



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 23 Issue 7

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

Member Action Meeting

October 21, 1:00—3:00 pm.

**Focus on
Sonoma County Health Services**

with



Barbie Robinson
Director of Sonoma County Health Services

Bennett Valley Senior Center
704 Bennett Valley Road Santa
Rosa, CA 95404

LWVSC Calendar

Coming Events

Meet and Mingle for New Members

Thursday, Oct. 12, 5:00--7:00 pm.
Home of Rebecca and James Jones

Member Action Meeting,

Saturday , October 21, 1:00—3:00 pm.
Bennett Valley Senior Center
704 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404
See Page 3.

Standing Meetings

Board Meeting:

2nd Tuesday, 10-noon, October only
Usually the 1st Tuesday, 10-noon.

Advocacy Committee Meeting:

2nd Wednesday, 10:30-noon

Book Club:

3rd Thursday, 10:30-noon.

Voter Service Committee Meeting:

4th Thursday, 10-noon.

LWVSC meetings are held 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.

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



Call to Action!

You can make a difference for the
League. We need volunteers for the
following positions:



Voters Edge Website

This position includes contacting our
elections office and forwarding
information to the state Voters
Edge. The November election will have a
few items on the ballot that need
immediate attention. Contact Rebecca
Jones at rebelle.jones@gmail.com.



Website Maintenance

This position involves occasional updates
to our website. Contact Juanita Roland at
sueroland@aol.com.



Facebook Committee Member.

This entails sharing responsibility with
other members to update our Facebook
page with relevant articles. Contact
Marjorie Lear at marjorielear@gmail.com

Member Action Meeting

Star and mark your calendars for the LWVSC October 21 **Member Action Meeting**. It will be held at the Bennett Valley Senior Center, October 21, 1:00-3:00. Come for coffee and conversation at 1:00, the program will begin at 1:30.

This will be a special program on the subject of Sonoma County Health Services. How prepared are we in Sonoma County to deal with the shortage of mental health services, the abuse of drugs, the strong possibility of cuts in federal dollars on which many of our health services depend and much more?

The speaker is Barbie Robinson, Director of Sonoma County Health Services, who was appointed to her Health Services Department position one year ago.

She has a notable, twenty year background in health administration and services, including working for the Federal Government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Before coming to Sonoma County, she served as an Associate Regional Administrator for the Center.

Ms. Robinson has an educational background that prepared her well for her current position. She has a law degree and MA in public Policy from Georgetown as well as degrees in Political Science,

Spanish, and International Sociology from Middlebury College.

Come to the meeting, meet other League members and the speaker, and bring questions and interested friends.

Make it Fair Campaign

Campaign to fix Proposition 13 and recover \$9 billion for CA.

Exceptional schools, health care for all, affordable homes, open libraries, clean parks, and thriving small businesses.

That's our vision of California's future. Instead, cities all throughout the state are declaring a state of fiscal emergency and cutting services left and right. All the while, big corporations are benefiting from billions of dollars of tax loopholes.

That's why the League of Women Voters of California is part of the coalition proposing a groundbreaking plan that would recover \$9 billion for California by closing a commercial property tax loophole in Proposition 13 and making corporations pay their fair share in property taxes.

An informative video explaining the issue can be found by clicking <http://www.makeitfairca.com/>

President's Message



From
Rebecca Jones
LWVSC President

My mother always told me: "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all". I miss my mom and I also miss those days when this statement rang true for a good portion of society. Words had consequences. But lately, the idea of having a civil discussion with someone on a topic that we disagree on seems to be a thing of the past. Many of us get our news and information via TV or the internet where we see complex issues reduced to thirty second stories, slogans, labels, and limited character tweets. These shortcuts to issues that we care about are easy to do but they are a crutch. If we can post or repeat an inflammatory phrase or outrageous slogan to express our opinion then we may not feel that we have to explain or justify our position. The sound bites of emotional stories, Tweets, blogs, and online reader comments require no knowledge of the issue at hand. Error or disinformation incur no consequences. We see this every day. We get an emotional charge from a slogan or three word phrase describing an injustice. But is there more to the story? Have we looked at all sides? Have we taken the time to read the story behind the headline? Even if we are not the author of a questionable phrase should we feel responsible for the

impact of passing it along? What is this impact?

