

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities



Atherton, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, Woodside

**1st Quarter 2020**

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South San Mateo County League Receives **LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Proclamation**  
from Portola Valley Town Council



President Tracy Clark and member Rita Comes accepting the proclamation



Numerous long-time members were in attendance!

## **From the President**

Just 10 days past the primary and it's time for an update. Our work for the Silicon Valley Community Foundation Grant on Voter Engagement has concluded. Data is being compiled. There is a summary on the League website. In brief, 2209 voters were reached between the time we started work with this grant in January and the March 3 primary, 20 voter registration events held, 460 clicks on our Google Ad Campaign, 744 voters reached through precinct canvassing, phone banking, and text messaging. It was a new and multi-pronged effort to get out the vote. We will look closely when precinct turnout numbers are released. I must say again, a huge thank you and acknowledgement to Geoff Ryder, Voter Services director, and 39 of his volunteers. WOW, what a generous and coordinated effort by all involved.

Our League received two proclamations in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League of Women Voters, one from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and one from the Town of Portola Valley. It has been my honor and pleasure to accept these proclamations on behalf of us all.

Keep your eye on the calendar--the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team has a speaker scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> on hidden bias. In addition, the annual dinner is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>, coronavirus permitting.

To all getting some unexpected time at home, let's try to enjoy it. Let's all stay healthy and look after each other during the coming weeks.

**Tracy Clark, President**

**Welcome, new members!**  
**We look forward to getting to know you all!**

*Kaye Crawford*

*Lisa Hicks Dumanske*

*Katie Hadrovic*

*Paola Maciocia*

*Nancy Martin*

*Mary Nam*

*Barbara O'Connor*

*Kathleen Prince*

*Julie Shanson*

## Voter Services Report--From Geoff Ryder

LWV-SSMC sends teams of trained volunteers to different locations around our county to register voters, and to educate voters about voting procedures in our area.

In 2018, six out of fifteen (40%) of our voter service locations were in, or served residents from precincts defined as having low voter turnout: (largely, North Fair Oaks, Belle Haven/East Menlo Park, and East Palo Alto). 2018 was an election year, and we reached over 2000 county residents in person through our voter service outreach program.

In 2019, eight out of twelve (66%) of our voter service locations were in, or served residents from precincts defined as having low voter turnout. In addition, our voter outreach events at Redwood City Library Main Branch and Cañada College also serve residents mainly from low-turnout precincts. While 2019 is an off year with respect to elections, we contacted 750 county residents via our in-person voter outreach program in 2019.

Based on our track record, LWV-SSMC in collaboration with the nonprofit Belle Haven Action was awarded a \$14K grant by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation last week. We will use the funds to run a higher-paced version of our outreach program ahead of the Presidential Primary Election in 2020. We will use most of the money to hire part-time canvassers to walk precincts door-to-door that have historically low turnout, and hand out election and Census 2020 flyers. We will also run 50 traditional voter outreach tabling events in venues across South San Mateo County before March 3.

**+ Project goal for use of our grant funds:** By March 3, 1000 visitors reached at events, 1000 reached outside events in selected RWC precincts, and 1000 reached around Belle Haven.

+ At the halfway point, we have reached 540 out of the 1000-visitor target for meeting in person at events.

+ Canvassing operations in our 11 assigned precincts-- a mix of door-to-door canvassing (reminders about the Election and Census), reminder postcards, and geo-targeted digital media such as Adwords campaigns.

