



# THE VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY**  
*Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities*

[www.LWVSSMC.org](http://www.LWVSSMC.org)    650-325-5780    [info@LWVSSMC.org](mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org)

December 2018/January 2019

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The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose candidates or political parties.

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**'Tis the Season!**

## **LWVSSMC Annual Planning Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

Join us in welcoming the **New Year** and help us determine **State, County, and Local League** emphases for **2019 – 20**.

Bring an appetizer or beverage to share.

Contact Tracy Clark, [tracy@acuitytx.com](mailto:tracy@acuitytx.com), if you can help with food or beverage. If not, please come anyway!

6:00 pm Conversation and Appetizers

6:45 pm Planning Meeting

Barbara Windham's home  
48 Lowery Drive, Atherton

## From the President

I hope you all had a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday. I visited my daughter's family in North Carolina, and reflected on how difficult it was for some people to vote in that state, and others **where voting rights are a constant battle**. As the saying goes, democracy is not a spectator sport. And the League continues to fight to be sure that **every citizen** has the right to participate.

Our **Issues for Emphasis** this year are **Voter Outreach** and **Housing**. With the conclusion of a successful Voter Outreach effort, we are turning our sights to Housing. Joyce Shefren has volunteered to take over the Housing portion of our Transportation/Housing Committee and will be reaching out to those who have expressed interest. Let her know if you would like to help, or if you have suggestions for her committee, at [jshefren@gmail.com](mailto:jshefren@gmail.com). We are hoping to schedule a speaker on housing issues this spring.

**It's time to start planning for next year.** Our Program Planning meeting has been scheduled for January 8. We will welcome in the New Year, and discuss which issues we want to emphasize in our 2019-20 League year. This year we will make recommendations for State League issues as well as for our County and local Leagues. Please join us, and if you can, bring an appetizer or drink to share. But if that's not convenient, come anyway!

Our **fundraising** effort has begun. Our local League keeps **only 16%** of your annual dues. The rest goes to support the important work at the National, State and Bay Area levels. So please consider responding to our request for funding local SSMC efforts with a **generous donation**.

We are **immensely grateful for** the innumerable hours put in by **our excellent volunteers**. However, we also need financial support; each donation matters, and yours might just make you feel more connected to the **non-partisan work** we do right **here in our communities!**

Have a very happy Holiday Season, and I hope to see you January 8.

**Shirley Des Marais**, President

## **A Sneak Peek at New Voices 4 Youth Student Video Presentations!**

Check the YouTube link below to see the **two-minute preview** of the three NV4Y videos that will be screened on Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 pm at Siena Youth Center in North Fair Oaks. (2625 Marlborough Ave, Redwood City.) While you're there, **please subscribe to the NV YouTube channel!** Once we have 100 subscribers, we can change the link address to something short and meaningful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lrRp5gORGs>

Let us know what you think ([nv4y@gmail.com](mailto:nv4y@gmail.com).) Are the NV4Y youth interested in civic engagement? Are they trying to make a difference in their community?

**Sheila Botein says: See you there on Wednesday!**

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## **LWVPA Advocacy Training Day for Local LWVs**

**When:** Sat, January 12, 2019, 9 am – 1 pm

**Where:** Library Room, **Peninsula Conservation Center**, 3921 E Bayshore Rd, Palo Alto ([map](#))

**Description:** **Learn How to Sharpen Your Local Advocacy Skills!**

Bring local advocacy issues to work on!

LWVC President **Helen Hutchison** will lead this how-to for local advocacy, hosted by LWV Palo Alto.

**Register early via Eventbrite at this link:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advocacy-training-day-with-helen-hutchison-tickets-53458011351>



Leagues all over the state will be supporting the **2020 Census**. Many volunteer opportunities will be available later in the year, but right now, San Mateo County is looking for people to fill paid jobs, featuring flexible hours, paid training and one application for all positions.

| Position                      | Job Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Pay Rate                |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Office Clerks                 | Perform various administrative and clerical tasks to support various daily operations.                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>\$24.00 per hour</b> |
| Office Operations Supervisors | Assist in the management of office functions and day-to-day activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>\$31.00 per hour</b> |
| Census Field Supervisors      | Conduct fieldwork to support and conduct on-the-job training for census takers and/or to follow-up in situations where census takers have confronted issues, such as not gaining entry to restricted areas.                                                            | <b>\$33.00 per hour</b> |
| Enumerators                   | Some field positions require employees to work during the day to locate addresses on buildings. Other field positions require interviewing the public, so employees must be available to work when people are usually at home, such as in the evening and on weekends. | <b>\$30.00 per hour</b> |
| Recruiting Assistants         | Travel throughout assigned geographic areas to visit with community-based organizations, attend promotional events and conduct other recruiting activities.                                                                                                            | <b>\$33.00 per hour</b> |

**Apply Today!**

**2020census.gov/jobs**

Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339 TTY / ASCII

[www.gsa.gov/fedrelay](http://www.gsa.gov/fedrelay)

1-855-JOB-2020 (1-855-562-2020)



The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

Katherine Bicer from Atherton; Susannah Hill & Nancy Hosay from Menlo Park; Kimberley Koch from Redwood City.

