



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

February 2016

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In this Issue

February Luncheon-----	1
President's Message-----	2
Membership Report-----	2
Budget Committee Forming-----	2
Living with Water-----	3
More on Electoral Reforms -----	6
Local Program Planning in March-----	7
Equal Pay for Women-----	7
RSVP form for Luncheon-----	8

Calendar

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

10 a.m. to noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Sunday, February 21, 2016

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

LWVSCC Anniversary Luncheon

Seacliff Inn Banquet Room, 7500 Old Dominion

Court, Aptos, CA 95003

Thursday, March 3, 2016

1-3 p.m.

Local Program Planning

Home of Sandy Warren

150 Scenic Street, Santa Cruz 95060

(see page 7 for more information)

Tuesday, March 8, 2016

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Wednesday

March 23, 2016

Noon-1:30 p.m.

Affordable Housing

Julie Conway, SCC Housing Manager

The Jack and Peggy Baskin Center for Philosophy

7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Bring your own lunch.

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

10 a.m.-noon

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

The Calendar is continued on page 7

*Join us to Celebrate the 96th Anniversary
of the League of Women Voters at our Annual Luncheon*

Legislative Reforms and Political Power Shifts in Sacramento

Featuring
Assembly Member
Mark Stone
Sunday

February 21, 2016

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Seacliff Inn Banquet Room

7500 Old Dominion Court, Aptos, CA 95003

\$30 per person, includes admission and lunch. The public is invited to attend.

Luncheon served at noon. To RSVP, complete the form on page 8 and mail it with your check by Saturday, February 6. For more information:

lwvsc.org/calendar, e-mail league@lwvsc.org, or phone (831) 325-4140.



In the past five years, the California State Legislature has undergone major reforms as a result of several voter-approved initiatives. The new "top-two" rule for vote-getters in a primary election allows members of the same party to compete against one another in the general election. California's new Citizens Redistricting Commission now draws legislative districts, where previously the Legislature had the power to do so. Legislative term limits have been shortened slightly, but new rules allow elected members to stay in the same house for the entirety of their terms, up to twelve years. The recent removal of the two-thirds vote requirement for budget passage has ended the need for Democrats to negotiate with Republicans for this key legislative duty. Since these changes have been implemented, conventional political wisdom, policy decisions, and power bases within the Legislature have all shifted in dramatic and unpredictable ways.

On February 21, Assembly Member Mark Stone will discuss the implications of these reforms at the League's anniversary luncheon. As representative for California's 29th Assembly District, Stone has authored laws to reform the foster care placement system, protect disabled and elderly Californians, and preserve coastal access; he also serves as Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Previously, he has served on the Santa Cruz County board of supervisors, on the Scotts Valley school board, and as a member of the California Coastal Commission.

Membership Report

Janet Welch, past president and lifetime League member of over 50 years passed away at Sunshine Villa at the age of 99 on January 13. Born in Ransomville, N.Y. and raised on a farm in Niagara County, she earned a BA in Education from Buffalo State University, and a MA in Early Childhood Education from Columbia University. While working at the University of Pittsburg, she met and married William Welch.

Welch participated in activities related to her church, Habitat for Humanity, and the Society of Marine Engineers Auxiliary. She was also interested in painting, gardening with award-winning orchids and irises, birding, sailing (longest living member of the Santa Cruz Yacht Club), and traveling. She most treasured her family and enjoyed cooking for them on holiday occasions.

Janet Welch certainly had a long life that was lived to its fullest. The League appreciates her dedication to community service and her long history of participation in our organization. We extend condolences to Janet's family of two daughters, five grandchildren, one great grandson, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

— Peggy Marketello, Membership Chair

Budget Committee Forming

Local League members are invited to participate on the Budget Committee to help develop a proposed budget for our next fiscal year. Please contact Jan Karwin, Treasurer (e-mail jankarwin@yahoo.com or call 831-460-1714) if you are interested in serving on the Budget Committee.

President's Message



The January 10 climate change program, which our Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters co-sponsored with the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, featured two engrossing talks, the first by Dr. Gary Griggs and the second by Dr. Mike Orbach, who, along with his wife Judi, is a League member. The estimated attendance was 110 people, including League of Women Voters members,

Seymour Marine Discovery Center members, and the general public. I introduced our speakers, spoke of the advocacy by the League for environmental protection and our concern with climate change, which is a current national priority, and also spoke on behalf of our co-sponsor, the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, admitting bias as a founding member.

