



Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, Woodside

4th Quarter 2019

Editor: Bernadette Burns voter_ed@lwvssmc.org

From the Editor

Esteemed reader---a few changes are coming to your *VOTER* newsletter! For several years now, our League—along with National and State—has been implementing technology upgrades and incorporating new use features.

You have already seen the benefits of the new website backbone and infrastructure implementation, which Debby Maio has masterfully shepherded. This has required a tremendous amount of 'behind the scenes' labor, to which many have contributed, in order to bring you the current modern look, along with its capacity for lively and flexible updates. In addition, Debby now regularly uses MailChimp to send brief email blasts to notify League members and our friends of upcoming events, in a timelier fashion than *THE VOTER* does.

We have now also worked out many of the kinks involved in adding new features to our communications infrastructure, and so now have our own YouTube channel set up. I will begin uploading videos of some of our events that I have filmed. In the future, pending permissions, we may also be able to show or link to other videos of interest, such as the Webinar series from National, and/or notable events put on by other Leagues.

With all of these changes in mind, and after many discussions with your Board, we are currently morphing *THE VOTER* into a quarterly publication, with less emphasis on timely events, and more on a deeper exploration of fewer topics.

Simultaneously, given our now-broad electronic reach, and the time, resources and cost of a large mailing—we will be limiting the postal mailing to those with difficulty using or accessing the Internet. We are also planning on delivering perhaps a dozen printed copies to The Sequoias.

As always, I welcome your questions, comments, and potential inputs for publication.

Your Editor, Bernadette Burns

BernadetteBurns362@gmail.com

voter_ed@lwvssmc.org

408-757-1250

From the President

We celebrated a very successful Fall Kick-off on September 21st attended by about 40 members, friends of the League, potential members, and local officials. Our speaker Melissa Vergara and her colleague Emma from the San Mateo County Office of Community Affairs managed to make the huge counting job that is Census 2020 inspirational in its importance for future funding of our county and our state. They did a masterful job of fielding the rigorous questioning that Leaguers can put to any speaker! The South San Mateo County League is planning a joint training session with the North & Central League for the Census Ambassador program, a county census effort which trains volunteers to speak with county residents about the Census and distribute accurate information. Stay tuned for more information on this training.

If you are interested in more information on the Census there is a dedicated page on our League website, take a look. www.lwvssmc.org.

League efforts to broaden our discussions of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion continue this Fall, beginning with an all-League read of the book "Waking Up White and finding myself in the story of race," by Debbie Irving. More information will be coming on this event, tentatively scheduled for January 2020, likely at the Menlo Park Main Library. Watch the web site and the e-blasts. I read the book and found it personally relevant. I plan to attend.

The South County Education team is gearing up to improve and test their High School presentation this Fall at Menlo-Atherton High School and to expand it next Spring to additional schools.

And through all of this, our Voter Services Director Geoff Ryder orchestrates Voter Registration tables and events all around South County. For National Voter Registration Day on September 24 we had volunteers at Cañada College, Fair Oaks Community Center, Menlo Park Main Library, Redwood City Main Library, Belle Haven Branch Library and the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula.

South County was also represented at the "Doughnuts for Democracy" pre-registration event for future voters in South San Francisco. As I look over all of this, I think the Fall is the time to read up and participate in what interests you. In a few months, it's going to be "all hands on deck." Whether it is working a registration table or passing index cards at a forum, we could really use your help.

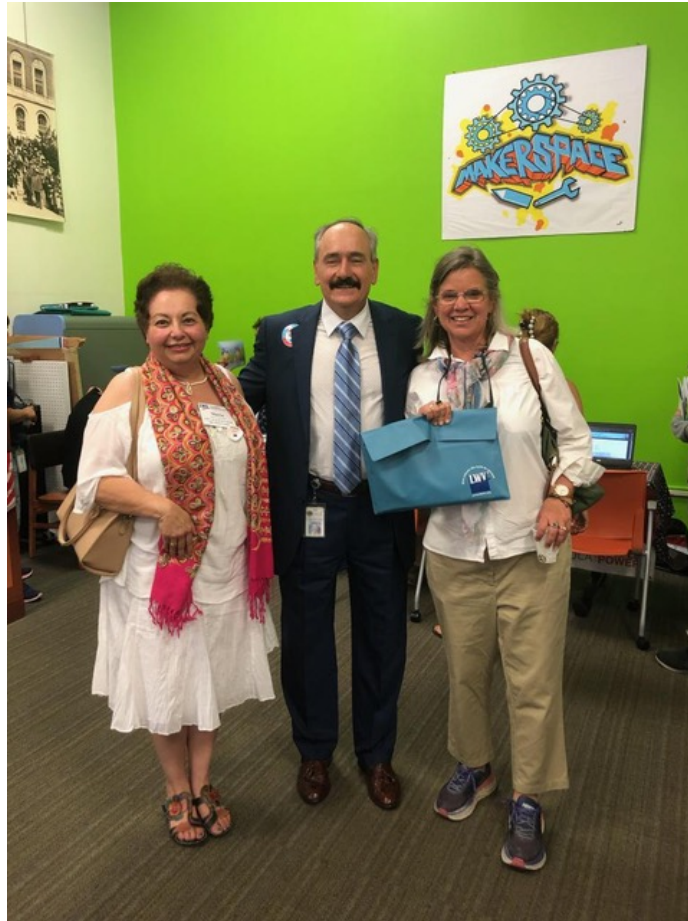
No matter who you are, or what your politics, the common ground we stand on is that we are moving toward one of the most determinative Presidential elections in our nation's history. The League needs you, and welcomes your participation.

