



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

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March 2018

Editor: Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com, 408-757-1250

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.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

**“Moving beyond the stalled revolution: Accelerating women’s participation in leadership”
with Caroline Simard, Ph.D.**

**Don’t miss this chance to hear from the Research
Director of The Clayman Institute for Gender
Research, Stanford University!**



Wednesday, March 7, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Redwood City Main Library, Community Room 1044
Middlefield Road, Redwood City

Caroline Simard is passionate about building better workplaces for women through evidence-based solutions. As Research Director, she is responsible for leading research designed to build more effective and inclusive organizations. Previously, she was Associate Director of Diversity and Leadership at the Stanford School of Medicine, where she implemented innovative models for increasing work-life integration to increase faculty satisfaction and retention.

Caroline holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University and a Masters from Rutgers University. Her publications have focused on technical human and social capital, solutions to recruit, retain, and advance women in technology, underrepresented minority talent in STEM, the diffusion of best practices, open innovation, and social networks. She is a board member of the Ada Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing the representation of women in open source technology.

NEW DEADLINE for County transportation survey—MARCH 31! Opine on key transit investment priorities for the future at: www.GetUsMovingSMC.com

Save the Date—Meet a Mayor!

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Lunch in Redwood City, 11:30 - 1:30

Meet the Mayor of Redwood City, Ian Bain

Stay tuned for additional details

**JOIN North & Central SMC LWV for the
March General Meeting, featuring
Speaker Helen Hutchinson
President, League of Women Voters of California**

Schools and Community Services First!

End the Corporate Property Tax Loophole!

Tuesday March 20, 2018

1 – 3 p.m.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, California 94402

California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018

Join the League of Women Voters of California in supporting the *California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018* that will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services.

What will this initiative do?

- **Close the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Prop 13**
- **Continue to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses**

Find out how you can become involved to gather signatures to place this measure on the November ballot.

**This meeting is open to the public—invite your friends!
Read more about the [Make it Fair campaign](#).**

From the President (Shirley Des Marais)

It's time for us to roll up our sleeves and do our part to **Make Democracy Work!** There are many opportunities in next three months, and we need every member to do what she/he can to help! It is critical in a democracy for every citizen to be informed about issues and candidates and comfortable with the process of making their opinion heard at the ballot box. This is where the League can shine!

VOTER OUTREACH--Geoff Ryder will be leading us to reach out to every potential voter who has not yet **registered to vote** or who needs to update their registration before June 5. This involves going into neighborhoods that are currently under-represented at the polls, as well as areas with many new residents. He also wants to reach out to our young people in schools and Cañada College. gryder@gmail.com

Sue Alvarez and her team will be presenting the **Pros and Cons** for the five State propositions on the June ballot. sueellenalvarez1944@gmail.com

Tracy Clark has agreed to organize our **Candidate Forums** this spring. We are currently planning two forums, County Sheriff and County Superintendent of Schools. Others will be planned if interest is indicated. tracy@acuitytx.com

We must educate voters, new and experienced, about **Voter's Choice**, the new election system being piloted by San Mateo County for the 2018 elections, featuring Vote-by-Mail ballots, secure, county-wide ballot drop-off boxes, and county-wide Vote Centers—and the possibility of returning your ballot up to 28 days before the actual election date. sdesmarais@pacbell.net

All mail-in ballots will be sent out in early May and can be returned as soon as they are received. Therefore, our work needs to begin NOW and be completed by the end of April. **Please contact the leaders above to offer your help.**

PROP 13 REFORM--The State League has worked with a coalition to file a ballot measure to “close Prop 13 Corporate Tax Loophole, restoring over \$11 billion every year for schools and vital local services.” We will be participating in the drive to gather signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot. These must be done by mid-April. Our State League President, Helen Hutchinson, will be speaking on this issue at a meeting on March 20. See page 3 for more information, and watch for future updates. Lisa Conrad has agreed to coordinate our petition efforts. darnoc@earthlink.net

New Feature: A Series of Quotes on Democracy

Help us **Make Democracy Work** by sending in your favorite quotes on democracy for us to ponder! Here is a little perspective I found from South Africa...

The triumph of democracy over apartheid is sometimes called the Bloodless Revolution. It is called that because very little white blood was spilled. Black blood ran in the streets.

From *Born a Crime: Stories of a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

GET INVOLVED!

For more detail on these events, see Shirley' letter on page 4.

Voter Registration – Geoff Ryder gryder@gmail.com

Pros and Cons – Sue Alvarez sueellenalvarez1944@gmail.com

Candidate Forums – Tracy Clark tracy@acuitytx.com

Voter's Choice – Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net

Prop 13 Reform Measure Petition Drive – Lisa Conrad darnoc@earthlink.net

Help set up for our March 7 program – Suzanne Fouche safouche@comcast.net

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### Welcome to Our New Members!