My thanks to all who helped make this event a success: the staff of the Discovery Center, Judi Orbach, Karin Grobe, Jan Karwin, Mike Orbach, Joyce Anderson, and my husband, Bob. This was an excellent start to our 2016 program. See page 3 for a report on the talks; you can view the [video of the event](#) on line. The Santa Cruz Sentinel covered the event in an [article](#) (January 11, page 2) that featured photos of Gary Griggs as well as a mention of the co-sponsoring groups.

I look forward to future programs in this calendar year, which include our February 21 celebration of the 96th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters at Seacliff Inn, local program planning at Sandy Warren's home on March 3, and programs on affordable housing, income inequality, money in politics, and women in politics. Please see our program calendar in the VOTER for details.

I also wanted to congratulate LWVSCC member Cynthia Matthews on beginning her fourth term as mayor of Santa Cruz. The Good Times Magazine published a nice [interview](#) with her on January 13.

Happy New Year!

—Barbara Lewis, President LWVSCC

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Living with Water: Planning for Inundation

On January 10, 2016, LWVSCC and the Seymour Marine Discovery Center sponsored Our Changing Climate and the California Coast, a talk about the effects of rising sea levels by Gary B. Griggs, Ph.D., of UCSC, and Michael K. Orbach, Ph.D., of Duke University.

Opening the discussion, Dr. Griggs described how we have learned about our climate going back millions of years by many methods, including examining deep sea sediment cores, tree rings, and corals. Natural drivers of climate change mainly stem from earth's relationship to the sun, variations in earth's orbit (not a circle, but an ellipse that takes us closer and further away from the sun), the tilt of earth's axis of rotation, and a wobble of the earth's axis. These three cycles all work together to make the earth's climate change, and this has been going on since the earth has existed.

Evidence shows that natural climate change causes some fluctuation in atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) as well as changes in the ocean temperature. Over the last century, CO₂ increased 34% over the natural record.

That CO₂ continues to increase on a regular basis creates concern for the future. Going back 200 years, we can see that oil, coal, natural gas, and cement production have driven increases in CO₂. The bulk of humanity's CO₂ contributions to the earth comes from burning fossil fuels and making cement (91%); the remaining nine percent comes from land use changes (such as burning forests). Even if we were able to completely eliminate all carbon emissions tomorrow, we would still feel the effects of past emissions for centuries to come. We are not going to change the climate instantly. Roughly half of humanity's CO₂ goes into the earth's atmosphere; a quarter each goes into the ocean and into vegetation.

Locally, we can expect climate change to bring more concentrated winter rainfall and more flooding, along with higher temperatures and longer droughts, causing water shortages and more wild land fires. Sea level rise will increase rates of coastal flooding and cliff erosion.

It's important to realize the difference between weather and climate. Climate is what you predict; weather is what you get. It's tricky to say if the current water shortage can be blamed on climate change, but it's easy to say that climate change is probably having an impact on it. We know for certain that each year since 2000 has been warmer than the last, and we begin to see some patterns.

The climate changes in cycles of 100,000 years, with 40,000- and 20,000- year cycles within that. We tend to think of today's sea level as "zero" by convention, but as earth has cooled and warmed in the past, and glaciers have formed and retreated, the sea level has fluctuated; as more ice melts, sea levels rise. As the ocean warms, the water expands, adding to rising sea levels. "This is not political science," Griggs emphasized, "It's physical science."

Normal patterns over the last 375,000 years lead us to expect that sea levels should begin to drop at this point, but they aren't doing that. We know that much of North America was covered with ice 20,000 years ago; Seattle was under 3,000 feet of ice at the end of the last ice age. From 20 to 8 thousand years ago, sea levels rose at an average of half an inch per year (about 45 inches per century), with periods of very rapid rises within that time of as much as one inch per year. Beginning 8,000 years ago, the rate of change leveled off, and the sea level has been more or less constant. Right now, we're seeing rates of sea level rise of about one foot per century. Predictions are for that rate to increase to rates that look like the geologic past. Ice melt will account for about two-thirds of that; expansion of water due to warming accounts for the other third.

How we have historically measured sea levels affects how we assess what is happening. The rate of global sea level rise depends on how it is measured. We have gone from using inaccurate tide gauges in 1800 to using satellites in 1990 that can measure sea levels from space with a high degree of accuracy. Since 1990, the rate of sea level rise has almost doubled.