Tracy Clark, President

Note about the Member Handbook

The 2019-2020 **Handbook and Roster** has been mailed. If you have not received yours by now, please contact Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net or at 650-322-0778.

Doughnuts for Democracy



North & Central President **Martha Bookbinder**, with **Tracy Clark** and San Mateo County Assistant Assessor County Clerk Recorder **Jim Irizarry**, attending “**Doughnuts for Democracy.**”

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Thought for the Month

Michelle Obama, on witnessing the “machinations of politics and power up close:”

“I’d seen how just a handful of votes in every precinct could mean the difference not just between one candidate and another but between one value system and the next. If a few people stayed home in each neighborhood, it could determine what our kids learned in schools, which health-care options we had available, or whether or not we sent our troops to war. Voting was both simple and incredibly effective.”

■ From Michelle Obama, Becoming, NY, NY: Crown Publishing, 2018.

A Great Fall Kick-off !!!



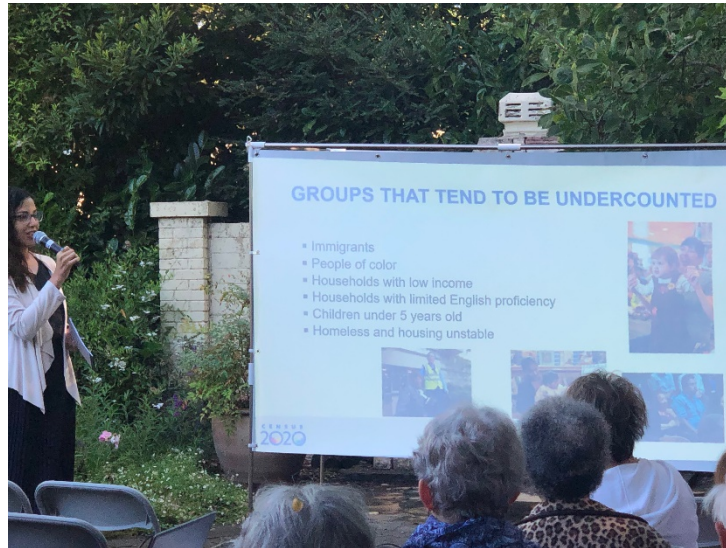
Information display—showing off our new tablecloths!



Host Lida finally gets to eat, as we assemble for our speaker.



Melissa Vergara on Census 2020 efforts, to a rapt League audience...



Melissa discusses hard-to-count sectors, and ways to reach them.

View Melissa's PowerPoint on our Web site!

Welcome, new members! We look forward to getting to know you all!

Menlo Park: Katie Ferrick, Jo Lofthouse, David Wagstaff

Redwood City: Janet Borgens, Jennifer Chen, Mary Dias, Giselle Hale, Judith Ann Kramp, Jeremy Schwartz, Sherry Warp

San Carlos: Mary Yerkes

Woodside: Adam Bechtel

LWV Webinar—Fighting for Fair Redistricting

To register for the webinar, [please click here](#). If you would like a recording, but can't attend on **October 30 at 2pm ET**, please RSVP and you will be sent the recording automatically. If you have questions, please contact Emily Yost at eyost@lwv.org or at 202263-1352.

Sustainable San Mateo County 2019 Indicators Report Launch

This year's Key Indicator is climate change, the most pressing issue of our time. Our focus is on "How do we respond?"

SSMC will address key challenges and actions, highlight business and community case studies, and share solutions within San Mateo County. Network with your colleagues, connect with fellow sustainability leaders, and learn what we can do to successfully address climate change here and now.

Thursday, October 31, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Oracle Conference Center, 350 Oracle Parkway, Redwood Shores

Attend Event