



The VOTER

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

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March 2009

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**FORUM: SOLID WASTE
DISPOSAL IN SONOMA CO.
Monday, March 30, 2009
Santa Rosa City Council Chambers
Coffee, tea, and nibbles at 8 AM
Forum 8:30 to 11:00 AM**

Sonoma County is considering selling the County Landfill to a private company. The Water Quality Control Board ordered the landfill closed after finding leachate in the aquifer. County deliberations are taking place in closed session because the County views divesture of the landfill as a real estate transaction.

A group of organizations including the League is sponsoring a forum about current plans, future options, and their economic and environmental implications. Assemblyman Wes Chesbro is the lead speaker. He will be joined by Senator Pat Wiggins, Dave Erickson of the Climate Protection Campaign, and six additional panelists who will present other views and issues. The forum will be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 26 in Santa Rosa and rebroadcast on Comcast in Petaluma, Santa Rosa, and the North County. See <http://www.ecoleader.org/event2009-landfill.html> for more information.

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE

**Supervisor Efren Carrillo
Thursday, March 19 - Noon
SRJC Culinary Café
Corner of 7th and B Streets**

Come join members and friends for our second annual Lunch with the League. Meet 5th District Supervisor Efren Carrillo. Hear about County issues and Supervisor Carrillo's priorities. See page 3 for a brief biography.

A great lunch will be prepared by the students of Culinary Arts at the Junior College. The price includes three courses (with four main dish choices), beverage, tax and tip. For those who have eaten at the Café you know what delicious food these students prepare. Plan to have this as your main meal of the day and ENJOY.



To reserve a place, send your check for \$23.00 made out to LWVSC and mail to Sandy deLorimier, 2350 Geysers Road, Geyserville, CA 95441.

March 18 is the deadline for reservations and there is a maximum of 25 seats available, so get your reservations in early.

For questions, contact Sandy deLorimier, 433-4196 vive2@sonic.net.

There is metered street parking, a City parking garage across 7th Street, and the parking on A St. north of 7th St. is about a block away and has neither meters nor a time limit.

**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

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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In March the League of Women Voters acknowledges an important part of our public service, which is to shine light on our local government. Sunshine Week is an annual time when we check the city councils and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. This is the time for you to visit your local government to see how it is working. This year the week runs from Sunday, March 15 to Saturday, March 21. Lunch with a Supervisor is planned for Thursday, March 19 at the Santa Rosa Junior College Culinary Café. We will meet the new, west county, District 5 Supervisor, Efren Carrillo.



“Citizens have the right and the responsibility to keep themselves informed about what government is doing. In order to be informed, citizens must be able to obtain accurate information about their government at every level. Thus the League believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen’s right to know by making public records accessible.” (Quoted from League resources.) We can inspect all governmental documents. Through state and local agencies, written guidelines for public access are required and need to be posted in places that citizens can access.

It’s our goal as League members to watch and encourage our local governments to follow the laws set down for open government. I encourage you to make visits to you local governments during Sunshine Week. And come to the lunch on March 19 to meet and talk with a local County official.

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

BOOK GROUP

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, March 19, for a discussion of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma, A Natural History of Four Meals* by Michael Pollan. The book group will meet in the League office, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa.



Pollan says that most of us are at a great distance from our food. He writes about how our food is grown and what, in fact, we are eating. The book discusses

industrial farming, organic farming on small farms and as a big business, and what it is like to hunt and gather food for oneself. Each section culminates in a meal.

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

Lynda Hungerford
539-5770 league@lwvsonoma.org

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.

SUPERVISOR EFREN CARRILLO

Supervisor Carrillo was born in the Roseland area of Sonoma County. He received a BS in Environmental Economics and Policy from UC Berkeley, and while there, interned with the Toxics Division of the US EPA. Upon returning to Sonoma County he worked as project coordinator for the County Economic Development Board and managed the SC Business Environmental Alliance. Prior to his election as Fifth District Supervisor, he was with the Redwood Credit Union as Education and Government Relations Manager.

Efren has volunteered and served many organizations. Among them, the Santa Rosa Gang Prevention Task Force, the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County, and as past President of the Southwest Community Health Center.



As Fifth District Supervisor, for the year 2009, he has been assigned to a number of committee responsibilities: Health and Human Services, FishNet 4c, Joint Roseland Subcommittee, Public Policy Facilitating Committee, and the Tourism Advertising Committee. In addition, he has a number of assignments as an alternate.

Nancy Richards

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

KATI QUIBELL, was born in Paris to Viennese parents and raised in Madrid and Mexico. She came to California in 1956 to attend UC Berkeley, where she received a degree in International Relations. She later earned an MA degree in Spanish. Kati taught both French and Spanish at the high school level (El Cerrito and Healdsburg) and college levels (SSU). Presently she teaches French and Spanish at SRJC and also works part-time as a Court Interpreter for Sonoma County. She is married with two children, a daughter who lives in San Francisco and son who lives in Mexico and is to be married there next month. Her interests and hobbies are varied and include theatre, Rialto movies, opera, traveling with Elderhostel, hiking in the Sierra, swimming, and knitting. Carol Adams recruited Kati for League membership. Kati is especially interested in the League's Juvenile Justice program.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee urges all members to keep sending us names of people who could be interested in joining our League. A new member interviewed by committee member Nancy Richardson (see interview below left) mentioned that suggestions from friends got her interested. Please share your stories about League activities and what membership means to you. Thank you to those of you who are already doing so and to members who will start telling your League story soon.

Ethel Schy, Chair

579-1488 ethels@sonic.net

LEAGUE HAD A BIRTHDAY

On February 14, the League of Women Voters celebrated its 89th birthday. Here are some quotes from National League President, Mary Wilson.