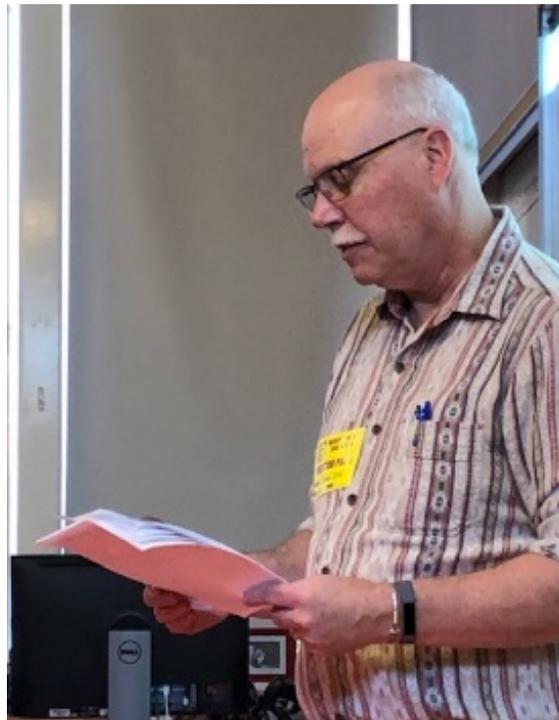
+ We received postcard-sized San Mateo County Elections flyers to hand out, and similarly-sized Census flyers which we are handing out too. It works well because if a visitor to our table is not a citizen, we can still talk to them about the Census.

+ We also have our own bilingual voter registration business cards that can be used anywhere in the state. These are good for people in a hurry.

+ At indoor venues, we have a 30-minute presentation for the general public that covers the mechanics of voting, and neutral Pros and Cons about Prop. 13. Our volunteers present this in English and Spanish.

+ We have a workshop for high school classes that covers the mechanics of voting, and registering to vote. At the end of the talk we help qualified students register or pre-register. The following photos are from our work at Menlo-Atherton High School.

## Teaching at M-A



Menlo-Atherton HS presentations—League member Susan Briggs and Jason Knowles, government teacher.

## The League of Women Voters Ed Fund AmazonSmile Account



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

**Donate money automatically every time you shop.**

## In Memoriam—Sharon Sherden



May 3, 1941 – February 27, 2020

With her loving husband David at her side, longtime League member and Dues Secretary Sharon Sherden passed away after a brief struggle with heart failure.

A funeral is planned for 10:30 am Monday March 23 at St Pius Church, 1100 Woodside Road, Redwood City, then a reception at Sharon and Dave's home, 140 Atherwood Ave, Redwood City.

An obituary should be posted soon at [www.crippenandflynchapel.com](http://www.crippenandflynchapel.com)

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Sharon's name to the **Redwood City Library Foundation**

[rclfdn.org](http://rclfdn.org)

## KEPLER'S "Community Partners" includes our League

Don't forget when you are buying books (or anything else) at Kepler's 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.

## **Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion**

### **100th Anniversary Video from National LWV**

“We’re so excited to announce our [new video for She Is Me](#) and the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters! We hope this short video will be useful to Leagues at your events and elsewhere, and that it will inspire you as you move us into our next 100 years!”

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“I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness, not in invisible systems conferring dominance on my group.”

McIntosh, P. (1989, July/August). [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#). *Peace & Freedom Magazine*, 10–12.

## **National LWV call for action - Demand a hearing on For the People Act!**

The *For the People Act* is a historic opportunity to expand voting rights, counter gerrymandering, improve election security, enact ethics reform, and limit the influence of big money in politics. It just passed the House, but faces an uphill battle in the Senate. Please contact your Senators right now to demand a hearing on the *For the People Act*. Go to <http://www.lwv.org/take-action>, then scroll down to “Demand a Hearing on For the People Act” and click on “Contact your Senators right now.” It will ask for your street address and zip code, then automatically create emails for Senators Feinstein and Harris that you can send with just one click.

For those interested in more background, this is a bill with strong backing by the LWV. Specifically, the *For the People Act* expands voter registration and voting access, makes Election Day a federal holiday, and limits removing voters from voter rolls.

It encourages states to establish independent, nonpartisan redistricting commissions. The bill also sets forth provisions related to election security, such as protecting the security of the voter rolls, supporting states in securing their election systems, and other provisions to improve the cybersecurity of election systems.

This bill addresses campaign spending, including by expanding the ban on foreign nationals contributing to or spending on elections; expanding disclosure rules pertaining to organizations spending money on campaign advertisements, and online platforms; and revising disclaimer requirements for political advertising.

It also requires candidates for President and Vice President to submit 10 years of tax returns.

Please contact your senators right now to demand a hearing on the *For the People Act* at <http://www.lwv.org/take-action>!