**Atherton:** Barbara Windham

**Menlo Park:** Juanita Croft, Pam Jones, Jill Olson, Patty Page, Charlene S. Margot, Judy Rino, Geoff and Miyuki (Mickey) Ryder

**Palo Alto:** Mary Louise Boyd

**Portola Valley:** Linda Atkinson

**Redwood City:** Carole Bumpus, Kirsten Eschberger, Cecily O'Regan, Kathleen Stephens

## *Items of Interest*

**New link for our Facebook page! 'Like' your League and tell your friends!**

<https://www.facebook.com/LWSSMC/>

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An Invitation from the LWV Santa Clara County to participate in a Civil Discourse Facilitator Workshop

In today's world the negative, destructive and confrontational approach to communicating seems to be the norm. This **incivility** creates division and inhibits practical problem solving in our country. The **Civil Discourse movement** is aimed at reviving civility in our public discourse and addressing the need to change the tone of our current politics.

The League of Women Voters of Santa Clara County is hosting a three-hour facilitator training workshop on **Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 1:00-4:00 at the Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 726 Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA.** We are inviting all interested League members as well as members from other organizations in the community. We hope to continue building a group of community-minded people whose skills can foster conversations that bring together people of different political views so that they can listen to each other, build relationships, and talk about ways to work together to solve problems. Our workshop leader is Martha Cox, LWVC Board.

This workshop will include interactive exercises, role playing, and is based on a topic that impacts us all. Please contact m.shovlin@comcast.net to register.

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### **Memorial Gifts Fundraising Report—Linda Liebes**

We received 15 contributions in memory of Adelaide Iverson, totaling \$1,795. Kathleen Weisenberg spoke at Adelaide's Memorial Service with great eloquence. We appreciate all the gifts in Adelaide's memory, and are most grateful that her family designated our League as one of two organizations to which to give funds in her memory.

## **Redwood City is Seeking Citizen Advisors**

The City of Redwood City is recruiting its residents to volunteer to fill open seats on advisory Boards, Commissions and Committees. Recruitment begins March 1 and runs through April 6, 2018.

Ian Bain, Mayor of Redwood City, urged “community members to... offer up your time and skills to help us improve Redwood City's quality of life. With your help, we will continue to build a great community together.”

To learn about the process and to apply, go [here](#). For more information about Advisory Boards, Commissions or Committees go [here](#), and for a blog series about them go [here](#).

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Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Placed on Ballot

In a press release, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors stated that it “voted to place on the June ballot a measure that would raise Bay Area bridge tolls up to three dollars to fund key regional transportation projects aimed at easing congestion.”

If it passes, RM3 will increase tolls on Bay-crossing bridges (except the Golden Gate) by one dollar in 2019, 2022 and 2025. SMC projects highlighted are the Dumbarton Rail Corridor, the 101/92 interchange and express lanes on Highway 101. All 9 Bay Area counties will vote and receive some benefits if the measure passes.

“Supervisor Warren Slocum said **voters hold the possibility of regional transportation fixes in their hands.**” Stay tuned for more information on this measure.

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## **Status of Women Conference**

Join the County of San Mateo Commission on the **Status of Women** for a full-day conference offering a unique perspective on women’s leadership and the Women’s Hall of Fame! March 24, 9 – 5:30 at Cañada College.

Visit <http://smcwomenlead.org> for more information about the conference!

Rather than asking women to change themselves to “better fit” the current culture, our speakers will talk about how they are driving systemic change in corporate culture, policy, compensation, and government representation to empower women and encourage their leadership style.

## **HIGHLIGHTS from the February 8<sup>th</sup> BOARD Meeting:**

### **Your Board**

- Approved pricing and choice for a badly-needed new office printer.
- Noted that we wish to emphasize voter registration leading up to the June election.

### **Discussed**

- Investigating the purchase of a digital projector for showing Powerpoint-type presentations at meetings. Tracy Clark will research this.
- Who will represent us at the upcoming legislative interviews.
- The need for someone to take charge of upcoming Candidate Forums.
- Co-sponsoring Candidate Forums for County Sheriff with North & Central, and/or the ACLU.
- Sending representatives to the Bay Area League Convention on April 28<sup>th</sup>; 3 delegates in addition to the President. Lisa Conrad and Bernadette Burns expected to attend; possibly Ann Draper if there is no conflict with her also being on the LWVBA Board.
- Potential delegates to National Convention in Chicago June 28 – July 1 are President Shirley, Patti Fry, Tracy Clark, Geoff Ryder.

### **Learned**

- Five state propositions will be on the June ballot; we will need to do Voter Service work earlier than usual since San Mateo County is piloting an all-mailed ballot election, with packets being sent out in early May.
- The race for San Mateo County Sheriff will be contested in the primary; it has been many years since there has been an ‘outside’ candidate, so this is expected to be a race given a lot of attention to.
- New member Geoff Ryder is a chair for Voter Outreach & Registration, and has reached out to members who said they were interested in helping on the survey form. Pam Jones also expressed her interest in helping. (Thank you both!)
- Suzanne has arranged for a Stanford professor to speak to us on Healthcare in California in April; specific date forthcoming.

### **Single-Entity Consolidation/Conversion**

- We are engaged in the arduous process of merging our League and Education Fund into one new entity, which will be a 501(c)(3). Many other Leagues have done this (including North & Central and Bay Area) and your Board spent much time deliberating before coming to this decision. Patty Fry is spearheading our efforts,

advised by Tom Carson, husband of National League President Chris Carson. Tom has assisted many Leagues in navigating the technical details of this process.

- Members will be presented with more information on this process in advance of the Annual Meeting, at which time there will be a vote on updated joint bylaws and articles of incorporation.
- If voting members approve, the Education Fund will then adopt these new rules, and request formal approval for the change from the Secretary of State.
- In addition, at the Annual Meeting, the League will meet, vote as the League, then adjourn; whereupon the Ed Fund will determine whether to merge and accept the (now former) League members and positions; then adjourn and ask the State to approve the new, final entity, which will then take back the League name.

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Pennsylvania's Supreme Court has recently redrawn the map of the state's congressional districts, which had previously been considered one of the most egregious cases of gerrymandering. One particular district, #7, has been publicized as looking like certain cartoon characters... Can you see “Goofy kicking Donald”???



UPCOMING EVENTS

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MARCH		
6 Tues	12 noon to 1 pm	PALO ALTO LWV Event: Food Production and Greenhouse Gases. Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto. Contact: lwvpaoffice@gmail.com or 650-903-0600.
7 Weds	7:30 – 9 am	COFFEE WITH THE COPS. (Redwood City Police Officers) Summit Café, 2137 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City.
7 Weds	6:30 – 8:30 pm	MARCH GENERAL MEETING with speaker Caroline Simard: Moving beyond the stalled revolution: accelerating women’s participation in leadership, at the Redwood City Main Library, 1044 Middlefield Road. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 safouche@comcast.net (see pages 1-2).
8 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
10 Sat	10 – 11:30 am	EDUCATION TOWN HALL with Assembly Member Marc Berman. Panelists from the Legislative Analyst’s Office will discuss state funding for K-12 and early childhood education. Hillview Community Center, Multipurpose Room, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos. 650-691-2121. RSVP online at https://a24.asmdc.org/edtowntownhall
10 Sat	3 pm	SPOTTING FAKE NEWS with author/journalist John H. McManus, Saratoga Library, 13750 Saratoga Avenue. Contact: lwv.swscv@gmail.com or 408-598-1842.
14 Weds	12 noon to 1 pm	NORTH & CENTRAL LWV Brown Bag Lunch with the League. Timely Topic, TBD. League office, 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo. Contact: Susie Raye, Program Director, program@lwvncsmc.org or leave a message at the League office, 650-342-5853.
20 Tues	1 – 3 pm	NORTH & CENTRAL LWV MARCH GENERAL MEETING. LWVC President Helen Hutchinson will speak on Closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Prop 13, and how we can be involved in gathering signatures to place a measure on the November ballot. Open to the general public. Silicon Valley Community Foundation, 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo. Contact: Susie Raye, Program Director, program@lwvncsmc.org or leave a message at the League office, 650-342-5853. (See page 3).
22 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group: Katherine Kramer’s <i>The Politics of Resentment</i> . At Lucile Spurlock’s, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net 650-342-5853.
27 Tues	12 noon to 1 pm	PALO ALTO LWV Event: Defining the Limits of Free Speech, with Berkeley Law School Dean Erwin Chemerinsky. MidPen Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Contact/RSVP: lwvpaoffice@gmail.com or 650-903-0600.
APRIL		
7 Sat	1 - 4 pm	CIVIL DISCOURSE FACILITATOR WORKSHOP. Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, 726 Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale. Contact: m.shovlin@comcast.net (See page 6).
12 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
17 Tues	11:30 - 1:30	LUNCH WITH REDWOOD CITY MAYOR IAN BAIN. Save the Date!!!! More details to come!
26 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting. <i>The Circle</i> , by Dave Eggers. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net