*Periodically our League informs members about presentations from other organizations on topics of interest that are pertinent to League Positions. See flyer on next page.*



The Mid-Peninsula ACLU Chapter Invites You To  
Our Annual Election & Speaker Event  
*Please Join Us!*

## AI & Facial Recognition in Criminal Justice: Legal Battles, Uses in the Bay Area and Ethical Concerns

Thursday January 24, 2019 6:30-8:45pm

Palo Alto Art Center 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto. 94303

Parking: behind the Art Center, at Rinconada Library and street parking



Jacob Snow  
Technology & Civil  
Liberties Attorney at  
NorCal ACLU  
Affiliate



Stephanie Lacambra  
Criminal Defense Trial  
Attorney & Immigration  
Defense Activist at  
Electronic Frontier  
Foundation (EFF)



Marsali Hancock  
President & CEO of  
EP3 Foundation  
Board Chair of  
Adaptable Security

All 17 chapters in Northern California host a speaker event every January where each chapter elects volunteer members to our Board. *It's a tradition!* And with this blending of elections and speakers, we are very excited about this year's panel. *Election kept to an absolute minimum!*

The growing and persistent use of facial recognition technology, both nationally and locally, is of enormous concern to the ACLU. *Join our conversation* about how the current and potential uses of AI affect our civil liberties and impact the criminal justice system - especially for immigrants and communities of color. Learn about the legal issues, uses in the Bay Area and the ethical concerns from our panel of experts. Learn how to take actions to impact policies and programs at our city, county, and state levels.

### RSVP by January 20th

<https://tinyurl.com/ycgsg982>

For more info contact:  
[midpen.ACLU@gmail.com](mailto:midpen.ACLU@gmail.com)

### Evening Schedule

6:30-7pm Wine, finger foods & desserts/coffee  
7-8pm Panel Discussion  
8-8:30pm Question & Answer  
8:30-8:45 Mingling

## Encouraging Civility in Public Discourse

*(Excerpts from Helen Hutchison's recent message)*

Many in our nation are losing faith in the foundations of our democracy. For us as members of the League, we know it is our mission to make a difference in our communities by protecting our democracy and empowering our voters. **We are needed more than ever** to guide and educate and to help rebuild trust in our institutions, just as we've been doing for nearly 100 years.

Our incivility and volatile tribalism have been long in the making; change will not happen overnight. **As a trusted institution of civility and fairness**, the League of Women Voters is well-positioned to seize this opportunity to **lead** the healing of our collective civic psyche. Restoring respect and reason to our public dialogue will take all of us – each of us. Toxic, hateful words have consequences. We can all do better; we need to hold each other accountable when we fall short.

*(Some ways we can encourage civil discourse)*

- Engage in conversation with others. Work to understand different points of view—with curiosity, not hostility.
- Allow others the opportunity to fully make their point. Don't interrupt.
- Work to engage more diverse voices.
- Meet with your local elected officials. Each and every one. Express your dismay at the current toxic climate and present the League as a problem-solving partner with them.
- Volunteer your support to facilitate small-group community forums with them—forums that allow civil public conversations where participants seek to find common ground to solve community problems.

**Taking small, powerful steps will change the tone in our own communities, and in time, the nation. It all begins with one small step.**

## HIGHLIGHTS from the Nov. 15 Board Meeting: Your Board

### Decided

- Leadership updates - Sharon Sherden has resigned from the nominating committee; Lucile Spurlock was appointed fill that position. Housing issues are now separated from transportation. Barbara Wallis will lead the Transportation Committee. Joyce Shefren was appointed to lead the Housing Committee.
- The fundraising letter will clarify that contributions should be made to LWVSMC, not the Education Fund.
- Weekly e-mail updates are suspended now that the election cycle is over.

### Discussed

- How to clarify and better understand the California Schools & Local Communities Funding act, which is supported by the State League.
- Areas to investigate further: updates to VOTER content and distribution, how to help with the Census, a scholarship fund to help pay dues, Voter Outreach.

### Learned

- We should check out **our League website** for recent design changes!
- New Voices has received \$4,100 from fundraising to date.
- The **nominating committee** for the Bay Area League is looking for people who want to work at the regional level - recruiting for a Board position for VP for Administration, and people interested in providing input on the future of the Monitor publication.
- The next Board meeting will be in January.

