



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

650-325-5780

info@LWVSSMC.org

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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.

Bay Area League Day 2/9 @ 9:30 am in SF

If you can't be there—see it on UStream.com's [LWV Bay Area Channel](#)

[Watch Event Live!](#)

LWV US CEO Virginia Kase will be the League Day key address speaker at Bay Area League Day 2019. She comes from Washington D.C. to speak to us about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (D.E.&I.) in our local Leagues and local organization. LWVUS is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.

Join **thought leaders** from around the Bay Area to learn more about D.E.&I., what it means to the Bay Area, and finding opportunities to work with allies. Learn how regional agencies, corporate identities, and nonprofits have changed their framework to strengthen their workforce with a diverse population.

This event will be held at the **Google Community Space, with the entrance at 188 Steuart Street, San Francisco** just a short walk from the San Francisco Ferry Building, bus and BART station. Parking is available across the street along the waterfront.

Contact Shirley desmarais@pacbell.net if you are interested in carpooling.

CONCERNED THAT OUR LEAGUE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE OUR REGION? WANT TO HELP?

Join our Diversity Team, working toward Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
(D.E.&I.)

Contact Shirley Des Marais, president@lwvssmc.org

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are mutually reinforcing.

Increased inclusion is associated with increased equity; the majority of organizations with higher inclusion and equity also have greater demographic diversity.

(Introduction to the LWWUS Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy)

[Read](#) the full policy document

You can start helping us right away by submitting thoughtful quotes concerning D.E.&I. for our members to ponder, such as the below:

---D.E.&I. Thought for the Month---

“When you are accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression.” (Anonymous)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We need a member to arrange an event where we can:

Meet the Mayor of East Palo Alto!

Contact Shirley Des Marais, president@lwvssmc.org

From the President

In early January, the membership met to celebrate the New Year and discuss priorities for 2019-2020. We had a wonderful discussion of the many important issues facing us today, and which ones the League could best address with the financial and human resources available. Here's an abbreviated list of our suggested priorities:

State--Make Democracy Work

Expanding the electorate
Election reform
Money in politics
Redistricting
2020 Census

State--to address as opportunity presents:

Schools and Communities First initiative, emphasizing transparency
Housing, particularly near transportation and community amenities
Climate Change, particularly adaptation to sea level rise and increased wildland fire danger

We will support, with suggestions, two **concurrence requests** from other leagues:

Election Reform (Sacramento)
Criminal Justice System (Los Angeles)

Our recommendations will be added to those from all other local leagues. The State Board will then recommend the 2019-2021 State Program, to be approved by delegates to the State League Convention this summer.

County: Recommendations for our county league emphasis were Housing, Transportation, Climate Change Adaptation. However, the North and Central League had other ideas. So, our two boards will discuss a possible compromise to determine which priorities to recommend to attendees at County League Day on February 23.

Local: Attendees recommended and the Board subsequently approved bringing these priorities to the membership for approval at our Annual Meeting in May: Housing; and Voter Services, including the 2020 Census.

Anniversary of the League of Women Voters Founding

On **February 14**, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters.

Catt described the purpose of the new organization: "The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?"

<https://www.lwv.org/league-women-voters-through-decades-founding-and-early-history>

Local Action Update from Joyce Shefren

A quick update on our local action program. I am doing both local action and heading the housing committee—therefore! I declare the focus of local action to be on Housing issues!

I am in real need of volunteers for each of our six cities; you would need to obtain agendas for the city/town council meetings and monitor each city's actions and meetings. You could attend in person or follow on video. If we see positive actions or negative actions our League would like to make public acknowledgement to each council with a letter or public statement. I will have trouble monitoring all those council agendas so would appreciate your assistance.

I will be notifying everyone who replied on our survey that they have an interest in housing issues, but I also want all members to be aware.

Please email me at jshefren@gmail.com –I look forward to hearing from you.

