



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 20 Issue 2

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

February 2015

SAVE THE DATE:
LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE
 Noon
 Wednesday, March 4th
 SRJC Culinary Arts Center
 1670 Mendocino Ave.

Guest Speaker:
James Gore
 Newly elected
 4th District Supervisor
 For Sonoma County
 \$30 per lunch
 Send checks to LWVSC
 555 Fifth St., Ste. 300 O
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

LWVSC Now a 501c3!

Effective November 5, 2014, the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County received approval from the Internal Revenue Service to qualify as tax exempt under 501(c) (3).

As a 501(c) (3) organization, membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to those who itemize on their individual tax returns.

Any contributions made after November 5, 2014 are tax deductible, so please consider the LWVSC in your charitable giving. Please send your contributions to LWVSC, 555 Fifth Street, Suite 300-O, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-8301

**LWVSC Tabling at the
 One Billion Rising Event**
Saturday, February 14, 2015 at 3.00PM.
 Friedman Event Center
 4676 Mayette Avenue, Santa Rosa.

The County of Sonoma Commission on the Status of Women is sponsoring a special event as part of the global movement, [One Billion Rising](#), seeking to end violence against women. An afternoon of music, movement and dance, stories and speeches for those who wish to celebrate women’s empowerment.
 Free to the public. We hope you’ll join us.

Juvenile Justice Status Update

A few years ago, the League formed a Juvenile Justice Interest Group, which did a study on juvenile justice issues in Sonoma County. The study was completed in 2009. This is a follow up on the status of some of the positions that the League formed as a result of that study.

The League advocated the following:

- Restorative justice practices and rehabilitation strategies
- A fitness hearing for all juvenile offenders under age 18
- Referral of youth offenders to Juvenile Court when legally permissible
- Transparent and comprehensive data collection and reports
- Elimination of disproportionate minority confinement/contact.

Regarding restorative justice practices:

Restorative Resources is a local non-profit organization that has provided training, expertise, and facilitation. Review their website: www.restorativeresources.org to become familiar with their good work. They are sponsoring a series of three films, and information about them will be sent to you in an email from the League.

One example of their work is a pilot evaluation done at Elsie Allen High School and Lawrence Cook Middle School. The program showed promising results. Consequently, the Santa Rosa School District is adding restorative justice to all its junior and high schools. Also, the

task force formed after the Andy Lopez incident has recommended,

among other things, that more restorative justice options be available for at-risk students. (Press Democrat, January 13, 2015).

Regarding transparent and comprehensive data collection and reports:

A Research and Development Program Manager was added to the Juvenile Justice Court in 2014 and will be evaluating all of their programs. They will be updating the county's multi-agency Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Plan. We are hoping that this may result in more reports and statistics on juvenile justice in the future, which are available to the public. The advocacy committee will be following up on this.

Regarding the elimination of the disproportionate minority confinement/contact:

The Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council reviewed juvenile misdemeanor and felony rates and counts by race and gender. There is a downward trend in arrest rates for all races/ethnic groups. The advocacy committee will be following up for more clarification on the statistics and whether they will be more available to the public.

Rebecca Jones
Advocacy Committee Member



PERSPECTIVES ON IMMIGRATION: A COMMUNITY FORUM

A forum on Immigration Perspectives was held at the Glaser Center on January 15, 2015. The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County and the AAUW of Healdsburg, Santa Rosa and Petaluma cosponsored this event. This was a discussion on the laws, education, experiences, and challenges faced by immigrants, and the organizations that give them hope. The speakers were a counselor, Victoria Palacios; a “Dreamer,” Jesus Guzman; a non-Latino immigrant, Professor Emerita Rashmi Singh; an Immigration Lawyer, Christopher Kerosky; the Santa Rosa Superintendent of Schools, Socorro Shiels, and the President of 10,000 Degrees, Kim Mazzuca. The moderator for the event was Lisa Carreño, Regional Director of 10,000 Degrees. There were between 250 and 300 attendees.

There was a YouTube video presenting the story of two best friends. One of the boys was born here and the other was an undocumented boy who had come with his family when he was a year old. It illustrated the huge divide and difficulty of the people who were brought here as children and consider this their home.

Thanks to Ethyl Schy and Anita Lytle, our question sorters; Susan Novak, our timer, and Edie Mendez, our runner.

The audience was interested and concerned about the issues facing immigrant population. Thanks to all of you who attended the forum.