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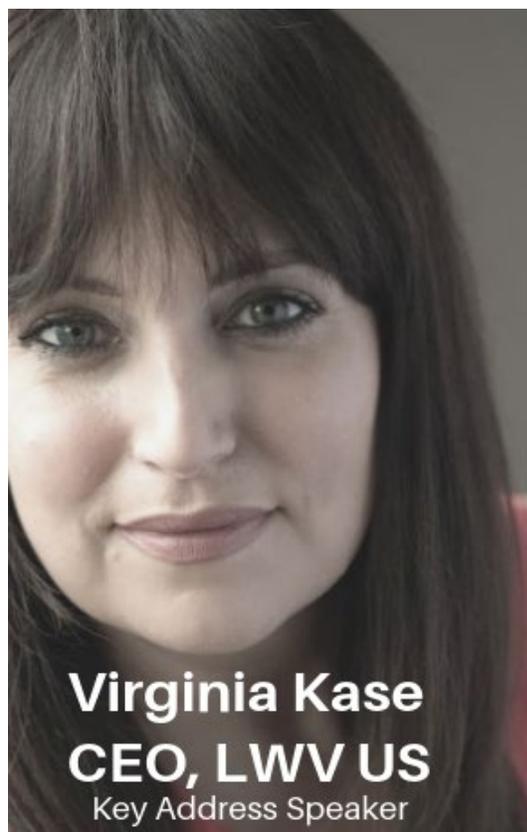
## Want to meet your legislator?

Each year, local Leagues meet with their legislators to get their take on a variety of topics. The state League provides the questions, and uses the responses to help with its legislative agenda for the following year. These meetings also help establish the League as an important community voice with representatives all over the state. We can use two or three volunteers, so **if you're interested, let Shirley know** at [desmarais@pacbell.net](mailto:desmarais@pacbell.net)

The LWVUS has an upcoming Webinar on **advocacy training** by growing stronger partnerships.

This training is ideal for any **League leader**, or advocacy and member **chairs** who are serious about growing stronger relationships with partners, communities, and individuals at all levels. This training is also great for anyone on your team who is a great people-person and loves to learn new tools of engagement. This training is provided at this link on **December 19** at 12pm (noon) ET.

To see **previous trainings**, go to <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/voting-rights-tools/lwvwellstone-training-series>



**Virginia Kase**  
**CEO, LWV US**  
Key Address Speaker



League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

**Bay Area League Day 2019**

**Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) in the Bay Area**  
**DEI in Action-DEI in Practice?**

February 9, 2019  
Google Community Space  
188 The Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA  
\$45 w/Lunch | \$30 w/o Lunch  
Tickets: [tinyurl.com/LeagueDay2019](https://tinyurl.com/LeagueDay2019)

*The Bay Area League organizers **need volunteers** for this event. If you can help, please contact Veda Florez, [lwvbayarea.org](http://lwvbayarea.org)*

9:30 - 10:00 AM - Networking and Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Event with Break-outs

## FUN FACT

Your editor suddenly ended up on **live TV** in a discussion about our local elections, as the producers were desirous of a **League commentator**---and I was the only one who said YES! I got to prominently display my LWV pin!

(Skip ahead, as dialog starts just before minute 3!)

<https://youtu.be/rcg0X5qi-uo>

**DON'T FORGET the NV4Y screening on Dec. 19—see page 3**

<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>		
<b>JANUARY</b>		
Tues 8	6 – 9 pm	<b>ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING.</b> If you can bring an appetizer or beverage to share, contact Tracy Clark, <a href="mailto:tracy@acuitytx.com">tracy@acuitytx.com</a> At Barbara Windham's home, 48 Lowery Drive, Atherton.
Sat 12	9 am – 1 pm	<b>LOCAL ADVOCACY TRAINING.</b> Library Room, Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E Bayshore Road, Palo Alto.
17 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Bernadette's house, 146 Atherwood Ave, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais <a href="mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net">sdesmarais@pacbell.net</a> or Bernadette Burns, <a href="mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com">bernadetteburns362@gmail.com</a>
24 Thurs	12 noon	<b>Book Group Meeting</b> to discuss <i>The Fox</i> , by Frederick Forsyth. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a> or 650-342-5853.
24 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	<b>INTO THE FUTURE WITH LWV--HELEN HUTCHISON ON THE TRANSFORMATION ROADMAP.</b> Cupertino Quinlan Center, 10185 N Stelling Road, Cupertino.
Thurs 24	6:30 – 8:45 pm	<b>AI AND FACIAL RECOGNITION IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE.</b> ACLU Mid Peninsula Chapter Event. Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto.
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Sat 9	9:30 am – 3 pm	<b>BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY—DIVERSITY, EQUITY, &amp; INCLUSION.</b> Google Community Space, 188 The Embarcadero, San Francisco.
Sat 23	9:30 am	<b>COUNTY LEAGUE DAY.</b> Congregational Church of Belmont, 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont.
21 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Bernadette's house, 146 Atherwood Ave, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais <a href="mailto:sdesmarais@pacbell.net">sdesmarais@pacbell.net</a> or Bernadette Burns, <a href="mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com">bernadetteburns362@gmail.com</a>
28 Thurs	12 noon	<b>Book Group Meeting</b> to discuss <i>The Fifth Risk</i> , by Michael Lewis. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a> or 650-342-5853.