute to the early League board members who were enthusiastic, energetic, and unremitting in their work for the League, including long-time Santa Cruz residents and newcomers largely drawn from the UCSC and Cabrillo communities. She also expressed pride at how the League has grown and matured from those early years to a fundamental and respected organization in our county.

Levy then discussed how engaging with the League not only has tremendous benefits for the community, but also provides much that enriches our personal lives, "The League was my essential education in government." The League taught her about organization, finance, public relations and how government works. It gave her many opportunities for practice in public speaking and introduced her to the community, thus allowing for other public service opportunities.

After her time as president, Levy served on many boards and commissions, including the Single Study Committee (a committee "designed to fail in its charge to examine options surrounding the rising issues of growth and development, since it incorporated every entrenched interest in the county!"), the Transportation Commission, Revenue Sharing Advisory Committee, Planning commission, Grand Jury, LAFCO, and the Regional Coastal Commission. Serving on these bodies gave Levy the education, background, and knowledge of the community and its needs, making possible her election to the County Board of Supervisors.

Levy finished by pointing out the enormous value of the League's work in the educated and responsible information that it provides to the public as well as the personal growth it affords. She thanked members for their work to sustain the League and saluted its continued prosperity in the next 50 years.

—Pam Newbury, *VOTER Editor*

A Look at Drug and Alcohol Use in Our Community

Part One: Defining addiction and its effects on our community

Last May the Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters sponsored an educational forum about substance use disorders. League member and attorney Ashley Wheelock moderated a panel that included Rod Libbey and Jessica Stone of Janus, Vanessa de la Cruz, M.D., and Bill Manov, Ph.D. of the county health services (Manov substituted for Eric Riera), and Sheriff James Hart. This is the first of a series of articles reporting on what the panelists discussed.

The forum began with a definition of substance use disorders by Libbey, who emphasized that practitioners welcomed the phrase as a way of referring to someone who has an out-of-control problem with any substance use: drugs, alcohol, prescription drugs, licit or illicit drugs, or any combination of those substances. The American Society of Addiction Medicine defines it as a neurobiological disease with a number of factors. One of the outstanding factors, he stressed, is that it is a chronic disease, something that's not easily cured.

According to Libbey, one factor that leads to addiction is that users develop a tolerance of the drug, which could mean, he said, "if somebody has a drink after work in order to feel a bit more comfortable, then over time they feel they need a couple of drinks in order to have the same feeling, they're building up a tolerance for that substance." Addiction also involves a physical or psychological dependence on a substance, so that when someone has used it long enough in large quantities, and then stops, right away they will become ill from not having it any more.

Libbey continued, "When you no longer are able to control the amount that you use, the frequency at which you use it, that pretty much defines addiction. More specifically, [addiction is] when you continue to use in the face of adverse consequences: it is causing you problems with your family, it is causing you problems with your job, it is causing you problems with the law, and you know that this is the problem, ...yet you continue to use."

Dr. de la Cruz spoke about who is at risk for developing addiction, "There is a genetic predisposition: if you have alcohol or any substance abuse in your family, then you're at increased risk. There's also increased risk with various mental health diagnoses." She specified post-traumatic stress disorder and bipolar disorder as being among the many associated mental health disorders.

De la Cruz continued, "... just using the drugs themselves puts you at risk. All of the drugs of abuse, no matter what the mechanism is, whether it's alcohol, cocaine, marijuana, heroin, they all cause a release of dopamine in the brain. Dopamine is a naturally occurring substance in all of our brains. It's released when pleasurable things happen, whether that's eating a chocolate chip cookie or having sex, that helps drive our survival behaviors: finding shelter, food, and mating. The problem is that these drugs cause an increased release of dopamine every time we use them, and it causes us to overvalue things: the drug itself. That's why, when it develops to a disorder point, they are making choices where they choose the drug over relationships, they choose the drug over that job they love, they choose the drug over their children."

Wheelock then asked Stone about community views of drug and alcohol use. Stone felt it was as much a national problem as a local problem, with issues of legalization and availability, and that there is "a huge amount of stigma around alcohol misuse."

From his perspective of having grown up in Santa Cruz County (SCC), Sheriff Hart added, "Santa Cruz County has always had very liberal views on drug and alcohol use. I think those have been passed down from generation to generation. I think it's not surprising that if your father or mother was using marijuana or some other drug, that that's probably passed down to the child. I do think there's been somewhat of a shift in the past few years in Santa Cruz County. I do think it's not surprising to hear that there is increased use in this county."

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Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

___ \$65 Individual annual membership
___ \$100.00 Two members in a household
___ \$30.00 Student membership
___ Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

*League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County
PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010
(831)426-VOTE(8683)*

Editor: Pam Newbury

President: Barbara Lewis

Membership: Peggy Marketello

league@lwvsc.org | <http://lwvsc.org>

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Voter Service Report

Look for voter service activities in the spring primary season.

No county-wide measures or elections will occur on November 3. Be sure to attend Gail Pellerin's talk about voting and elections on September 15 (see calendar for details).

Continued from page 4

Wheelock asked Sheriff Hart about how increased use affects violence and crime in SCC. While it is difficult to give exact statistics, he said, "I know this: I know we book about 4,000 people a year into our county jail for public intoxication. I know we book about 1500 people a year for DUI, another couple thousand for other drug charges, so that accounts for about half of our 14,000 bookings that we do each year in the county jail system. But what that doesn't account for is the role that alcohol and drugs play in other cases, such as burglary, or domestic violence, or identity theft, where people are committing theft for crimes to fuel their addiction, or somebody is under the influence of alcohol or drugs and they beat their spouse."

"I can say this," Hart continued, "in running the jail system through a number of years, it's anecdotal and there's really no data behind it, I could say that at least 80 to 90 percent of the people in custody, one of the underlying reasons they were there was due to drugs and alcohol."

Turning to Dr. Manov, Wheelock asked whether drugs or alcohol presented the bigger problem. "Alcohol is far and away the most prevalent problem," Manov responded. "When you look at statewide prevalence statistics that are focused in Santa Cruz County, about 70% of the substance use disorder diagnosis is related to alcohol, 30% related to illicit drugs. Now, it's also true that, not like 20-30 years ago, where you had an alcoholic or you had a drug addict, most people are using both, so there's a lot of crossover. But having said that, alcohol use is much more prevalent in our society than drug use, and problems associated with alcohol use are much more prevalent."

Wheelock asked if that is because alcohol is legal. Manov replied "That has a lot to do with it. I mean, it's widely available, it's socially acceptable. You don't have to hide it. It's also widely promoted in society, so whatever inclination you may have to get high, alcohol is being sold as the way to go."

Sheriff Hart added, "...the city of Santa Cruz alone has almost 250 alcohol outlets... But many of the young people tell me that, actually, marijuana or prescription pills are as easy, or easier, to get than alcohol is. I see an uptick in what we're doing at the sheriff's office on the prescription pill problem, but it's obviously not as prevalent as alcohol and marijuana."

This ends part one of our report on the forum. Look for more in the September issue of the VOTER. You can also view the entire [video of the forum](#) online by clicking the link on the calendar page of our web site.

— Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor