



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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August 2018

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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.

Fall Kickoff!!!

Saturday, September 22, 9 am - noon

Outdoors at the home of Lida Urbanek

75 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton

Come learn about activities being planned for the year.

Check out volunteer opportunities.

Meet with your League friends, both old and new.

**AND hear our own Bob Barrett present on the topic of
Civil Discourse!**

From the President

It may be summer, with many of us taking extended vacations, but your League leaders have been quite busy. Our Annual Meeting in June was well attended, and membership made some important decisions. Most importantly, we approved the merger of our Education Fund and League. Our application is still being processed by the state, but once it is signed, we will become a 501(c)(3) organization. We also approved new Bylaws, which are now available on our website, and our 2018-19 Budget, Board of Directors, and Program, which will emphasize voter outreach and local housing.

“Creating a More Perfect Democracy” was the theme of the 53rd National League Convention in June. Our delegates, Patti Fry, Tracy Clark, Geoff Ryder and I, had the chance to attend numerous workshops and information sessions, as well as to discuss and vote for the new board of directors, budget, and program for 2018-2020. This year was especially interesting because we learned about National’s new Transformation Roadmap. It is a strategy to expand the League’s reach and impact, and will require local Leagues to take the lead. One of the major goals is to increase League diversity, an area where I believe our local League can make great strides. You can learn more about the roadmap at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/transformation-roadmap>.

While you’re there, check out the many programs going on at the National level and sign up for their Action Alerts.

Our new League Board members and several chairs attended a training in July to learn about our new Google Drive system, how it integrates with our new website, and how to take full advantage of both. The Board will meet in August for their annual Retreat, where we’ll discuss how to implement the program approved at the Annual Meeting. Contact any board member with your questions and comments.

And be sure to add September 22 to your calendar for our League Kickoff. Find details in this Voter. I hope to see you there.

Shirley Des Marais, President

Annual Convention 2018
LWVUS in Chicago
By Tracy Clark and Geoff Ryder

I didn't know quite what to expect heading to Chicago for the bi-annual national convention of LWV of the United States (June 28-July 1). After taking the blue line to the Chicago Hilton and checking in we grabbed some pizza (good Chicago style pizza) at the reception for the California delegation and headed for the opening speaker in the main ballroom.

Walking into that room was my first visual and I'll never forget it. The room full of over one thousand delegates with signs for each state held over the crowd to gather each delegation. Podium, table, blue background and logo all in place. We had welcoming words from US President Chris Carson and a discussion on gerrymandering that night. Leaguers start early so we were up early to get to the first 7:30 am caucuses the next morning. My favorite speech was probably from the 43rd Treasurer of the United States. She resigned that position in 2016, but has begun a campaign to put real women on US Currency, and in public art installations. We also heard from Elaine Weiss, author of *The Women's Hour* the recently published history of the fight for the 19th amendment. One small thing I enjoyed was standing in line to get my book signed and talking to Leaguers from Texas and Georgia. We were talking about whose membership had bumped up since the election and whose had not. It seemed to vary.

There were long plenary sessions and more cool caucuses. I managed to sneak in the boat tour of Chicago Architecture before the flight home which is the thing to do I think, on your first trip to Chicago. In all I left feeling uplifted and hopeful due to all the people and things going on across the nation to support this democracy. It was a privilege to be there.

As Tracy said, it was a privilege and honor to represent LWV-SSMC at the national convention during this pivotal year for democracy in the US. The education I received during those three days about the League's role in maintaining our democratic system will last a lifetime. The leaders of the LWV delivered these lessons to us via plenary meetings, breakout sessions, and informal mixers.

The plenary meetings were similar to the televised Democratic and Republican National Conventions: representatives from all the states gather

in a hall, propose motions, and vote on the League's business. It was a thrill to walk to my seat and hear different accents from the Massachusetts, Michigan and Mississippi delegations. With the wisdom of the entire country at your disposal, you can find the answer to every voting problem we face in the work of one of the League's dynamic local chapters.

Chris Carson led the plenary sessions with the help of a professional parliamentarian. It was a treat to watch her bring the proposals and votes of 1000 passionate delegates to a conclusion in time for us to fly home on schedule. Tracy noted the elite speakers that the LWV-US attracted. My favorite was probably Elaine Weiss, for her very timely book on the history and importance of the League. I am considering carrying a copy to our voter registration booths to teach visitors about our history.

Breakout sessions ran early in the morning and late at night. Our lack of sleep was compensated with new skills passed down from veteran LWV members: best practices in voter registration--send new voters a reminder that tomorrow is election day; civility in political discourse--LWV-San Luis Obispo has a nationally recognized program; voter education—Harvard is teaming up with LWV in Connecticut to get chapters of *Democracy: A Case Study* in our hands to educate the public. Prof. David Moss just published this in book form. I bought a copy last week and cannot put it down.

