



THE VOTER

League of Women Voters
Of Sonoma County

Volume 25, Issue 5 Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

Meet our new President



Donna Roper

I became involved with the League while working with Latina moms in Guerneville. I initially delivered voter registration cards in the west county and then did some moderating of forums and ultimately became the chair of the Voter Services committee. I was concerned about the lack of knowledge or inspiration about voting and how one vote can make a difference. I saw this lack of knowledge when doing voter registrations in the high schools. The students had a lot of questions about what happens when you walk into the voting booth. They wanted to vote but they didn't want to look stupid. Voter education is a major pillar of our League work. We will continue this work.

The League will play a large role this year in educating the community about Democracy, recall elections and redistricting. Debbie McKay and Karen Weeks have organized a

wonderful "How Democracy Works" series with the Marin League.

Judie Coleman – our membership chair has great ideas on how to involve more members such as observing at our local commissions and boards. We will continue with outreach, stocking voter registration cards, book club and socials. So, there is an opportunity for all to play a part. Our League will only be as strong as the involvement of our members. This past year has been a challenge for many of us, but we've also had more people involved because of the technology available to us. Virtual forums were well attended and recorded so that voters had the information in the convenience of their homes. I hope this year we can learn to do a hybrid model so that people can still be involved virtually as well as meet the social needs of our members. I think a lot of people join the League to meet other community members - we don't want to lose that aspect.

You will find information about our focused programs and advocacy this year in another article. These are in line with the State League of Women Voters so there are opportunities to collaborate with others.

I am very impressed with the caliber and commitment of the Board members. I especially want to thank Debbie and Karen who stepped up to keep the Board and the organization on track. I look forward to meeting more of you and continuing the historical legacy of the League of Women Voters.

By Donna Roper



Annual Membership Meeting

Our meeting took place on June 26th virtually. Despite no potluck or guest speaker it was well attended by twenty-nine members. Maybe next year we'll be able to meet in person once again.

Some of the highlights of the meeting include:

- **Financials-** Juanita Roland, outgoing treasurer, reported that expenses exceeded income primarily because of the unusually high number of candidate forums and the cost of offering Spanish translation for the first time. However, we did not have to dip into the money market account.
- **Proposed Budget-** Linda Rosen, who served on the budget committee, presented their proposal. She said the budget is a conservative one because there are so many unknowns. She also pointed out that our annual dues of \$75 is divided up between the State, National and Bay Area league PMPs leaving a relatively small amount for our local league. The proposed budget was approved by the membership.
- **By-Laws-** There were two proposed changes. One involved creating a new board position, that of Executive Vice President. This individual would assist the President in carrying out his or her duties. This position would also be a good way to learn about leadership roles within the league. The other by-law proposal had to do with membership renewal. Since joining Club Express, membership renewal is based on the month the person joins, not in the month of June. Both By-laws were approved by the membership.
- **Areas of Emphasis-** These are the issues that will be the focus of our work for the year 2021-2022. These were adopted in January but need approval by the general membership. The issues we will be working on are: Making Democracy Work, including Expanding the Electorate and Rank Choice Voting; Climate Change, with an emphasis on Water Resources, Criminal Justice Reform, Housing/Homelessness and Transportation.
- **Committee Reports-** each committee chair gave a brief report of their work. This will be described elsewhere in The Voter.
- **Nominations Committee-** Carrie Anabo headed up this committee and presented the slate of officers. The membership approved the nominations. They are:
 - President- Donna Roper
 - Executive VP- **Vacant**
 - Secretary- Debbie McKay
 - Treasurer- Linda Rosen
 - VP of Administration- Linda Rosen
 - Membership- Judie Coleman
 - Advocacy- Leona Judson
 - Community Outreach- Sue Jackson
 - Voter Service- Karen Weeks
 - Communications/Newsletter- Juanita Roland, Iris Levitis
 - Program- Judie Coleman & Sue Jackson
 - Director-at-large- Jim Masters
- **Recognition of departing board members.** Debbie acknowledged the hard work and contributions of those who will leave the board. They are

Gene Zingarelli, Carrie Anabo, Gayle McKinney-Peterson, Susan Rouder, DeeDee Bridges, Susan Novak, Mary Virdeh. Debbie also acknowledged the many years of service of former President and Secretary, Nancy Burrington, who passed away this year.

