



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 21 Issue 7

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

November 2015

LWV California:

NEW MOTOR VOTER BILL SUCCEEDS WITH THE HELP OF THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters of California joins with Secretary of State Alex Padilla in celebrating the passage of AB 1461, which was signed by Governor Jerry Brown on October 10th.

This landmark legislation will register to vote every eligible California citizen who goes to a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office to get a driver's license or renew one, potentially adding millions to California's voter rolls.

The League stands firmly behind efforts to make voter registration easy and accessible to all eligible citizens and has worked relentlessly for full implementation of the National Voter Registration Act.

Approximately 6.6 million California citizens are eligible but not registered to vote. Under this new law these unregistered voters – predominantly Latino, African American, and Asian-Pacific Islanders could be automatically brought into the electoral process. It will also register those eligible young people who are receiving a driver's license for the first time.

California became the second state in the nation to adopt an automatic voter registration system. Oregon adopted a similar measure earlier this year.

Secretary of State Alex Padilla says: "Citizens should not be required to opt-in to their fundamental right to vote. We do not have to opt-in to other rights, such as free speech or due process. The right to vote should be no different."

Information and quote extracted from news releases of the League of Women Voters of California and the Office of the Secretary of State.

SAVE THE DATES:

LWVSC's Holiday Party
Sunday, Dec. 13th, 3:30-5pm
La Rosa Restaurant

Bay Area League Day
Saturday, February 6, 2016
Topic: Transportation

Higher Education
Consensus Meeting
Saturday, April 9, 2016
Rincon Valley Library
(exact time to follow).

LWV Bay Area Convention
Saturday, May 7, 2016



President's Message: LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT

"I can do that."

"Do you want me to handle that?"

"I'll check on that."

"I'll follow up on that."

Hearing words like those above are music to the ears of any League volunteer who takes on the role of President or Board member chairing one of the more work-intensive committees. Then the most gratifying thing of all is hearing that whatever it is that was in question has been done.

The League has many volunteers who find themselves saying things like that and following through. Some jobs of major importance are hardly visible but of great importance. One example is the role of Smartvoter/Voters Edge Coordinator and we are truly fortunate to have the diligent Sally Patterson to perform those tasks that require initiative, attention to detail, willingness to undertake the learning curve required to not only start from scratch, but persevere through the glitches that happened with the merging of Smartvoter and Voters Edge to say nothing of the "nagging" involved in eliciting the data from the candidates.

One of our most labor-intensive jobs is chairing the Voter Service Committee. Susan Novak, who came to us with long experience from Stanislaus County, stepped into that job on July 1, 2014. The fall 2014

midterm election was a significant task for her in getting to know the players in Sonoma County. Fortunately she had the backup of Linda Garcia and all of the other volunteers that are dedicated to working in voter service during the election cycle. 2015 is a very quiet off-year election, but 2016 is right around the corner. How could we miss it with the media pounding away at it every day and night? One of the more important tasks for which Susan needs help is a person to coordinate the videotaping of our forums. The dedicated Will Richards has been doing that job for the last few years but he would like to step back and help train a new recruit to fill that post. More and more people are expecting to see these important forums on demand, especially as some of us mature and dislike driving at night. And also we await El Nino. And wait and wait.

But there are many small jobs that only require a one-or-two time commitment. Greeters, card runners, question writers (takes some research), question vetting (takes some training), timers, bringing and/or passing out League materials, etc.

In addition to the work of the Voter Service Committee, the Advocacy Committee, chaired by Gene Zingarelli, is always happy to expand and welcome members who are interested in following local issues to be evaluated for advocacy. There are many issues that deserve following especially outside Santa Rosa since our League tends to be Santa Rosa centric. But the League is dedicated to serving the entire county. Food for thought.

After our program on Homelessness in October, we will be going into a quiet time, other than what we hope will be a bang-up holiday party.

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A quiet time is a good time to reflect on how we can engage next year giving as much time as we have available. It's my experience that as you engage and get to know your fellow volunteers and the visible and not so visible work that the League is doing, the time expands that you have to give.

LITTLE THINGS AND SMALL OFFERS OF TIME MEAN A LOT TO THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE. PLEASE JOIN US IN ACCOMPLISHING OUR TASKS AND FULFILLING OUR MISSION.

Nancy Burrington, President

LWVSC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Facebook Committee Member:
Small Job – Minimum Time
Commitment:

Are you curious about social media? Do you want to learn more of its power? Are you looking for a small job to assist our local League?

