



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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February 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.

An Introduction to the Possibilities Civil Discourse

JUST ADDED!!!

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February 21, 7 pm – 9 pm

Home of Joanne Bruggemann, 3 Lido Circle, Redwood City

Civil Discourse is critical when discussing important issues with those who may have a different viewpoint. Have you been disappointed by the lack of civility that we see so much of these days? Our presenters will lead us in a discussion of this timely topic.

Bob Barrett – A retired environmental lawyer, mediator, facilitator and consultant in the collaborative problem-solving field. He served as a program officer at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for its environment and conflict resolution programs in the 1980s.

Marieann Shovlin – Member of the LWV Santa Clara County Committee for Civil Discourse that has been training other groups in civil discourse.

If possible, please RSVP to Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net

REMINDER--Bay Area League Day 2018

Focus on Regional Government—Winds of Change 2 Panels and Roundtable Discussion

- Cross Currents of Local Govt, Community, Urban & Regional Planning
- Today's Microclimate & Head Winds
- Roundtable: Regional Climate Forecast – Today & Tomorrow

Saturday, **February 3**, 9:30 am -3 pm
Laney College, 900 Fallon Street, Oakland
Lecture Hall Forum Building B

FREE PARKING!

NEAR LAKE MERRITT BART!

Continental Breakfast at 9:30

\$40 at the door; lunch and continental breakfast included

Fund Raising Report from Linda Liebes

A huge thank you to all our donors!

On December 1, 2017, 128 letters were sent to our members (14 to couples) and 53 friends and former members asking for donations to our Education Fund. 48 donations were received, a response of 27%. 31 members contributed a total of \$4,900 and 17 friends contributed a total of \$3,110 for a grand total of \$8,010.

Early in our fiscal year, we also received many member donations, given in addition to their 2017-2018 dues.

We are ever grateful to all our members and donors for their superb support of our work.

San Mateo County League Day

Saturday, February 24, 9:30 am-12 pm

Woodside Road United Methodist Church
Woodside Road & Alameda de Las Pulgas, Redwood City

- 9:30 Registration, coffee & refreshments
- 10:00 Join us to hear about **The State of Transportation in San Mateo County**. A SamTrans speaker will address the Get Us Moving outreach, the general state of transit and funding needs in the County.
- 11:00 County-wide League **Business Meeting**
The business meeting will set the League's priorities for 2018-19. Please bring your handbooks with the county positions. We will review, discuss, and adopt our county-wide positions and priorities.

Be sure to provide your input to help develop a roadmap to faster and better transportation throughout the County. Help define key investment priorities for the future at:

www.getusmovingsmc.com

Get Us Moving (GUM) San Mateo County by Barb Wallis

Stuck in traffic one more time? Empty buses passing you? A variety of trains and buses but not enough co-ordination? Would you use them if you could? if you knew their schedules? if there was an easy app? if they took you where you needed to go?

A coalition of regional leaders, transportation experts, employers, nonprofit groups, and others has been brought together to find a solution to San Mateo County's transportation issues. This is called the Stakeholder Advisory Group and uses GUM (Get Us Moving) as a motto. While the League doesn't have a position on any solution, including a possible sales tax measure in 2018, the League is represented on the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Jackie Jacobberger (LWV North & Central SMC) and Barbara Wallis (LWV South SMC) are the League representatives to this group.

You should have received a brochure in the mail with a survey seeking input from all residents on their top priorities for improving transportation in San Mateo County. **Do** fill it out and return it promptly. It is postage paid; no need to look for a stamp.

If you discarded the large card, take the survey online at www.GetUsMovingSMC.com. The deadline is February 28th. The Stakeholders Advisory Group will review the responses and potential project proposals. We want your voice to be heard!

Our joint meeting on County League Day, February 24, will highlight transportation issues.

KEPLER'S "COMMUNITY PARTNERS" INCLUDES OUR LEAGUE

Don't forget when you are buying books, or anything, at Kepler's any time of year, to mention the League when you check out. They will donate back to us 6% of the sale. If you make your purchase online through Keplers.com, begin your shopping by clicking Community Partners, then Shop For Your Nonprofit, and then League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County.

Save the Date for a Talk by Caroline Simard

Don't miss this chance to hear from the Research Director of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford! Her topic will be "Moving beyond the stalled revolution: accelerating women's participation in leadership."

Wednesday, March 7, 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Redwood City Main Library

In Memoriam

Adelaide Veronica Iverson

Aug. 17, 1912 — Dec. 20, 2017

By Ellen Kitamura

Our League lost a long-time member and exceptionally bright and caring human being when Adelaide Iverson passed away at her Menlo Park home on December 20, 2017. She was 105 years old.

