



# The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 14, No 1

January 2009

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## THEATER PARTY

### THE SCENE

BY THERESA REBECK

6<sup>TH</sup> STREET PLAYHOUSE

52 W. SIXTH ST., SANTA ROSA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

DONATION - \$25/PERSON



The theater party is coming up soon so plan to meet with friends at **7 PM** for wine and dessert and see

this new, scathing comedy at **8 PM**.

Send your checks to League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. List name of each attendee for name tags which will be given out at the door.

*Susannah Likins*  
(707) 792-2660

## PROGRAM PLANNING

### A MEETING FOR ALL MEMBERS

**10:00 AM, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2009**

**31 D STREET, SANTA ROSA**

Park on the other side of First St. in the City Hall parking lot. The entrance is just west of D St.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED.**

Come join your Board and other members to participate in reviewing both our local and State positions and then recommending what we will focus on during the coming year - July 2009 through June 2010.

Every year the League meets to consider all of the local positions on which we have reached consensus over the years. We discuss these positions and recommend to the Board whether these positions should be retained, updated, or dropped. Local positions can be viewed in full at [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org). Click on "local positions" and scroll to the bottom to click on the "positions in full".

In alternate years we review the positions of either the State or the National League as well. This year we focus on State League positions which can be viewed in full at [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org). Click on "Stands on Issues."

A third part of our planning is to make recommendations to the Board on issues for study or emphasis at the local and State levels during the coming year. The recommendations are reviewed by our Board and presented to the membership for a vote at Annual Meeting in May. Recommendations at the State level will be considered at the State League convention in May. This is the League process of reaching consensus and speaking with one voice.

We welcome your ideas, and this meeting is the time to bring these ideas to your Board. This is an opportune time to learn how the League arrives at the positions it takes on issues and how the League speaks with one voice. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

*Chlele Gummer*

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

100 E Street, Suite 209  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
707-546-5943

[league@lwvsonoma.org](mailto: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**



League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, January 15 to discuss Madeleine Albright's *Memo to the President Elect: How We Can Restore America's Reputation and Leadership*. The book group will meet in the League office, Suite 209, 100 E Street, Santa Rosa.

Albright, Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001, is the author of several other books, some of them best sellers. *Memo* is billed as a comprehensive look at current foreign policy issues.

The book group meets on the third Thursday of the month except for the months of July and December. You can download the schedule of books to be read from the calendar listing for the group on the League's Website, <http://www.lwvsonoma.org>.

If you have questions about the group, please call or send me a message.

*Lynda Hungerford*  
539-5770 [lh@sonic.net](mailto:lh@sonic.net)

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Don't tell me; a new year is beginning and I wonder, again, where does the time go. I know that we have been very busy with the work of the League and time does pass swiftly when you are busy. Right? In December most of us took a needed time off after the hectic election



activities of the many candidate forums, pros/cons presentations, and our advocacy forum for the passage of Proposition 11 on Redistricting. Our work was very fruitful as Proposition 11 passed. Give three cheers! Now we need to be involved in overseeing the structuring of this Redistricting Commission. And do you realize that all League members have an opportunity to apply as a commissioner. Wouldn't it be great to have a Sonoma League member on the commission? Go for it!

Give three more cheers! We congratulate two long time League members, Susan Gorin and Marsha Vas Dupre, who have just been chosen mayor and vice mayor, respectively, of Santa Rosa. Both are past presidents of our League and we hope that their involvement in League gave them valuable training for further involvement in local government.

Our Sonoma County League can also point to other members who hold local and state offices: Santa Rosa City Council member, Victoria Jacobi, Petaluma mayor, Pamela Torliatt, State Assembly member Noreen Evans, and State Senator. Pat Wiggins. I think that we have a right to cheer and feel proud of all of these members who have chosen to serve their community.

Be sure to tell your friends our good news and invite them to join us. Let's make 2009 a year of improved membership and deeper involvement in issues of importance.

*Chlele Gummer*, President  
(707) 537-1207 [chleleg@sonic.net](mailto:chleleg@sonic.net)

## BOARD BRIEFS

The Board has appointed Susan Milstein as League representative to the Task Force for the Homeless. She replaces Louisa Leavitt who will remain as an alternate.

C. Adams has contacted the Editor of La Voz regarding errors in the League's ad in La Voz.

W. Richards will revise Government Guide , after January 20 when all new elected officials have taken office.

W. Richards will draft a letter to Assembly-woman Noreen Evans supporting increasing the gas tax and increasing vehicle license fee. (Editor's note: LWVC positions on AB 2558 and AB 2744 allow local league action on these issues.)

The Advocacy/Action committee will write a letter to PG&E urging that it increase its production of renewable energy. (Editor's note: LWVC authorization would be required.)

In order to save money, the membership committee will look at decreasing the amount of material sent to new members. One suggestion is to not include a VOTER in the packet but instead, include new and prospective member's names in the regular bulk mailing list.

*Nancy Richards*

## NEW MEMBERS

Please see the printed version of The VOTER or the version emailed to members for complete contact information.