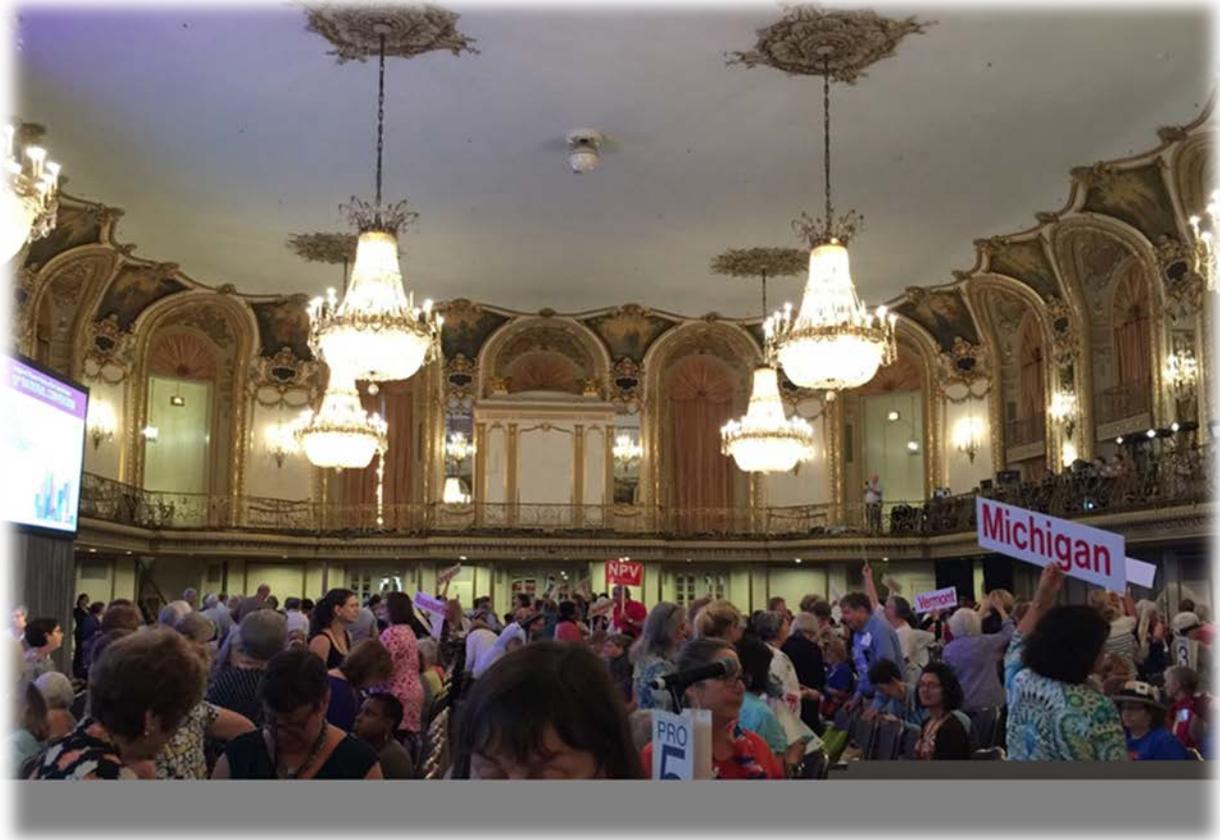
At the end of the day, the convention was a chance to make connections and learn from the best. For example, the San Diego LWV arranged for a huge Rock the Vote party on Nov. 3rd, where iHeart Radio will supply entertainment, and county poll workers will be on hand to answer questions and collect voters' completed ballots. The Juneau, Alaska and Miami, Florida Chapters have award-winning young voter outreach programs, thanks in part to attractive materials designed by local artists.

Our own LWVSSMC will be on stage too in the coming days, as the 2018 fall election approaches. How well will our chapter answer the call to register, motivate and inform our county's voters?

BELOW, from left, **our esteemed delegates:** Tracy Clark, Patti Fry, Shirley Des Marais, Geoff Ryder.

Following: Classic Convention scene...





IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so soon. Contact Shirley if you haven't received your form in the mail, president@lwwssmc.org. Or, renew online at

<https://my.lwv.org/california/south-san-mateo-county/joinrenew>

AND We Welcome Our New Members!

Atherton: Karen Moore

Menlo Park: Joanne Harrington, Gail Morey, Roger Royce, Norma Zippin

Palo Alto: Pat Devaney

Redwood City: Rick Warp



Summer with New Voices for Youth

New Voices students presented their spring productions to friends and families in showcase events at the end of their spring term. You can check them out on the website: newvoicesforyouth.org

Our Siena program is participating in “summer camp” with Co-Director Nimsi Garcia leading a group of young middle school students.



Save the date for an important event, Saturday, Sept. 15, 11am-1pm. There will be a screening party -- meet the New Voices kids and Co-Directors and see their videos on the Big Screen at the MidPen Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto.

Get Involved!

Monitor: The Bay Area League is looking for monitors for regional agencies associated with natural resources, and transportation. A monitor can attend meetings, listen to the meeting via streaming or read the agenda and packet. For each meeting, a highlight summary is needed which will be shared to all League members. If you are interested, please let Madeline Kronenberg know at: mkronen@aol.com

Can You Help with Our Fall Voter Services Efforts?