Predictions use models based on past history, which we have a good idea of, and what we can extrapolate will happen in the future: how much more coal we burn, how many cars China buys, how many of us buy Priuses, how many of us have solar panels, and so on. We can't be precise about future events, as those are social and political issues, not science, so, while the models have a great degree of uncertainty, they do tell us something about what to expect.

If all the mountain glaciers on earth melt, sea levels would rise about two feet. But that's not a lot of ice. If all the ice in Greenland melts, sea levels would rise 22 feet, which would be up to the top of the bluffs by the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. Melting all the ice in Antarctica would bring up sea levels by 200 feet, meaning that the potential future sea level rise could be as much as to 225 feet, which would put most of the world's major cities, as well as Santa Cruz, under water.

To help sort through the uncertainties, models suggest predictions for the low, medium, and high ranges of sea level change. In 2030, that would mean 2, 6, or 12 inch increases. In 2050, 6, 12 or 24 inches. In 2100, 1.5, 3, or 5.5 feet. The most-used number is three feet, or one meter, by 2100, but every day new studies show that melting is happening faster than we thought.

Many events create short-term effects that will affect us immediately. El Nino events have resulted in 11-inch rises. King tides in December 2012 sent water washing over the sidewalks in San Francisco's Embarcadero. Cliff retreat (cliff erosion due to wave action) has led to the recent evacuation of apartments in Pacifica that will eventually be destroyed.

Low-lying areas in Santa Cruz County have felt the effects: Twin Lakes has recently flooded, Grand Avenue atop the cliffs on Capitola's Depot Hill has largely disappeared, along with assorted apartment buildings and houses, due to cliff erosion that continues at the pace of a foot or two a year, and water rolls over the seawall into downtown Capitola.

We ignore sea level rise at our peril. How can we respond? Build floating cities? A challenge, with roughly 150 million people living within three feet of sea level. That's a lot of house boats. Build barriers? A solution for some high-value facilities such as San Francisco Airport, but leaving much of our coastline unprotected. Or, the most practical scenario: plan for managed retreat by stepping back gracefully from areas of highest risk. Griggs referenced the book [*High Tide on Main Street*](#), by John Englander, which concludes, we may have enough time if we start now. Griggs summarized the book in these words: "It's real. It's us. It's bad. Scientists agree. There's some hope."

Dr. Michael Orbach addressed the human dimension of sea level rise, which is all about human behavior. Today's two major demographic forces, people moving to cities and coasts, create a train wreck heading straight into rising sea levels. In addition to twenty of the world's largest cities in danger from global climate change, there are thousands of small cities and towns and rural populations at risk. Other communities far from the coast in low-lying areas are susceptible to inundation, such as Houston, an hour's drive from the gulf, but only 2.5 feet above sea level.

Rising sea levels create a challenge never before faced in modern human history (since the development of significant built environments in the last 6 to 8 thousand years), which results from two artifacts. All the buildings and infrastructure were developed during a period when the sea levels were constant. All law and policy have developed on the assumption that sea level will stay the same.

Nothing humans can do or are likely to do between now and the end of the century will significantly slow the rate of sea level change. The system is too big, scales are too long, and events too long in the making; we cannot stop this.

With one meter of sea level rise, Waikiki will be under water; at four meters, South Florida up to Lake Okeechobee will be part of the ocean. Venice's 6-billion-dollar tide control project is designed to handle sea level rises of only up to one meter.

Continued on Page 5

New Orleans, most of which is two meters below sea level, is likely to be permanently lost to rising sea levels, with only the too-important-to-be-abandoned port likely to be saved with federal funds. A plan to develop wetlands to protect areas of Louisiana was abandoned because those areas will soon be under water. This is not storm damage that will come and go; it's forever.

Bringing it home to Santa Cruz, the [FEMA 100-year floodplain map](#) shows the police department, fire department, and city hall under water, not to mention our sewage treatment plant. The map is based on 2.6 feet above mean high tide, and does not consider king tides. In 50 to 100 years, these areas will be under water all the time.