DeeDee Bridges
Program

When Making Donations to Task Force for the Homeless

Donations may be made at 3315 Airway Dr., located in the California Human Development Bldg. that has an entrance on Center Dr. They are open M-F from 9 am to 4 pm. (However, sometimes no one is there, so it is requested you call first. The number is 575-4494).

Remember to tell them you are from LWVSC.

The New Phone Tree is Up and Calling

Many thanks to ten of our members who agreed to be part of our newly formed phone tree.

They are:

- Nancy Burrington
- Sandy Benson
- Liz Hawthorne
- Louisa Leavitt
- Susan Novak
- Caroline Ramberg
- Katie Sanchez
- Muriel Smith
- Mary Stuart
- Annie Zingarelli

If you haven't heard from one of these callers already, you will soon. They will be calling to alert you about upcoming LWV events.

Carrie Anabo
V.P. Administration

LWVSC Calendar

Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 4th. 10-12 noon
Please note: the above is a new time change.

Advocacy Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 11th, 10:30 am.

Book Club: Thursday, February 19th, 10:30 am. See page 5 for details.

Voter Service Committee Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 5th, 10 am.

March:

"Lunch with the League."

Wednesday, March 4th at 12 pm at SRJC Culinary Arts Center. James Gore, 4th District Supervisor speaking. See page 1 for details

LWVSC meetings are held third floor Conference Room at the LWVSC office, 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa.

LWVSC Board meetings are open to all LWVSC members, and to the public upon request. All other meetings are open to the public.

Visit our [website](#) for updated calendar information.

Restorative Justice Film Festival in Santa Rosa

Restorative Resources and Congregation Shomrei Torah are presenting a film festival on restorative justice. (<http://www.shomreitorah.org>)

February 21 at 7 pm

"Restorative Justice— Changing Hearts and Minds" A documentary filmed over two years following the restorative justice movement in Santa Rosa schools.

ADVOCACY NOTES

Advocacy Committee Report:

The two main issues discussed at our Jan. 14 meeting: Juvenile Justice: The Sonoma Co. Juvenile Courts is making progress in improving its data collection and transparency. And the Restorative Justice practices in the county are having positive results in keeping teens from being expelled or suspended from school. The Congregation Shomrie Torah is hosting a film series on restorative justice. League members should receive flyers via email soon. Water Fluoridation: The committee revisited putting on an educational forum and will recommend such to the League board. Panelists need to be academic experts in order to avoid opinion and hearsay on this controversial topic.

The committee meets on Wednesday, February 11th, 10:30 am in the third floor Conference Room of 555 5th Street, Santa Rosa,

Gene Zingarelli
Advocacy Committee Chair.
action@lwvsonoma.org

BOOK CLUB READS

February 19th, 2015:

Season of the Witch: Enchantment, Terror and Deliverance in the City of Love by David Talbot. Moderated by Mary Fricker.

In a kaleidoscopic narrative, bestselling David Talbot recounts the gripping story of San Francisco in the turbulent years between 1967 & 1982— and of the extraordinary persons who led to the city's ultimate rebirth & triumph.

Book Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month listed above at 10:30 am in the third

From LWV California:

Only 30% of eligible Californians voted in the November election. If this number alarms you, then join with the League of Women Voters of California to be a force for change. Let's get more voters to the polls in 2016—our democracy depends on it!

We believe education is the first step to empowering voters.

Did you know that this year our *Easy Voter Guide*, in five languages, reached over a quarter million Californians? The guide is just one of the ways we provide unbiased, easy-to-read ballot information to help prepare people to cast their votes.

Your gift inspires more and more people to be forces for change in our state by supporting resources like the *Easy Voter Guide*, *Smart Voter*, the *Pros & Cons*, and the *In Depth* on the propositions. The 2016 elections are just around the corner.

Please donate today. Support the League of Women Voters!

Connect with the League

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Because of privacy concerns, we do not include email addresses for the Board in the Voter. Readers can find email addresses in the directory or they can send email to Board Members from the contact us page of the LWVSC website.

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>

SmartVoter www.smartvoter.org

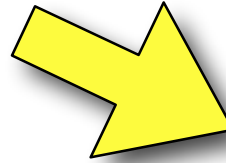
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

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

- Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$60
Student/ Limited Income Individual Membership \$40
Amelia Bloomer Household Membership \$90
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership \$100
Carrie Chapman Catt Membership \$200 or more

I am interested in the following areas:

- Program Membership Speakers Bureau
Social Policy Natural Resources Voter Service
Newsletter Fundraising CableTV
Smart Voter Community Outreach Website

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.

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(707) 546-5943

The Voter is published nine times a year by the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County.