Adelaide's life was one of service to family, friends and community. She received a Master's Degree in history from the University of Michigan and began her teaching career in Grosse Point, Michigan. Adelaide was active in the League of Women Voters for many years, serving as president of our local League from 1968-69. Her husband Bill joined the faculty of Stanford University in 1950 and from then on Adelaide became a passionate supporter of all things Stanford, particularly its sport teams. When she was 95, she threw out the first pitch at a Stanford baseball game, and word was she had a pretty good arm.

To honor her remarkable life, the family suggests donating to the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County Education Fund, PO Box 2244, Menlo Park, CA 94026 or to the Catholic Community at Stanford University, P.O. Box 20301, Stanford, CA 94309.

We also heard from Onnolee Trapp that Marty Tarshes passed away on December 26th at The Sequoias.

From the President

A lot has happened since our last newsletter was published. In December, we met for our Annual Holiday Dinner and Program Planning Meeting, where we agreed to accept the National Board's recommendation to continue their emphasis on **Making Democracy Work**. This includes Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting. Leagues throughout the country are sending their recommendations, and final National Priorities will be approved by delegates to the National Convention in July.

In January we met to discuss recommendations for our 2018-19 local and county programs. For local, we decided to continue Voter Outreach, and added Housing. They will be brought to the membership for approval at our Annual Meeting in June. We recommended that the County League keep our current emphasis on Housing, Transportation and Climate Change/Sea Level Rise. The North and Central San Mateo County League came to the same decision, so these Issues for Emphasis will be presented for approval at our joint County League Day event on February 24 (see article in this issue for details).

Several new committees have gotten started this month. Our Tech Committee met to begin our discussion on how to update our IT system. Thanks to Juanita Croft who agreed to head up our efforts. We have begun the process of converging our Education Fund with our League fund into one entity and I am grateful that Patti Fry has agreed to steer us through the process.

Thanks also to Lynn Auslander, our new Communications Chair. She met with her committee to discuss ways to get our message out in a timely, coordinated manner. Debby Maio has been busy setting up our new website, which will be online soon. Thank you, Debby!

And finally, a big thank you to Geoff Ryder for agreeing to lead our Voter Outreach efforts. In this election year, I hope you will all consider helping us in our efforts to get all eligible voters registered and informed and ready to vote to help **Make Democracy Work**.

Shirley Des Marais, President

New Feature: A Series of Quotes on Democracy

Help us **Make Democracy Work** by sending in your favorite quotes on democracy for us all to ponder each month!

Democracy imposes a discipline. It demands that no fortunate group should ever claim, by virtue of its position or its educational attainments, the unchallenged right to impose its will on others.

From "The Real Greatest Threat to Democracy This Year" Opinion piece in The Washington Post, December 27, 2017, by E.J. Dionne Jr.

(and that "greatest threat...may be our own indifference.")

GET INVOLVED!

Voter Registration Assistance

I would like to have a volunteer to learn my Voter Registration Job. I think it is most important that more than one member knows the ropes. Just as a backup. Contact Joanne Bruggemann at 650-593-3242 or joannebrugg@att.net

Hospitality

Our League is hosting County League Day this year. If you can help with set up, clean up, or refreshments on February 24, please contact Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net
We also need help with refreshments for our February 21 meeting.

Stanford Land Use

Are you interested In Stanford's current and planned development? Our League has a joint position with the Palo Alto League regarding Stanford Land Use.

http://www.lwvssmc.org/joint_positions.html If you think you might be interested in observing this issue for our League, please contact Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net

Representation for DC Residents

The LWV of The District of Columbia is asking of our help in their efforts to gain voting rights and statehood. The National League has promoted self-determination and full representation in Congress for the people of Washington DC since 1938. Interested? If you'd like to lead a local effort to get signatures on their petition or help in other ways, contact Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net. For more information go to <http://www.lwvdc.org/dcstatehoodtoolkit>

Items of Interest

Call for Applicants for Bay Area League Board Members

The LWV of the Bay Area Nominating Committee has been working on a slate of candidates for the 2018-2020 term. They are seeking seasoned League members who are interested in **regional topics such as housing, transportation, regional government, natural resources, open space, air and water quality, and quality of life in the San Francisco Bay Area.** For more information, contact Mary Alice Thornton at 4mat@sbcglobal.net

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### **Conservation, Composting & Fixit Clinics: The County's Free Sustainability Classes**

The County of San Mateo's Sustainability Academy provides free educational opportunities to San Mateo County community members. To register, please visit: [www.smcsustainability.org/academy](http://www.smcsustainability.org/academy)

**Master Resource Conservation Course** February 8 - March 29, 2018 (8 weeks)

Thursdays 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm 455 County Center, 4th Floor, Room 402, Redwood City.