After the meeting several stayed on to hear Juanita Roland’s overview of our new Club Express LWV website. If you have not had a chance to check it out, go to <https://lwvsonoma.org>

You can view specific documents presented at the membership meeting, by signing onto the website, and clicking on Member Resources. See Annual Meeting Kit under Member References. [Link to Kit](#)

By Leona Judson



Making Democracy Work

Free and fair elections are the bedrock of our nation, and a primary goal of the League. But how do we ensure that right? One way is an informed population, which is why the League is dedicated to voter education. With that goal in mind, the Sonoma County and the Marin County Leagues have partnered this past year to do monthly presentations on Making Democracy Work, which is one of our areas of emphasis. Making Democracy Work

is a big topic and an important part of our League’s mission. Our first presentation in March 2021, covered the basics on Ranked Choice Voting. Then in April we moved on to Redistricting which will be a major issue in 2021, impacting national, state, and local elections. During our third presentation, we did a quick history of the evolution of voting rights and then our guest speaker, Congressman Jared Huffman, reviewed HR1 (now S1 in the US Senate) AKA “The For the People Act” and Money in Politics. On June 21st we heard from Scott Drexel, Sr Advisor to the National Popular Vote Movement which, once implemented, will require that the presidential candidate receiving the most nationwide votes be selected by the electors appointed to the Electoral College. Presentations one and two are available on our YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPuWiPCggJDW5y_wrJFIpLmz82ix0iy8d If you were not able to attend the presentations, please take a look at the videos. And share them with family and friends. Maybe even schedule a watch party with friends or a group you belong to. The third and fourth presentations will be posted on YouTube soon. If you would like to help with continuing this series in the fall, please contact Debbie McKay at secretary@lwvsonoma.org or Karen Weeks at elections@lwv.sonoma.org.

By Debbie McKay





LWV CA Convention 2021

June 7-13, 2021

The LWV-California Convention 2021 showed me that the LWV is Democracy in Action.

The main take-away I got from the Convention is that, for whatever project we decide to do, or even think about doing, some other League has probably already done it to the nines and has carefully thought through how to focus limited resources to achieve the most impact. Many Leagues have developed toolkits for these projects which they offer for other Leagues to use. We do not have to do exactly what they did, but we also do not have to re-invent the wheel every time we take on a project. The LWV is a great network of people committed to civic engagement.

Here is a short list of just some of the things that other Leagues are doing:

- The LWV-Santa Barbara did a great program to help make it easy for communities to get engaged in voting.
- The LWV-California gave advice on how Leagues can leverage partnerships with other local community groups.

- The LWV-California developed a “Homeless Action Policy Local League Toolkit” for us.
- The LWV-California (note: with a \$100K grant) developed a “Get Out the Vote” campaign in which they targeted different ethnic groups, including youth, for whom they hired TikTok Influencers to do segments on the importance of voting. They hoped to reach 200,000 people; they were so successful they reached millions.
- Advocacy: It was emphasized that the League speaks with one voice – which means that whatever position we think about taking must first reach consensus in our local League, and then run vertically up through the organization. Only authorized people can speak for the League, and only once there is agreement on all levels of the LWV does something become an LWV advocated position.
- LWV-San Francisco developed a “California Criminal Justice Toolkit” which was adopted by the LWV-California.
- LWV-Alameda hired programmers and developed a free on-line game with different modules to learn about civics, health care, money and politics, and many more issues. You can find it at: <https://verifyit.buzz>
- LWV-Napa has a whole page on their website dedicated to help people determine whether something is fact or fiction: <https://www.lwvnapa.com/links-facts>

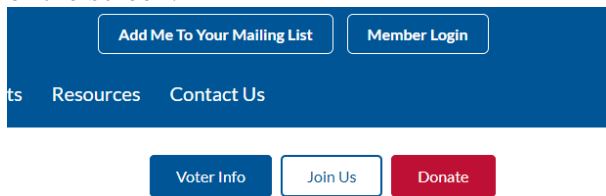
By Judie Coleman

Our New Website Is Operational

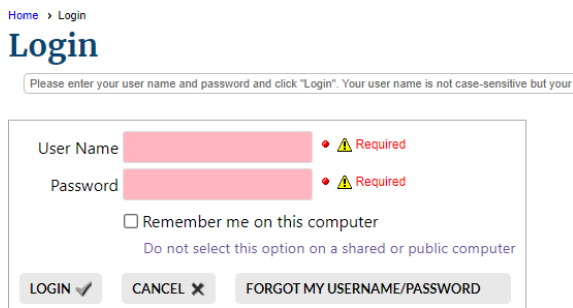
We still have the same Domain Name, www.lwv.sonoma.org, but when you go there now you will see we have a new look. Much of our site is open to public and provides important information about the League, our government, and voting. But members have some additional options, which require your login.

