



The VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SONOMA COUNTY**

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December 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	2
Book Group.....	2
Voters Service.....	3
Membership Tea	4
International Relations.....	4
Help for Hospitality	4
Introducing Judy Temko	4
Water: California's New Gold	5
Board Briefs.....	5
National League News	5
New Members and Roster Changes	6
January 2009 Calendar	7
December 2008 Calendar	Back Page

TIME TO ORDER TICKETS FOR OUR THEATER PARTY!

Date: Wednesday - January 14

Wine and dessert: 7 pm

Play: 8 pm

Donation: \$25 a person

Join us at the 6th Street Playhouse, Santa Rosa, to attend a polished dress rehearsal of **THE SCENE** by Theresa Rebeck. It is the North Bay Premiere for this "fierce, edgy, raw and scathing new comedy."

The Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy is sharing the theater with us. Come early for refreshments and conversation. Invite friends and family. If you have any questions, call Susannah Likins, Treasurer, at (707) 792-2660.

Send checks to League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, 100 E St., Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Please list names of attendees for name tags which will be given out as your ticket at the door.

Susannah Likins

COME AND BE MERRY WINTER SOCIAL AND SILENT AUCTION 2:00 TO 5:00 PM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7



Join fellow League members and guests at the annual Winter Social and Silent Auction featuring tasty refreshments, wine, and hot mulled cider. Plan to bid on the nifty auction items. All proceeds help support our office and local programs. Once again, Bob and Phyllis Clement will be our hosts at their lovely home on **753 Hurlbut Avenue in Sebastopol.**

Reminder!! It's never too late to donate something to be auctioned. Just call: Janie Hawker, 584-5210 or Phyllis Clement, 823-0925. Members new to the Sonoma county League are urged to attend this ideal get-acquainted occasion.

Directions: From the south or east: in Cotati take Highway 116 west from 101 through downtown Sebastopol to Hurlbut Ave. Turn right on Hurlbut and IMMEDIATELY notice balloons on right at entrance to narrow lane leading to the Clement's home. From north or east, take Highway 12 west from 101 to Highway 116 west, then right on Hurlbut Ave. Again IMMEDIATELY notice balloons on right at entrance to the narrow lane.

Janie Hawker

**The League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County**

100 E Street, Suite 209
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-546-5943
league@lwvsonoma.org
<http://www.lwvsonoma.org/>
See CONTACT US page to email Directors

Directors on the Executive Committee

Chlele Gummer, President
Gloria Norton, VP Administration
Susannah Likins, Treasurer
Phyllis Stanley, VP Action/Advocacy
Carol Adams, Past President

Directors:

Elaine Book, Secretary
DeeDee Bridges, Voters Service
Sandy deLorimier, VP Program
George Ellman, Bay Area Representative
Nancy and Willard Richards, VOTER Editors
Ethel Schy, Membership

BOOK GROUP

The group will not meet in December. To learn what book we will discuss on Thursday, January 15, check the calendar of events on our local League web site, www.lwvsonoma.org, after December first or call me at 539-5770.

Lynda Hungerford



Betty Ann Bruno moderated the candidates forums for County Supervisors on September 22 and Santa Rosa City Council on September 29

DeeDee Bridges photo

MISSION

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On Saturday, November 8, I attended our first New Member Tea, hosted by our membership committee. Eleven new and prospective members shared their reasons for joining the League which ranged from "I've always wanted to join" and "I wanted to meet the

members of the League" to "I wanted to do something about voter education in the schools" and "I wanted to learn more about the local government". Attendees were given *The Meaning of Membership*, the November VOTER and information about the State (lwvc.org) and National (lwvus.org) League websites.

On the California website, under the heading, **Issues We Care About**, there are links to information on Campaign Finance Reform, Redistricting, Health Care Coverage for all Californians, California Infrastructure, California Budget Crisis, California Environmental Quality Act, and Water. Under **Action Alerts** there are links to Bill Status Reports and Legislative Priorities. The two top priorities are state and local finances/budget and health care.

On the National League website under **Issue Priorities** you will find links to Campaign Finance Reform, Civil Liberties, DC Voting Rights, Election Administration, Ethics and Lobbying Reform, Global Climate Change, Health Care Reform, and Tax Policy. These links give you an idea of the important work our State and National Leagues do.