Dealing with sea level rise poses an especially difficult challenge because the time frame is beyond the reach of the current political cycle. No one elected today or in the next 10 years will be in office when these effects occur. We lack the law and policy tools to deal with permanent property loss of this type. Public trust law (governing waterways) stops where private property begins. Laws vary from state-to-state, so private property in some states begins at high tide, in some areas it begins at low tide. When the sea permanently inundates an area, ownership generally reverts to the state. Texas has the most advanced law, with ownership automatically going to the state. In most states, this situation would result in litigation. In Florida, strong private property laws mean that the state must sue in court to take ownership of inundated property.

What happens when many people own property that is under water? With tongue in cheek, Orbach suggested recreational condo diving could become our biggest problem.

It's not economically or practically feasible to defend our entire coast. So, planning needs to begin immediately to provide for people and infrastructure on the "new" coastline and to deal with inundated and abandoned infrastructure. Orbach posed the question, "When you have to move New York City, where do you move it?" We should also plan for space for newly created natural habitats.

In the Netherlands, they recognized that their old "build higher dikes" approach is no longer sustainable or affordable, and now plan to adapt to living with water, accommodating it and giving it room, rather than fighting it.

During the question and answer period, an audience member expressed concerns about our sewage treatment plant being in the floodplain. Relocating the sewage treatment plant will be a huge issue, because you want to locate it in the lowest place in town, since liquids flow downhill. Decisions need to be made by looking at the cost and value of the facility, it's lifespan, and the cost of it being damaged or destroyed.

Orbach finished with his recollection of a question posed by a reporter for the New York Times a couple of years ago, "Isn't this an opportunity to rebuild our coastal infrastructure in a new and more sustainable way?" "Yes," Orbach responded to her, "it is if we look at it that way."

—Pam Newbury, *VOTER Editor*

Note: The [complete video of the forum](#) may be viewed on the LWVSCC YouTube channel.

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.

More on Electoral Reforms from Paula Lee

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your November meeting about alternatives to our current 18th century, single-member district, winner-take-all electoral system. No electoral system is perfect, however, different systems produce different results. For instance, compare Sweden's government that elects 43% women elected compared to 19% in U.S. Congress. Electoral reforms can create more opportunities for women to be elected (for more about this go to www.representation2020.org).

Most voters and League members don't think too much about our electoral system, but rather just accept it and its flaws. Our winner-take-all districts represent only ONE political party, and the plurality system can split the vote and elect candidates supported by less than 25% of voters. Voter turnout is seriously declining, "independent" registration is growing, and as an organization with a mission to encourage citizen participation, I encourage you to study "American style" proportional representation (fairvote.org) as well as consider how you could use our current California State League's position on election systems in your county.

Let me plant two seeds. Having a League member on the committee when your county considers new voting equipment will help insure that the proposal includes ranked ballot capability is a good start. Continue learning more about electoral reforms that will encourage participation and represent more voters.

Santa Cruz County could save big money, as San Francisco has, by having one election instead of two for supervisorial candidates. Since 2004, San Francisco City/County has saved millions every cycle by using ranked choice voting (RCV) to elect local officials. Candidates no longer have to raise money for a second run-off election and campaigns have become more civil. RCV produces a majority winner in one election. It was also adopted by voters for cities in Alameda County. San Francisco is looking to use open-source software that is ranked-choice-voting capable for future voting equipment, and they would make it available for any other jurisdiction to use.

At November's meeting, I didn't have time to discuss the "National Popular Vote Compact". Supported by the national League, the compact will provide for the direct election of the president; it takes effect as soon as enough states have signed onto the compact to equal the 270 electoral votes to elect the president.

The compact specifies that each state that enacts the compact will award its electoral votes to the presidential candidate who receives the largest total number of popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, guaranteeing the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the entire country. The bill preserves the Electoral College, while ensuring that every vote in every state will matter in every presidential election.

The shortcomings of our current system of electing the President stem from state laws that award all of a state's electoral votes to the candidate receiving the most popular votes in each separate state. Because of these state winner-take-all statutes, presidential candidates have no reason to pay attention to the issues of concern to voters in states where the statewide outcome is a foregone conclusion. Two-thirds of the 2012 post-convention presidential campaign events (176 of 253) were held in just four key swing states (Ohio, Florida, Virginia, and Iowa); only 12 states out of 50 saw any campaign events at all. Thirty-eight states (including California, the state with the most electoral votes!) were ignored.