To login:

First click on the Login button at the top right of the screen:



You will then be taken to the login screen:



Trouble logging in? [Click here](#) for assistance.

You should have received a username and password by email. If you did not receive or cannot find it, you can click on “Forgot My Username/Password” in the lower left and new login information will be sent to you at the email address on record.

Once you successfully login, your name will appear in the upper right of the screen where the login button was before. If you click on your name, you will see options to access your profile, login as a different user (helpful if two members in a household use the same computer), or log out. If a payment is owed,

such as dues, the option to go to the payment module will also appear when you click on your name.

The first time you login, you will be required to change the password to something that you choose (hint: remember to write it down).

Then go to your profile:

- Hover the mouse over your name in the upper right corner and click on the **Profile** link.
- Click on the **Basic Member Information** box and verify that the information is correct. Make changes, as necessary. When you are finished with your edits, scroll down to the bottom to click on the “**Save**” button.
- Click on the **Standard Member Directory** box under General Info to review the visibility menu and select one you want. We encourage members to make their information visible to the membership. Membership formation is never shared with other organizations or the public. Fill in other areas as you wish. You can even add a picture of yourself. And remember to save.

You can go to your profile at any time in the future to update your contact information or to reset your password.

Get on the site and explore. There is much about this new site that we are all still learning, but it offers many great features now, and with promises for more in the future.

Renewals

For most of our members, it is time to renew your membership. If this seems like a short time since you last renewed, it probably is, since many renewals were late last year, due to the pandemic, wildfires, and other challenges that Sonoma County has endured recently. The new website has already sent reminders to active members whose dues are now owed. If you have not already made a payment, an

option to pay will appear when you hover the cursor over your name. You can go there to complete the renewal process. You may pay using PayPal whether you have a PayPal account or not or print an invoice and pay by check

If you have question on any of this, you can contact Judie Coleman membership@lwvsonoma.org, Juanita Roland treasure@lwvsonoma.org

And watch the space for future tips on using our new web site.

By Juanita Roland



Committee Reports

Even though it's Summer, our committees are still in session. Here is a brief roundup of what's happening.

Membership- Judie Coleman is the chair of this essential committee. We currently have 159 members. She and other volunteers are phoning members to update their information and to encourage their participation. This personal touch has been well received. She also held a virtual "social" recently to new and old members to get better acquainted with each other. But her biggest project is to create a volunteer "no guilt, no pressure" program to

allow our members to contribute to the league's work at any level, big or small they feel comfortable with. Soon, you will be able to find out more about volunteer opportunities on our new Club Express website. For more information contact membership@lwvsonoma.org

Voter Service- Karen Weeks is our chair on this committee. They were especially busy during the 2020 general election, conducting many city council forums and several pro and con forums on local and state ballot measures. For the first time candidate forums were offered in Spanish as well. This proved to be a challenging process that we hope to improve in future elections. Voter service is part of our league's mission of "Making Democracy Work". Karen has worked with Debbie McKay and the Marin LWV on a speaker series highlighting key issues affecting democracy. For more see the related article in this issue. The voter service committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month on Zoom. Contact elections@lwvsonoma.org for more information.

Voter Registration Outreach- Jim Masters chairs this committee made up of 16 volunteers whose job it is to supply voter registration forms throughout the county. This year the old forms all need to be replaced with new ones. Our league contracts with the Registrar of Voters to provide this service, a significant part of our funding.

Advocacy- This committee is headed up by Leona Judson. This busy committee covers many of the "areas of emphasis" described elsewhere in The Voter. There are two subcommittees, one on climate change and the other on criminal justice. The league joined the opposition to the Bd. Of Supervisors proposed cannabis cultivation regulations. The criminal justice subcommittee has observers on the Citizen Advisory Committee of the IOLERO. Also, we are seeking ways to assist parolees to

exercise their right to vote. Judy Levy heads up this effort. Transportation is something we are tracking with Rick Luttmann's efforts. He is on the SCTA citizen advisory committee and also tracks activities of SMART. Good public transportation systems are a key component in the fight against climate change. This committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Contact action@lwvsonoma.org for more information.