LWV San Mateo County League Day

LWV of North & Central San Mateo 650-342-5853 lwvnscsmc@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, February 23, 9:30 am to 12 noon
Congregational Church of Belmont
751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont

9:30 Registration & Refreshments

10:00 Film: Legalize Equality, by **Kamala Lopez** (30 minutes)

After the film, **Marta Bookbinder** will lead a discussion of this film which portrays an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. By following both real life stories and precedent-setting legal cases, **director Kamala Lopez** portrays how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace matters to domestic violence, rape and sexual assault to the foster care system, the healthcare system and the legal system.

Along the way, she reveals the inadequacy of present laws in place that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment.

11:00 County-wide League Business Meeting

The business meeting will set the League's priorities for 2019 – 2020. Please bring your handbooks with the county positions. We will review, discuss and adopt our county-wide positions and priorities.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Walter Robinson from Atherton; Lauren Caton from East Palo Alto; Nancy Witeck from Menlo Park; Brian Connor, Wendy Hillhouse and Monie TenBroeck from Redwood City.

New Voices Starts a New Session



Screenings at SYC (Siena Youth Center) and BGCP (Boys & Girls Club) gave young film-makers and their friends and family a chance to see their videos on the big screen! Here, the group at SYC whose video documented the NFO (North Fair Oaks) community protest against the Pink Pantherz coffee-shop. And, below, with certificates in hand, after the screening.



This week, classes start again at BGCP in EPA. SYC starts again the following week. Sanji DeSilva, the NV Co-Director who leads the EPA program plans to make interviews and a PSA (Public Service Announcement). The class meets Monday and Wednesday from 4-5:15, and **extra hands are always welcome**. If you are interested, email nv4youth@gmail.com.

All NV videos from the Fall Semester can be screened at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC15zrcKyeC4OLioU2xCs-Rw>. You can also find some of the videos through <https://www.facebook.com/newvoicesforyouth/> **Instagram** is coming soon! Take a look. Subscribe to the **YouTube** channel, share a **Facebook** post and let us know what you think! We appreciate feedback!

HIGHLIGHTS from the Jan. 17 Board Meeting: Your Board

Decided

- To rapidly obtain a specific insurance policy for the New Voices project; current Director & Officer liability is likely insufficient for that exposure.
- To postpone any decision on donation requests from Voters' Edge and the State Convention.

Discussed

- Plans for our annual Legislative Interviews.
- Starting a new committee to review tech policies; Rick Warp volunteered to be involved.
- Our finalized 501(c)(3) status, which enables us to access all the tech benefits of Google for non-profits and Tech Soup. **Kudos to Juanita Croft**, our tech support guru, on her hard work and successful outcomes in this element of our conversion!

Learned

- Jack Morris, our longtime treasurer, will be handing over the reins to Rick Warp when the new fiscal year begins. They have been meeting regularly to support the transition, and Rick addressed the Board about his experience and ideas.
- There is a county-wide committee on election machines, and they want to recruit a **League volunteer** to be part of it.

UPCOMING EVENTS		
FEBRUARY		
9 Sat	9:30 am – 3 pm	BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY—DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION. Google Community Space, 188 Steuart Street, San Francisco. Contact: Veda Florez vedaart9@gmail.com
10 Sun	2 – 4 pm	MEET THE MAYOR & VICE MAYOR OF REDWOOD CITY. An informal community dialog about how city government works. Veterans Memorial Senior Center, Redwood Room, 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City.
12 Tues	7 – 8:30 pm	UNDERSTANDING CALIFORNIA’S RED FLAG LAW: Removing Guns from Those Who May Be a Threat to Self or Others. Moderated panel at Stanford Law School, 559 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford. LWV Palo Alto event. Register at Eventbrite.
21 Thurs	7 – 9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Bernadette’s house, 146 Atherwood Ave, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com
23 Sat	9:30 am - 12	COUNTY LEAGUE DAY. Congregational Church of Belmont, 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont. Contact: LWV North & Central SMC, 650-342-5853, lwnvncsmc@sbcglobal.net
28 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>The Fifth Risk</i> , by Michael Lewis, at the home of Lucile Spurlock, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Guests always welcome; please bring your own lunch. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net or 650-342-5853.

Upcoming book group selections:

March, ***Leadership: In Turbulent Times*** by Doris Kearns Goodwin

April, ***Becoming*** by Michelle Obama.