All action that League takes has a foundation based on League positions, which are crafted after serious and deliberate study. The National League publication, **Impact on Issues 2006-2008**, and the California League publication, **Action Policies and Positions**, contain the complete wording of the positions. They can be read on line or ordered from the websites.

I encourage you to check out these sites. Choose an issue to become more informed about. Come to an Advocacy meeting to extend your knowledge and learn how to become an active citizen. And, finally, have a joyous holiday season.

Chlele Gummer, President
707-537-1207: chleleg@sonic.net.

VOTERS SERVICE

Huzzah, huzzah, huzzah!! We made it through the election season with outstanding support from so many of our members. Looking back at the election each of us can find issue results that pleased and disappointed—such is the nature of the democratic process. That is what is so wonderful about our system; we can always enjoy current successes and look forward to future elections.

This month the focus is on thankfulness, thankfulness for all those that made the forums and Pros and Cons so successful. First is for Lynda Hungerford's outstanding job as Webmaster of our Smart Voter site. She certainly set a very professional tone to which we all aspired! Carol Adams handled all the publicity for the forums utilizing several new ways of reaching out to let the community know about our forums. Rosalie Gillmore was the force behind the success of the Petaluma forums. Alice Richardson organized and participated in forums in Rohnert Park and Cotati. Ellen Swenson was responsible for the District 5 Supervisorial forum held in Graton. Up in Windsor Liz Hawthorne managed a three in one forum covering the Windsor School Board, the Fire District and the City Council—whew! Did you enjoy watching the forums on KRCB or your public access channel? Well, we have Will Richards to thank for that. His coordination with the Community Media Center and KRCB made this possible.

Many thanks for the Moderators, Betty Ann Bruno, Edie Mendez, Alice Richardson, Paula Hawkes, Kathy Schmidt (AAUW) Anna Taylor (AAUW), and Pam Granger (AAUW).

Tipping our hats to the Timers, thanks to Jane Ernsberger, Amy Southwick, Robin Berens, Ann Berens, Railey Album, Rosalie Gillmore, Lynn Camhi, and Alice Richardson.

Kudos for Question Sorters go to Nancy Richards, Alice Richardson, Gloria Norton, Coral Ann Cary and Rosalie Gillmore.

The League enjoyed partnering with the AAUW Petaluma Branch and Santa Rosa Branch, the Petaluma Health Care District, the Argus Courier, Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce, Cotati Chamber of Commerce, Marin League of Women Voters, Marin Soroptimists, and Windsor Unified School District.

For the Pros and Cons Amy Southwick was roped in to give the training and Janie Hawker took the lead in managing all the requests for Pros and Cons and then finding people willing to present them. She had over twenty five requests and she set up seventeen presentations and mailed packets of How to Present a Pros and Cons to eight groups. Over 500 people received Pros and Cons services. Janie was the key to our success with Pros and Cons this electoral cycle.

Many, many thanks to the following Pros and Cons presenters: Amy Southwick, Chlele Gummer, Caroline Ramberg, Sandy deLorimier, Jane Ernsberger, Phyllis Clement, Ethel Schy, Sukey Robb-Wilder, Coral Ann Cary, Alice Richardson and, DeeDee Bridges.

Thanks to all of you, and to those of you who missed out on this wonderful participatory election season, please consider joining us next time.

DeeDee Bridges



September 4, 2008 meeting of the Voters Service Committee.

Seated: Rosalie Gillmore, Ellen Swenson, Amy Southwick, Chlele Gummer, Janie Hawker, Alice Richardson
 Standing: DeeDee Bridges, Chair, Voters Service Committee

Will Richards photo

MEMBERSHIP TEA

On the afternoon of November 8th the Membership Committee held the first geographic area tea for recent and future members. Eight recent, 3 prospective and 5 committee members who live in Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park shared tea and conversation and got acquainted with each other and with our local League.

A second geographical event is being planned for residents of Northern Sonoma County. The committee needs members from South and West County to plan similar events in their areas to bring new and prospective members together. Please let me know of your interest at 579-1488 or ethels@sonic.net.

Many thanks to committee members Chlele Gummer, Nancy Richardson, Amy Southwick our gracious hosts Muriel and Jim Smith, and also to our 2 North County planners Carol Adams and Elizabeth Hawthorne.