Community Outreach- Sue Jackson is the chair of this committee. "How Can Our League Be More Connected to the Larger Community?" That question is a key focus of the Community Outreach Committee. Connecting to unregistered voters, especially in underserved populations, is one of the main Committee's goals. The committee, prior to the pandemic also went into the local high schools to educate youth about the voting process and to get them registered. This will

start up again once schools fully reopen. This committee also sees their role in supporting our other committees in their community outreach efforts. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact outreach@lwvsonoma.org or tabling@lwvsonoma.org

By Leona Judson



LWVSC Calendar



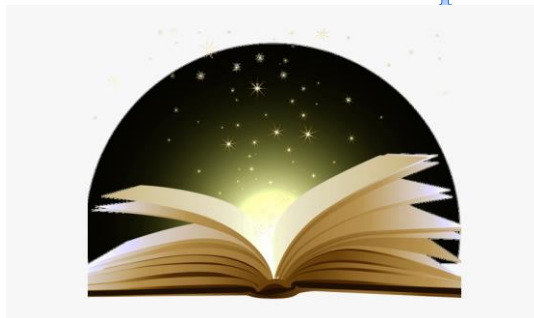
[Link to Events Calendar](#)

Standing Meetings

Some meetings are suspended during the summer months. Check the [online calendar](#) for the latest schedule and for location or links to virtual meetings.

- **Board Meeting-** 1st Saturday of the month, 10:00 AM to Noon
- **Advocacy Committee-** 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10:30 AM to Noon
- **Community Outreach Committee-** 2nd Monday of the month at Noon to 2:00 PM.
- **Voter Service Committee-** 4th Thursday of the month from 10:30 to Noon
- **Book Group:** 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:30 AM to noon.

LWV Book Group



July 15—Moderated by Carrie Anabo

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz. Eric Larson, 464 pp. 2020.

“England cannot hold out forever,” writes propaganda minister Goebbels in his diary in the winter of 1940. Churchill’s first year as prime minister is the focus of the book as Hitler ramps up the war and begins the terror-filled days of the Blitz. While Churchill begs President Roosevelt for assistance he pushes back against the Nazis and encourages the British to “stand firm”. Besides historical descriptions of Dunkirk, bombing of London, the German’s response to Churchill’s stubbornness, and how the British responded to the war, Larson tells the personal story of Churchill and his dysfunctional family.

August 19—Moderated by Joyce MacLaury

The Fall of the House of Dixie: The Civil War and the Social Revolution That Transformed the South., Bruce Levine, 299 pages (not including notes), 2014.

This book is extremely readable and offers an enlightening view of the mindset and culture that allowed the South to cling to its dedication to the institution of slavery. Historian James M. McPherson writes in his notes “This book limns the relationship between slavery and the rise and fall of the Confederacy more clearly and starkly than any other study. General readers and seasoned scholars alike will find new information and insights in this eye-opening account.”

2021 Reading List

Connect with the League

LWVSC

Board of Directors

Donna Roper, **President**

Linda Rosen, **VP Administration**

Leona Judson, **VP Advocacy**

Debbie McKay, **Secretary**

Linda Rosen, **Treasurer**

Judie Coleman, **Membership**

Sue Jackson, **Community Outreach**

Karen Weeks, **Voter Service**

Judie Coleman, Sue Jackson, **Programs**

Juanita Roland, Iris Levitis, **Web, Communications**

Jim Masters, **Member at Large**

Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses on the LWVSC website under [Contacts](#), and members can find board information under the members resource tab.

www.lwvsonoma.org



LWVSC www.lwvsonoma.org
www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty

LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California www.ca.lwv.org

LWV of the United States www.lwv.org
<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

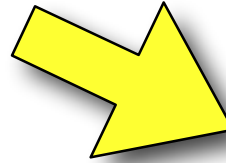
Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.



*Become a Member of the
LWV of Sonoma County*



or

**Make a
DONATION**

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at:

League of Women Voters Sonoma County
555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Memberships Levels

<i>Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership</i>	\$75
<i>Centennial Membership</i>	\$100
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership</i>	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt Membership</i>	\$200 or more
<i>Household Membership</i>	\$110

**Membership dues and donations
are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law**

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Voter Registration | Candidate Forums | Transportation |
| Housing/Homelessness | Climate Change | Immigration |
| Newsletter | Website Management | Local Governance |

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

555 5th Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(707) 546-5943