I found an interesting article from the National Institute on Civil Discourse posted three years ago on the passing of Maya Angelou, poet and civil rights activist: *"Today the world experienced a significant loss when prolific American author, poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou passed away. Among Dr. Angelou's many contributions to the world was her ability to use words to lift people up, rather than to bring them down. A literary genius, Dr. Angelou used the power of words to open up people's perspectives, to give light to wrongs and to help change the world. Dr. Angelou was a model for civil discourse. She didn't cherry-pick her words; she didn't make the world seem rosy. She addressed issues and injustices in the world, but she did so in a way that made people want to help make things better, rather than making them want to fall into despair. At the National Institute for Civil Discourse, we define civility as the free and respectful exchange of different points of view. As humans, we may disagree on how to get something done, but in many ways we do agree on the end goal. We strive for a country that celebrates and promotes our freedoms as defined by our founding fathers. We strive to leave the world in a better place for our future generations. And throughout it all, we are all on this journey together. Through the exchange of ideas, perceptions and opinions, we can learn from one another. We can see problems in a different light, and many times, we can come to different conclusions. It is the art of civil discourse that helps us to better understand the full picture, and to use words to inspire personal growth.*

As we continue our path to promote civil discourse with our elected officials, in the media, and throughout our homes, we honor Dr. Angelou. She has set the path for how best it can be done: through the powerful use of words. On this day, we ask: Will you use your words to help lift others up, or to knock them down?

Dr. Angelou said it best when she said, 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' Let us strive to uplift each other, and continue to find ways we can work together to make this world a better place.'

As you know, the League prides itself on understanding the whole story behind an issue before establishing a position. Now is a time where we should take a look at our skills for advancing open, respectful and civil discourse. As a League we will be investigating Civil Discourse training for our members so that we can help instill civility into our public processes. But in the meantime we can individually practice what our parents preached such one of my mom's favorites: "I don't care what all your friends

are doing. If they wanted to jump off a bridge, would you do that too?"

From Our National League

Supreme Court Rally to End Gerrymandering - October 3

On Tuesday October 3rd, [the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in the redistricting case Gill v. Whitford](#). This is promising to be a landmark case that could shape the national landscape for partisan gerrymandering. The League filed an amicus brief in Gill v. Whitford arguing that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. **At 10am on the morning of the hearing, we will participate in [The Supreme Court Rally to End Gerrymandering!](#)** LWVUS staff will have branded signs available on site. If you're in the D.C. area, please spread the word and let us know if you are interested in rallying with us in front of the Supreme Court. Details about the rally can be found on the Facebook page [HERE](#). For questions about League participation, please email the Communications Department at Communications@lwv.org.

Welcome New Members!

Elizabeth Assefina.
Elaine Covell
Jay Foxworthy
Bryan Leffew.

We're so glad you're here!

Advocacy Notes

The committee is currently educating itself with a detailed report on homelessness by member Debbie Mc Kay. Her report will go to the league board for approval and distribution to a significant number of government agencies and non-profits.

We are also watching SB1, the gas tax measure and current possible plans for Hi-way 37.

The California LWV is recommending support for AB249 (The Calif. Disclose Act) which is now on the governor's desk, and AB705, a measure to more correctly measure students' readiness for community college education.

You can receive the LWVC and the LWVUS Action Alerts at "lwvc.org/stay-informed > sign-up," and "lwv.org/get-involved," respectively .

Next meeting on October 11 at 10:30.