Ethel Schy

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Since January, 2003, the group that met once a month for eight months of the year to discuss *Great Decisions* topics published by the Foreign Policy Association enjoyed lively and informative discussions about the world as it is today. The group evolved over the years to include a core of six from Petaluma, one from Santa Rosa and one from Healdsburg - they were League members and their friends. After taking a consensus of this core group, it was decided that the *Great Decisions* discussion group will disband as of January, 2009. There wasn't enough interest among Santa Rosa members and friends to continue holding the discussions there.

There are several *Great Decisions* groups that meet in some of the Sonoma County Branch Libraries, at Spring Lake Village, and other locations around the county if anyone is interested in participating in the *Great Decisions* discussions. It has been a pleasure to coordinate the *Great Decisions* discussions over the years. The learning experience and the interaction among a stimulating and intelligent group was rewarding.

Rosalie Gillmore

HELP FOR HOSPITALITY

Hospitality for our League needs to expand its committee! Can you help?? -- Occasionally bring cookies or coffee cake -- arrive early to make coffee -- help set up the refreshment table before the program. These are small jobs that nevertheless add to the comfort and pleasure of our members and guests. If you can help, please call Janie Hawker, (707) 584-5210

Janie Hawker

INTRODUCING JUDY TEMKO

Judy has finally found the time to be actively involved with the League. Born and raised in Portland, OR, she met her husband of almost 60 years, Phil Temko, while at Columbia University, where she earned a masters degree in early childhood education. In 1953 they moved to Palo Alto for Phil to do his Ph.D. at Stanford, then to teaching at San Jose State, and in 1964 to a professorship in philosophy at the newly established Sonoma State College.

Judy's professional education helped her raise and enjoy their three children and contributed to her involvement in the child care needs in the community. She helped in the formation of the Four Cs, served on the Head Start Council, and worked with the South Park community to start a multicultural parent co-op nursery school. After part-time teaching Child Development at the Santa Rosa Junior College for seven years, she longed to spend more time in the outdoors and retrained herself with classes at SSU and SRJC to become an environmental educator, docenting at Fairfield Osborne Preserve for the next ten years. She was also a board member of the United Nations Association for over 15 years and coordinated the sale of UNICEF cards in Sonoma County. She and Phil have been Servas hosts and travelers since the 1970s and have spent most of two separate sabbatical years in the Tuscan countryside.

We welcome her warmly and look forward to her knowledgeable participation in many issues that interest LWVSC!

Amy Southwick

WATER: CALIFORNIA'S NEW GOLD

Bay Area League Day, January 31, 2009
 MetroCenter Auditorium,
 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607
 9AM Registration,
 9:30 AM to 2 PM: Program

Faced with a changing climate and a drought cycle in California, the Bay Area has a critical opportunity to plan for the future use of water, a finite resource. The demise of a healthy Delta system has raised the question of water use, diversion and storage. Can the Delta fisheries be restored while the farmers continue to use 80% of the water supply passing through the Delta? Is there a conveyance system that can provide protection for the fisheries and an adequate supply of water for the farmers? Can the choice of crops affect the water usage? Should all water users be required to have water meters?

These are the questions we have – come to BALD and join the discussion in the search for answers!



BOARD BRIEFS

Board discussed posting action letters on the LWVSC web site which have been sent or presented at boards, city councils, etc.

D. Bridges contacted LWVSC and was advised that invitations to candidates to participate in forums could set firm deadlines for response.

D. Bridges suggested that future board meetings not be held on Election Day. Board members could serve the voting process in some capacity.



C. Gummer attended a workshop presented by the Community Foundation of Sonoma County which discussed marketing goals. She reviewed a self assessment chart which could be useful in increasing League visibility in the community.

C. Adams reported that she is working on the final draft of a fund raising letter.

G. Ellman complimented treasurer S. Likins on her excellent financial report prepared for the annual audit.

Nancy Richards

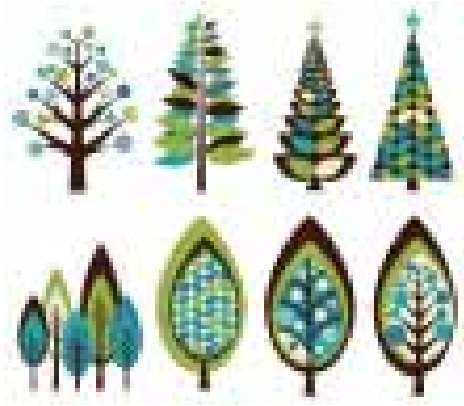
NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

In a statement on Election Day, League President Mary Wilson called for passage of universal permanent voter registration, adequate and equitable distribution of election resources and improved management of statewide voter registration lists.