**Fixit Clinic—get help repairing your broken items!** Saturday, February 24, 2018 11:00 am - 2:00 pm San Bruno Library, 701 Angus Ave W., San Bruno.

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Appointment of 2018 County of San Mateo Charter Review Committee

On January 9, 2018, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors appointed 17 people to serve on a committee to review the County's charter. Two additional members will be appointed at a later date. One of the committee members was designated by the Board to be filled by a League member. The combined San Mateo County Leagues nominated Ann Draper to serve on the committee and she was appointed. The committee is required to provide the Board with a recommendation by June 30, 2018. Specifically, the committee is requested to review (a) the consolidation of the offices of controller and treasurer-tax collector into a single appointed Director of Finance position, or, in the alternative, whether the separate offices of controller and treasurer-tax collector should be changed from elected offices to appointed offices; (b) technical and administrative clean-up items concerning matters such as the appointment process for the County Manager and the consolidation of the elections function with the Office of the Assessor-Clerk-Recorder.

Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment

On February 27, 2018 the Board of Supervisors will consider a sea level rise vulnerability assessment for San Mateo County. This assessment has been under development for approximately two years. Both San Mateo Leagues have taken an active role in the review of the assessment. In September 2017, the two Leagues wrote a letter to the County with comments on the draft assessment. The public is welcome to attend this Board of Supervisor's meeting. (9 am until noon, Board Chambers, Hall of Justice, 400 County Center, Redwood City.) The two Leagues will be sending a letter supporting the assessment and encouraging next steps. San Mateo is the most vulnerable county in the State of California to the impacts of sea level rise and one of the most vulnerable in the United States. Therefore, it is important that each city and governmental agency use the information to lower flooding risks and make prudent public investments.

HIGHLIGHTS from the January 11th BOARD Meeting:

Your Board

- Approved the membership recommendations for maintaining our current National Priorities (Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting).
- Retained Housing and Voter Outreach as our Local Issues for Emphasis.
- Recommended retaining Housing, Transportation, and Climate Change/Sea Level Rise as County Issues—and will confer with North & Central at County League Day.

Discussed

- Potential technological upgrades and issues, under the aegis of Juanita Croft and our newly-formed technology committee.
- The benefits of having a more interactive website for all, and especially for chairs and directors to extract data, read about procedures, and distribute information paperlessly.
- The importance of using all types of social media to reach all of our members; Rita Comes Whitney is our social media guru.
- Whether the Board should theoretically permit Members to attend meetings by phone rather than in person. Determined that this is not something we wish to encourage, but approved the idea of a trial if needed.
- The possibility of a fundraising event at the soft opening of a new hotel in Menlo Park.

Learned

- Legislative interviews are coming up; Shirley is looking for seasoned members interested in participating.
- That if we convert to a single entity, we will have to adopt new bylaws and give notice to members in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Appointed

- Lynn Auslander as Communications Chair.
- Juanita Croft as Tech Initiative Leader.
- Lucile Spurlock to Nominating Committee in place of Ellen Hope.
- Lida Urbanek to Nominating Committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS		
FEBRUARY		
3 Sat	9:30 – 3	BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY , Laney College, Oakland. (see page 2)
8 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
14 Weds	7 - 9 pm	World Affairs Council Talk: Brazil & Mexico: Major Political Upheaval Likely During Elections. Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos.
21 Weds	7 - 9 pm	TIMELY TOPICS: CIVIL DISCOURSE at Joanne Bruggemann’s house, 3 Lido Circle, Redwood City. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 safouche@comcast.net (see page 1)
22 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group: Ed Asner’s <i>The Grouchy Historian, An Old Time Lefty Defends our Constitution Against Right-wing Hypocrites and Nutjobs</i> . Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net
22 Thurs	4-6 pm	OPEN HOUSE DISTRICT 24 OFFICE with Assembly Member Marc Berman. Bring your ideas, questions and concerns affecting the community. 5050 El Camino Real, Suite 117, Los Altos.
24 Sat	9:30 - 12	COUNTY LEAGUE DAY , Woodside Road United Methodist Church, Redwood City. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320 safouche@comcast.net (see page 3)
27 Tues	9 am – 12 noon	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING consideration of Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment. Board Chambers, 400 County Center, Redwood City. (see page 9)

MARCH		
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 RWC Main Library
8 Thurs	7 - 9 pm	LWSSMC BOARD MEETING at Lucile Spurlock’s house, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Lucile caspurlock@aol.com
22 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net