Gene Zingarelli
Advocacy Committee Chair
action@lwvsonoma.org

Board Briefs

September, 2017

- ❖ The Popular Vote March has been postponed by The National Park Service due to permitting issues and low volunteer interest.
- ❖ President Rebecca Jones has been in conversation with the Protect Our Democracy Coalition (Common Cause) to facilitate cooperation between our organizations.

- ❖ The Make It Fair Town Hall- The Sonoma County League agreed with Helen Hutchison LWVC President's request that local Leagues to publicize a meeting to be held in Oakland, California addressing California Proposition 13.
- ❖ The LWVBA Highway 37 cancelled due to challenges in putting this together. Other transportation open houses to be held by individual agencies.
- ❖ The new 2017-2018 LWVSC Directory will be mailed to members at the beginning of October.
- ❖ The next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 10th, 2017 at 10am.

Warm Regards,
Victoria Fleming, Secretary

California Assembly Member Jim Wood Speaks at SLV

Our State Assembly Member Jim Wood, resident of Healdsburg, will be speaking at Spring Lake Village on September 27th to a very engaged audience of residents and League members.



National Voter Registration Day

The League had six volunteers at registration tables throughout Sonoma County on September 26th. Although we signed up few new voters, we were able to let a lot of people know about registering on line AND about the League of Women Voters. I think it is a good reminder for our citizens to get registered and most of the volunteers felt it was worth their time and effort. Thanks to Chlele Gummer, Judy Levy, Debbie McKay, Betty Pagett, Gayle Peterson, Nancy Richards and Donna Roper for volunteering.



2017-2018 Kickoff Meeting



We met at the Bennett Valley Senior Center fo prepare for the coming year, and to hear Paul Gullixson discuss “fake news,” and other challenges that the press is facing.



On the World Wide Web

This month in Facebook includes two articles about what colleges are doing for free speech.

Santa Rosa Junior College is presenting the play, “It Can’t Happen Here” based on the Sinclair Lewis novel about an authoritarian takeover of the United States.

<https://public-relations.santarosa.edu/content/srjc-theatre-arts-presents-it-cant-happen-here>

The University of California at Berkley is working on allowing free speech for all.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-uc-berkeley-chancellor-20170815-story.html>

California is taking steps to become more relevant in the Presidential primary process by having its primary election in March rather than June.

https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/09/15/california-seeks-more-influence-in-2020-presidential-race/?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=ExactTarget&utm_campaign=20170915NewsDaily&mc_key=003i000000WG2RjAAL

Would you like to help select posts for the LWVSC Facebook or Twitter accounts? Subcommittee volunteers are needed! Please contact Marjorie Lear, marjorielear@gmail.com to find out more.

To receive Facebook updates as they happen, be sure to “Like” our LWVSC Facebook page! We’d be glad to be one of your friends.

Book Club Reads

October 19: Moderated by Juanita Roland

Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging, Sebastian Junger, 192 pages, 2016.

Drawing from history, psychology, and anthropology, bestselling author Sebastian Junger shows us just how at odds the structure of modern society is with our tribal instincts, arguing that the difficulties many veterans face upon returning home from war do not stem entirely from the trauma they’ve suffered, but also from the individualist societies they must reintegrate into.

In November we will pick our books for 2018. Always a great discussion of all the many interesting books that are out there. Please join us.

LWVSC Board of Directors

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Juanita Roland, **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



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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>

Voter's Edge <http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

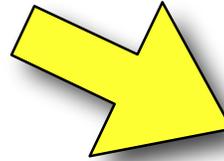
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

Remember to sign up for email alerts and newsletters when you visit these websites.

Tell us what you think!
Send in your comments,
questions, and
suggestions.
Email, snail-mail, or call!

We want to hear from you!

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

Table with 2 columns: Membership Level and Price. Includes Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership (\$65), Student/ Limited Income Individual Membership (\$40), Amelia Bloomer Household Membership (\$100), Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$100), and Carrie Chapman Catt 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:

Table with 3 columns: Program, Membership, and Speakers Bureau. Lists various areas of interest like Social Policy, Natural Resources, and Voter Service.

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