Contact our team leaders:

Voter Registration and Get Out the Vote– Geoff Ryder, gryder@gmail.com

Local Candidate Forums

We sponsor Candidate Forums for local elections of city council members, school boards, special district positions, State Assembly, and State Senate. Opportunities to volunteer include moderating the forum, acting as time-keeper, and collecting written questions.

Candidate Forums – Karen Moore, KLMoore2010@hotmail.com

State Proposition Presentation Team (Pros & Cons)

We provide impartial information on the pros and cons of statewide ballot measures. League speakers, in teams of two, present this information to local organizations in an effort to provide voters the information they need to cast an informed vote. Volunteer speakers are provided information and training.

Pros and Cons – Linda Atkinson, leatkinson@comcast.net

URGENT! Census Comments Needed

LWV US is asking for help before August 7, by signing a petition on the easy-to-use action page. “U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has directed the department to include a citizenship question on the U.S. Census. Including this question on the Census will discourage participation and impact the data collected in every community across the country. This decision is bad for the Census, bad for our communities, and bad for America.”

Go to <https://www.lwv.org/> and click on TAKE ACTION or use their link:

[Use our action page](#) to tell the Department of Commerce that the American public wants an accurate and fair Census. Together, we can insure that the Census is conducted fairly and counts all persons living in our country.

MEET YOUR OFF-BOARD CHAIRS

by Cheryl Ray

Chairing **CANDIDATE FORUMS** is Karen Moore. Karen was born in NYC. Because her father was in the Navy they moved a lot: Hawaii, Coronado, Taiwan, Vietnam and Los Altos all by age 11. When her father retired they moved to Connecticut. In 1992, Karen moved to England. Since 1996 she and her husband plus three dogs reside in Atherton. They have two adult sons. Karen has a B.A. degree from Smith College, from Yale University she has a MBA degree and an MPH degree (Master in Public Health). She has worked in health care consulting and administrative. Karen volunteers for Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties and Woodside-Atherton Garden Club. She joined the League in 2018 to work with like-minded people educating the public about pressing issues of our time. Karen's hobbies are hiking and needlepoint.

Chairing **DEVELOPMENT** is Susan Gould. Sue grew up in New York City and moved to California in 1960. She resides in Ladera. She attended Connecticut College. Sue received a MA in American History from Tufts University, and an MBA from Stanford. Before retiring in 2011, Sue had a career in finance, then started her own consulting group in career management and executive coaching. Her volunteer activities include nine years on Las Lomas School Board and many non-profit boards, including the Jewish Vocational Service and Mt. Zion Hospital. Sue first joined the League in 1964 and was on the board. She joined the League because of interest in local politics. Sue's hobbies are bookbinding, knitting and all things Italian.

Chairing **BALLOT MEASURES/PROS & CONS** is Linda Atkinson. Linda grew up in Berwyn, IL., a western suburb of Chicago. She now resides in Ladera (Portola Valley) with her spouse Bob Barrett who is also a League member. She received her B.S. from Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Lincoln Medical Center, Chicago. Linda's career includes research in reproductive biology/endocrinology and contraceptive development at the Population Council, Program Officer at the Ford Foundation, and clinical research at ALZA Corp/J&J. Her volunteer activities are raising puppies for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and docent at Año Nuevo State Park. Linda joined our League in January 2018 "to be more involved in civic duty in an important election year."

HIGHLIGHTS from the June 14th BOARD Meeting: Your Board

Approved

- Time and place for FY 2018-19 Board meetings—3rd Thursdays, 7-9 pm, at the home of Bernadette Burns.
- Reducing annual dues for students to \$10

Discussed

- The need to clearly understand and respect our updated Bylaws, including that all committees must have at least two members.
- The consequent need to **recruit volunteers** for committees.
- Policies and procedures that should be implemented for Board oversight of Project Programs, such as NV4Y.

Learned

- NV4Y has received the first of two grant payments from San Mateo County
- That the website has been very much improved; WE REQUEST THAT YOU ALL CHECK IT OUT AND GIVE US FEEDBACK!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS		
AUGUST		
11 Sat	9 am - 3 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD ANNUAL RETREAT at Bernadette’s house, 146 Atherwood Avenue, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com
SEPTEMBER		
15 Sat	11 am - 1 pm	NEW VOICES FOR YOUTH VIDEO SCREENING. MidPen Media Center, 900 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto. Contact: Kathleen Weisenberg, 650-232-7146, davkatweisenberg@att.net
20 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Bernadette’s house, 146 Atherwood Avenue, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com
22 Sat	9 am - noon	FALL KICKOFF! 75 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton. Prospective members welcome to attend—invite your friends. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net
25 Tues		NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY! Contact: Geoff Ryder, gryder@gmail.com
26 Weds	7 – 8:30 pm	CANDIDATE FORUM: REDWOOD CITY COUNCIL. Redwood City Woman’s Club, 149 Clinton Street, Redwood City. Contact: Karen Moore, klmoore2010@hotmail.com