The National Popular Vote law has been enacted by eleven states and the District of Colombia; that means we have 61% of the 270 electoral votes needed to activate it. Those signed on so far are: California (with 55 electoral votes), Vermont (3), Maryland (10), Washington (12), Illinois (20), New Jersey (14), D.C. (3), Massachusetts (11), Hawaii (4), Rhode Island (4), and New York (29). We are more than half way to making every vote equal and could be electing the president directly by the people in 2020. Every vote would count and every state would matter!

Find out more about NPV at www.nationalpopularvote.com, where you can also follow the progress as more states sign on.

—Paula Lee, LWV Sacramento co-president

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 _____

Calendar continued from page 1

Tuesday, April 12, 2016
Reception 6:30 p.m.; program 7-8 p.m.
Celebrating Lilly Ledbetter and the Equal Pay Act
Peace United Church of Christ
900 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Co-sponsors: LWVSCC and Women Lawyers of SCC
Free and open to the public
See article this page for more information

Tuesday, May 10, 2016
10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Tuesday, May 17, 2016
Money in Politics.

Sunday, June 5, 2016
10 a.m.-noon
LWVSCC Annual Meeting
Seascape Golf Club
610 Clubhouse Drive
Aptos 95003

Local Program Planning

League members, here is your chance to shape our League's course for the coming year.

Each year our members meet to review our League's current positions on previously-studied local issues to determine whether we need to update a position, study a new issue, focus attention on certain issues by sponsoring public meetings, or take some form of action based on League positions. We will also discuss what areas of interest members would like to explore in League programs during the coming year.

To view our current positions on county government, education, health care, land use, library service, transportation, voters' rights, and water resources, go to lwvsc.org/positions.

Join us on Thursday, March 3, 2016 from 1-3 p.m. at the home of Sandy Warren, 150 Scenic St., Santa Cruz 95060. To get there from northbound Highway 1/Mission Street, turn right onto Bay Street. Continue on Bay 0.7 of a mile and turn left onto Escalona Drive (the preceding cross street is Kenneth Street). From Escalona, immediately make a right turn onto Bayona Drive heading uphill. Take the first left onto Scenic Street. Go to the end of the cul-de-sac, and 150 will be the last house on the left. There is plenty of on-street parking.

If you are not able to attend the meeting and would like to submit suggestions for next year's League program or want to recommend an update or a new study, please email your suggestions in advance of the meeting to league@lwvsc.org, or leave a message on the League telephone at 831-325-4140.

Equal Pay for Women

In 2009, President Obama signed into law Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. LWVSCC and the Women Lawyers of Santa Cruz County have teamed up to celebrate this milestone on the road to equal pay for women. Our speakers, Santa Cruz Attorneys Syda Kosofsky Cogliati and Ashley Wheelock, will discuss the fascinating story of Lilly Ledbetter, point out where more progress is needed for pay equality, and discuss ways in which we can advocate for fair pay.

Join us for refreshments at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 12 at Peace United Church, 900 High Street, Santa Cruz. The program will start at 7. This event is free and open to the public. Attorneys can receive Continuing Legal Education credit for attending this event; more information at wlscc.org

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

*Invites the public to attend our annual luncheon
celebrating the 96th anniversary of the LWV*

Keynote Speaker: Assembly Member Mark Stone

*Topic: Legislative Reforms and Political
Power Shifts in Sacramento*

Sunday

February 21, 2016

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Luncheon served at noon.

Seacliff Inn Banquet Room

7500 Old Dominion Court, Aptos, CA 95003



*Find out how recent legislative reforms in
Sacramento have shifted conventional political
wisdom and power bases in dramatic and unpredictable ways.*

To reserve your place, please complete and mail the form below by Saturday, February 6, 2016.

LWV Anniversary Luncheon Sunday, February 21, 2016 11:30 a.m.

I wish to reserve _____ places at \$30 per person for a total of \$_____

Make checks payable to LWVSCC.

Menu choices: Celestine Salmon, Roast Pork Loin, or Cheese Tortellini. Vegan meals available by request.

Please indicate the name and menu choice of each attendee (add more on back if needed):

Name	Menu choice (circle one)			
_____	Salmon	Pork	Tortellini	Vegan
_____	Salmon	Pork	Tortellini	Vegan
_____	Salmon	Pork	Tortellini	Vegan

Your contact information: Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____



Please mail form and check (payable to LWVSCC) by Saturday, February 6, 2016 to:
LWVSCC P.O. Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010

More information: lwvsc.org/calendar | league@lwvsc.org | (831) 325-4140