“For nearly nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective, and truly representative. Those challenges are as real today as they were for our suffragist foremothers who struggled for their right to vote so many years ago.”

“The League’s trusted legacy and grassroots strength remains as vital to a healthy and transparent government as it did in our infancy.”

“We are so proud that in over 850 communities nationwide, the League of Women Voters remains THE trusted place for citizens to discuss the issues, ask the difficult questions and demand accountability from their government.”

As members we can all be proud that League continues to be a nonpartisan political organization, encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

Nancy Richards

COMING EVENTS

April 22, 10:30 to Noon. General Meeting: Tour of Sonoma Mountain Village in Rohnert Park.

May 30, 10:30 AM to Noon. Juvenile Justice Forum at Rohnert Park - Cotati Regional Library.

BOARD BRIEFS

At the Program Planning meeting, it was recommended by consensus that "Ground water" be added as item I. 10. to the list of resources to be preserved in the Sonoma County General Plan Position. Board approved the recommendation and it will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual meeting

The board will submit to LWVC the choices made at the program planning meeting for issues for emphasis for 2009/2010: 1) Budget reform 2) Sustainable living 3) Mental health care.

Board accepted, with sincere regret, the resignation of Carol Adams as at large board member.

Amy Howder-Thompson will replace Ann Berens as the League representative on the Sonoma Child Care Planning Council.

Pat Geis has been appointed to represent the League on the Sonoma County Water Coalition.

President Gummer asked for League pictures and materials to be displayed at libraries.

Board learned that there will be a considerable increase in office rent beginning April. Likins and N. Richards will investigate other possible office sites.

Following this year's successful theater party, board approved signing up for an event for the 2009/2010 calendar. A preference was voiced for a musical or comedy.

Nancy Richards

FEBRUARY ADVOCACY MEETING

Chlele Gummer and Willard Richards reported on the Bay Area League Day: *Water - California's New Gold*. Major ideas learned: 224 agencies are involved in managing the Delta region. An independent commission is needed to coordinate all these efforts and to prepare a general plan for the Delta. Also, the peripheral canal of the past is gaining acceptance. A strong earthquake would cause many levees to fail and salt water to flood the islands. Years would be required to restore the supply of fresh water to the Bay Area and to Southern California. A pipe or a ditch bypass would make this key water supply more reliable.

Veronica Jacobi, a LWVSC member who is on the Santa Rosa City Council, gave a report on City projects to combat climate change. For example,

the City is growing algae in wastewater ponds to generate methane and biomass. The City Council recently adopted mandatory green building standards for new construction. Councilmember Jacobi also discussed Community Choice Aggregation, which would allow local control of the choice of electricity suppliers, and a cap and dividend program for GHG emission reduction. We were all encouraged to use the internet to calculate our carbon footprint.

David Keller, a former Petaluma City Council member, described the Dutra application for an asphalt batch plant on the Petaluma River just south of the City of Petaluma opposite Schollenberger Park. Environmental concerns include the asphalt odor, fugitive fine particles, and being an eyesore. Approval of this plant will require changes in zoning and in the recently adopted Sonoma County General Plan.

Pat Geis, our representative to the Sonoma County Water Coalition, handed out a report on the last SCWC meeting. The SCWC is preparing a major report on water in Sonoma County.

Chlele Gummer

LWVC PARTICIPATES IN GREEN CALIFORNIA

Until now, the LWVC's collaboration with [Green California](#) has been understood to be an informal arrangement allowing us to be listed on their letterhead, to act as a signer and supporter for those legislative bills that fall under our positions or, when we choose, to send our own letters.

With collaborating groups now numbering about 65, Green California has recently circulated a one-page Agreement to Participate that formalizes the points above. The LWVC board voted at its January meeting to continue the collaboration and to sign the Agreement to Participate.

Green California is a division of the Department of Government Services. It is the "gateway to the latest information about how the state of California is working to reduce energy and resource consumption in public building while lowering greenhouse gas emissions and creating healthier environments in which to work, live and learn." Check out the web site at: www.green.ca.gov/



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!

NEW MEMBERS

Complete contact information has been deleted from this website version of The VOTER to preserve privacy.

LOCAL MEMBERS

Judith Giampoli
Healdsburg, CA 95448

Amy Howder-Thompson
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

NATIONAL MEMBERS

Andrew McGuire
Windsor, CA 95492



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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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 th of the month preceding the issue month.

MARCH 2009 CALENDAR

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

Date	Time	Place	Description
Saturday February 21	10:30 AM to Noon	Windsor Public Library 9291 Old Redwood Highway	Consensus Meeting on the National Popular Vote Compact. See the February VOTER
Monday March 2	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting First and third Mondays
Tuesday March 3	10:00 AM to Noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	LWVSC Board Meeting First Tuesday League members only except by invitation
Thursday March 5	10:00 AM	League Office	Voter Service Meeting First Thursday
Thursday March 12	10:00 AM	League Office	Action/Advocacy Meeting Second Thursday
Monday March 16	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting First and third Mondays
Tuesday March 17	10:00 AM	League Office	Membership Committee Third Tuesday
Thursday March 19	10:30 AM	League Office	Book Group. See page 2 Third Thursday
Thursday March 19	Noon	SRJC Culinary Café 7 th and B Streets, Santa Rosa	Lunch with the League. Supervisor Efren Carrillo See front page
Monday March 30	8:00 AM open 8:30 to 11 AM forum	Santa Rosa City Council Chambers 100 First St., Santa Rosa	Forum: Solid Waste Disposal in Sonoma County Broadcast live on Comcast Ch 26 in Santa Rosa See front page

Check out the League website: www.lwvsonoma.org for correct dates and times for meetings and for back issues of The VOTER.

The LWVSC Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for 9:45 AM to 2:00 PM, Saturday, June 13, 2009.