The League was hi-lighted in a statement by the “Justice at Stake” campaign on November 5. It cited League’s efforts to support a fair and impartial judiciary.

The League joined other groups including Common Cause, Public Citizen and the Brennan Center for Justice in a statement to the 111th Congress urging Congress to address the undue influence of contributions in government decision making. The statement called for repairing the presidential public financing system and creating a new public financing system for Congress. The statement went on to say that the way Washington works is not going to change until we fundamentally change the nation’s campaign finance laws.

Nancy Richards



NEW MEMBERS

NATIONAL MEMBERS

Alina M Lopez Marin
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Estelle & Melvin Mirsky
Stewarts Point, CA 95480

Gladys M. Sawyer
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Mary Louise Wheat
Fairfield, CA 94533

LOCAL MEMBERS

Mike Berry
Healdsburg 95448

Victoria Halstead
Guerneville, CA 95446

Jerri W. Miller
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Kati Quibell
Santa Rosa 95404

Barbara Ramsey
Santa Rosa 95409

Judith Temko
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

ROSTER CHANGES

Barbara Iverson
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Zelma Gordon
Rohnert Park, CA 94920



There's something special in your own backyard.

Be a part of it!
Become a member.
Become a volunteer.

For Membership call Emily
@ 579-4452 # 108
To Volunteer call Kristi
@ 579-4452 ext. 116

or visit www.SchulzMuseum.org
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



HURRY TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS! © 1991

JANUARY 2009 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are free and open to the public.

Check out the League website: www.lwvsonoma.org for correct dates and times for meetings.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Monday January 5	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting
Tuesday January 6	10:00 AM to Noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	LWVSC Board Meeting First Tuesday of the month League members only except by invitation
Thursday January 8	10:00 AM	League Office	Action/Advocacy Meeting
No meeting in January			Voter Service Meeting
Wednesday January 14	7:00 PM wine etc. 8:00 PM play	6 th Street Playhouse 52 West Sixth St.	Theater Party and Fundraiser. Dress rehearsal of <i>The Scene</i> . See front page
Thursday January 15	10:30 AM	League Office	Book Group. See page 2
Monday January 19	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting
Tuesday January 20	10:00 AM	League Office	Membership Committee
Saturday January 24	10:00 AM to Noon	31 D Street, Santa Rosa Parking available at City Hall	Program Planning Meeting
Saturday January 31	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	MetroCenter Auditorium 101 Eighth St., Oakland	Bay Area League Day. Water: California's New Gold See page 5



League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

I am interested in the following areas:

Program _____ Membership _____

Speakers Bureau _____ Social Policy _____

Natural Resources _____ Voters Service _____

Newsletter _____ Fundraising _____

Cable TV _____ Smart Voter _____

Community

Outreach _____ Website _____

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$60.00 for individual annual membership, \$90.00 for household, and \$40.00 for limited income. The membership year is July 1 to June 30.) Please mail check to LWV Sonoma County, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Thank you.

The League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County
100 E Street, Suite 209
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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ORGANIZATION
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Time Dated Material

The VOTER, a publication of The League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County, is published monthly except during the summer, i.e. ten regular issues per year. The deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

DECEMBER 2008 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are free and open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Mon Dec 1	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting
Tuesday December 2	10:00 AM to Noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	LWVSC Board Meeting First Tuesday of the month League members only except by invitation
Tuesday December 2	9:00 AM Reg. 9:15 to Noon	Nile Hall in Preservation Park Oakland	Public Health and Particles sponsored by the LWVBA and the BAAQMD. See page 5 of the November VOTER for more information.
No meeting in December			Voter Service
Sunday December 7	2:00 to 5:00 PM	Home of Bob and Phyllis Clement 753 Hurlbut Ave., Sebastopol	Winter Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser See front page
No more meetings			International Relations Study Group See article on page 4
No meeting in December			Action/Advocacy Meeting
Mon Dec 15	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting
No meeting in December			Membership Committee

Check out the League website: www.lwvsonoma.org for correct dates and times for meetings.