We need one more person to round out our committee of five. Your responsibility would be to choose one week a month to post 3-4 times per week on Facebook for LWVSC. It only requires 15-30 minutes per time. Each time you would check to see if there is any feedback, and add items pertinent to League positions. That's it. Easy-peasy, and fun working with a team while spreading the word about our League! We provide training, guidance, and camaraderie. Please contact Marsha Taylor:
taylorbright@comcast.net

California Higher Education Study Underway

The LWVSC Higher Education study group met for the first time on October 5 to get an overview of the study and plan our methodology. The subject was divided into four sub-topics, corresponding to the study guide and consensus questions, with each topic being assigned to one or more members of the group. They will provide a more in-depth review and give a presentation to the committee and eventually to the entire League at our consensus meeting. The committee will devote a full two-hour meeting to each topic and the related questions as follows:

- Equitable Access – Nov. 9, 4-6 pm
- Funding & Affordability – Dec. 7, 2 pm
- Preparedness — Jan. 26, 1-3 pm
- Opportunities/Barriers to Success – February 16, 1-3 pm
- A final meeting will be held March 29, 1-4 pm, to discuss consensus question 1, Purpose, and to rehearse of our presentations for the Consensus meeting.

The meetings will be held in the 3rd floor conference room, 555 Fifth St., Santa Rosa.

Consensus Meeting

The Consensus meeting for the Sonoma County League will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016. We are still working on a place and time, but mark your calendar so you can help to formulate this important position for our State League.

The web site for the study is <https://lwvc.org/study/education-0> [The last character is a zero]. There is still time for you to join us. Please contact Edie Mendez edithmen@sonic.net or Juanita Roland sueroland@aol.com with any questions.

ADVOCACY NOTES

Advocacy Committee Report:

The Board and the Advocacy Committee will soon have an Action Alert process in place. We will notify the membership of important issues on which you can take action by writing to the agency that will be discussing or deciding on an issue relevant to a League position. You will receive an email on the process in the next few weeks. On another topic, the Committee has advised the Board to again write to the Board of Supervisors in support the \$15 living wage for County government-related workers. The topic is expected to be on the Board of Supervisors agenda in November--the third time in the last year.

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

Gene Zingarelli
Advocacy Committee Chair
action@lwvsonoma.org

BOOK CLUB READS

November 19: Meeting to choose 2016 books. Join us with suggestions!

December: There is no meeting for the month of December.

Book Group meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. The next meeting is November 19th at 10:30 am in the third floor Conference Room of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

**LWVSC Programs
September and October 2015**
by Anita Lytle, Program Chair

September's Program:

The September program was called "Thumbs Up – Thumbs Down" with speaker Paul Guillixson, Editorial Director of *The Press Democrat*. He described how he and the editorial board look at current events or positions affecting citizens of Sonoma County, and determines if these items seem

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(Programs continued from pg. 4)

to be positive (thumbs up) or negative (thumbs down.) An editorial is then composed describing a number of items and how each is rated.

He pointed out that these editorials have been well received by many readers because they like to review a number of items quickly. He shared slides and talked about some recent editorials and answered our many questions with knowledge and humor. As one person in attendance said later, the program "...was wonderful with an informative, interesting and entertaining speaker."

October's Program:



The October program was "Being Homeless in Sonoma County in Winter" with speaker Jennielynn Holmes, Director of Shelter and Housing with Catholic Charities. She gave a dynamic presentation on both the positive (homeless rate is down 27% overall) and negative aspects (So. Co. does not have enough housing), and what is currently being done. She answered our many questions. All agreed it was excellent.

LWVSC Calendar

Board Meeting:

Wednesday, November 4th,
10:00 am to Noon.

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

Wednesday, November 11th,
10:30 am.

Book Club: Thursday,
November 19th, 10:30 am.
See page 4 for details.

Holiday Party: Sunday,
December 13th, 3:30-5 pm.

Bay Area League Day: Saturday,
February 6, 2016. Topic: Transportation

LWVSC Higher Education Consensus Meeting: Saturday, April 9, 2016 in the afternoon at the Rincon Valley Library (exact time to follow).

LWV Bay Area Convention: Saturday,
May 7, 2016

LWVSC meetings are in the 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.

LWVSC Board of Directors

Nancy Burrington, **President**

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Marsha Taylor, **Editor**

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

Connect with the League



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>

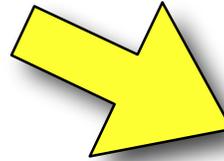
SmartVoter www.smartvoter.org

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



Make a DONATION

or

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</i> Individual Membership	\$60
<i>Student/ Limited Income</i> Individual Membership	\$40
<i>Amelia Bloomer</i> Household Membership	\$90
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</i> Membership	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt</i> Membership	\$200 or more

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

I am interested in the following areas:

Program	Membership	Speakers Bureau
Social Policy	Natural Resources	Voter Service
Newsletter	Fundraising	Cable TV
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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