### LOCAL MEMBERS

Maury Cooper  
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Diana Krista Gruhl  
Santa Rosa, CA 94509

Lois Nimmo  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Ellie Stanfield  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Linda Trodden  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

## HELP NEEDED

The Membership Committee needs your help if you live in some of the areas of Sonoma County other than Santa Rosa and would like to attend smaller, less formal meetings closer to home. Many of you have indicated that you would be available for one time jobs, and this is the perfect opportunity.

So, if you live in the West County, South County or East County, please volunteer to work with us to plan an event closer to where you live. We'll be helping the environment by not driving so far and also helping more people to learn more about and be more active in the important work of the League. If you have been thinking about or have asked the Board for Unit Meetings, here's your chance to make it happen!

Please call me at 707-579-1488 or email me at [ethels@sonic.net](mailto:ethels@sonic.net) with your suggestions, or just come to the next Membership Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 20 at 10:00 A.M. at the League office. I'm looking forward to learning what would appeal to you.

*Ethel Schy*

### NATIONAL MEMBERS

Alina M. Lopez Marin  
Santa Rosa, 95404

Donna Price  
Santa Rosa, 95404

Jeanne Pryor  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dr. Susan Smile  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Elaine Tannenbaum  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### ROSTER CHANGES

Ellen Bleecher (correct spelling)

Eve Roberson  
Email and phone

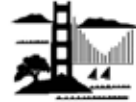
Roger White  
Email

Savita Wilder  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407  
Address and phone





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA



# Water: California's New Gold

**2009 Bay Area League Day**

Saturday, January 31, 2009

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Registration and refreshments: 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

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 Bay Area League Day and join the discussion in the search for answers!

**Keynote Address: State of the Delta and Water Resources**

Lois Wolk, Newly Elected State Senator and State Assemblymember (2002-08)

**Delta habitat: Can a healthy Delta habitat be restored?**

Christina Swanson, Executive Director, Bay Institute

**Crop choices: Can California be more water-wise in growing crops?**

A.G. Kawamura, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Heather Cooper, Research Associate, Pacific Institute

**Levee maintenance: What are the threats to the Delta levees?**

Raymond B. Seed, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley

**Regional-conveyance of water: Who owns the waters of the state?**

Katherine Kelly, California Department of Water Resources

**Bay Area regional perspectives of the Delta Vision:**

Kathleen Van Velsor, Project Director for Water and Land Use Studies, ABAG

This year's Bay Area League Day is made possible in part by the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

✂ ----- **REGISTRATION FORM** -----

The price of this year's Bay Area League Day is \$25 (\$15 without lunch) before January 23, and \$30 (\$20 without lunch) after that. To register, please write check payable to "LWVBA" and send with this form to 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Local League: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is also available online at [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org).  
For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an e-mail to [editor@bavareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bavareamonitor.org).



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](http://www.SchulzMuseum.org)  
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



### COME AND JOIN THE ACTION!

The Advocacy/Action Committee will meet at 10:00 in the office on Thursday, January 8.

The agenda will include updating information on global warming activities, water issues, legislative actions on Campaign Finance Reform, and Universal Health Care.

We will have a report on water issues in Sonoma County. Our committee needs your help to make others aware of these and other important headlines. Please plan to attend.

*Phyllis Stanley*  
Advocacy Chair

### 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.



## League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SANTA ROSA, CA  
PERMIT NO. 65

Return Service Requested

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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding the issue month.

## JANUARY 2009 CALENDAR

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

Date	Time	Place	Description
Monday January 5	1:00 PM	League Office	<b>Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting</b>
Tuesday January 6	10:00 AM to Noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	<b>LWVSC Board Meeting</b> First Tuesday of the month League members only except by invitation
Wednesday January 7	10:00 AM	105 N. Cloverdale Blvd. Cloverdale	<b>Introduction to the LWV</b> For current, new, and prospective members in northern Sonoma County.
No meeting In January			<b>Voter Service Meeting</b>
Thursday January 8	10:00 AM	League Office	<b>Action/Advocacy Meeting</b>
Wednesday January 14	7:00 PM wine etc. 8:00 PM play	6 <sup>th</sup> Street Playhouse 52 West Sixth St.	<b>Theater Party and Fundraiser.</b> Dress rehearsal of <i>The Scene</i> . See page 1
Thursday January 15	10:30 AM	League Office	<b>Book Group.</b> See page 2
Monday January 19	1:00 PM	League Office	<b>Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting</b>
Tuesday January 20	10:00 AM	League Office	<b>Membership Committee</b>
Saturday January 24	10:00 AM to Noon	31 D Street, Santa Rosa Parking at City Hall	<b>Program Planning Meeting</b> See page 1
Saturday January 31	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	MetroCenter Auditorium 101 Eighth St., Oakland	<b>Bay Area League Day. Water: California's New Gold</b> See page 4

Check out the League website: [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org) for correct dates and times for meetings.

The LWVSC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2009