



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 23 Issue 6

Visit us at [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)

September 2017

## FALL MEMBER KICKOFF MEETING

September 14, 2017

Gather at 6:00 for refreshments—presentation starts at 6:30



### Paul Gullixson

Editorial Director at The Press Democrat

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

Please come and bring a friend to enjoy an evening including food and drink and a talk by Paul Gullixson, Editorial Director at The Press Democrat. Paul’s talk will address the critical topics of freedom of the press and “fake news”.

For more information contact Mary Virdeh at [program@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:program@lwvsonoma.org)

## LWVSC Calendar

### Coming Events

#### Fall Kickoff with Paul Gullixson

Thursday, September 14, 6—8:00 pm

Bennett Valley Senior Center

704 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

#### Forum with Assemblyman Jim Wood

Wednesday, September 27 2—3:00 pm.

Spring Lake Village Auditorium

Due to limited parking, this is open to residents and League Members only. See page 4.

#### National Voter Registration Day,

Sept 26, Stay tuned for details about local League actions for this event and how you can help.

#### Member Action Meeting,

October 21, 1:30—3:30 pm.

Bennett Valley Senior Center

704 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA 95404

## Standing Meetings

#### Board Meeting:

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 10-noon.

#### Advocacy Committee Meeting:

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 10:30-noon

#### Book Club:

3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [rebbelle.jones@gmail.com](mailto:rebbelle.jones@gmail.com).



### Website Maintenance

This position involves occasional updates to our website. Contact Juanita Roland at [sueroland@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:marjorielear@gmail.com)

## President's Message



From  
Rebecca Jones  
LWVSC President

As our League begins a new year, we find ourselves more dedicated than ever to the values that the League and so many other Americans hold dear. I am very encouraged by the energy and enthusiasm of our members who are getting involved in the areas of immigration, climate, health care, housing and homelessness, open government, voters rights, an informed electorate, and transportation.

With each day, we seem to be confronted with another reason to hold fast to our ideals. In order to do this, we need all of our members to help out in any way they can. This ranges from joining a committee to research and track an issue, to helping out with preparation for a member meeting. We strongly encourage our members to attend our member action meetings, get informed and tell their friends about what they have learned. We encourage members to attend an Advocacy meeting or a Voter Service meeting or a Board meeting....see what is going on and find a niche.

Our first full meeting of the year is our Fall Kickoff where our speaker will be Paul

Gullixson of the Press Democrat. We have asked him to address the problem of Fake News and the state of the media. Paul has spoken to our group before and he is an engaging speaker.

Our first Member Action meeting will be in October where Barbie Robinson, Director of Health Service for Sonoma County will address health care issues in Sonoma County. We will be holding several Member Action meetings during the year with compelling speakers.

As I look at all of the activity and dedication by our League members whether at the local level, state level or national level, I step back and ask .... why? I believe the answer comes from something written by a dear member of our League, Maggie LaRue, who passed away in June. She was an active League member who approached her work with intelligence, warmth, and a steadfast belief in our values.

"I've developed a theory that started with me, but has been confirmed, on many occasions, by large numbers of friends and co-workers, that Americans are born all over the globe, and then by luck, misfortune, opportunity, tragedy, love and/or war, they are able to find their way here. We know who we are, and how we differ from those who are native born Americans. Some of us may feel special, some a sense of isolation, but none of us ever believe that we would have been better off had we stayed in the lands which we came from." Maggie LaRue

So...this is why we are dedicated. We love our country and we cherish the values and principles on which it was founded. And we need to fight to protect them.

**California Assembly Member  
Jim Wood to speak  
at SLV in September.  
The subject is Health Care.**

**Sonoma League Members invited  
to attend.**

Our State Assembly Member Jim Wood, resident of Healdsburg, will be speaking at Spring Lake Village on September 27th at 2:00 in the Montgomery Center. His focus will be Legislative Action on Health Care issues, those that will affect all Californians. Wood chairs the Assembly committee on Health.

The SLV Local Issues Planning Group, in cooperation with the Sonoma League has asked him to speak about any significant health care reform efforts pending in the State Legislature and any problems pertaining to health care availability in California. Specifically, are local health care services in danger of seeing large cuts in federal spending? How prepared is the state for that possibility?

In addition to Health Services, Assembly Member Wood will update us on the regulations pertaining to the growing and selling of Cannabis in California. Public Distribution will be legal in January, 2018.

Assemblyman Wood represents northwestern California Counties, from Sonoma County to the Oregon Border. These counties will soon be the center of

the marijuana industry in California. Are adequate regulations to protect the environment and public in place?

LWVSC member Debbie McKay is working with the Spring Lake Village Local Issues Planning Group as they organize this forum.

Join us to hear your representative in the State Legislature speak and answer your questions.

## Advocacy Notes

After a two-month break the Advocacy Committee is back to work. At our August meeting member Debbie McKay educated us on her reports on housing and homelessness in the County and Cities.

Member Barbara Moulton presented information from her attendance at the Washington D.C. "Advanced Climate Policy Boot Camp." which updated happenings in the states and other parts of the world. This report can be found on our LWVSC website [http://www.members.lwvsonoma.org/files/climate\\_policy\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.members.lwvsonoma.org/files/climate_policy_presentation.pdf).

On another topic, for league members looking to help at the state and national level, you can receive action alerts by going to [LWVC.org/stay-informed](http://LWVC.org/stay-informed) and "sign-up," and to [LWV.org/get-involved](http://LWV.org/get-involved).

Next meeting on September 13 at 10:30.

Gene Zingarelli  
Advocacy Committee Chair  
[action@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:action@lwvsonoma.org)

## Victoria Fleming: A New Face on the Board



Victoria, taking on the task of Board Secretary, is a welcome new face among us. She was introduced to the League through the “One Billion Rising” women’s gatherings and when she asked how to get involved was told “just join” which she did.

Victoria was born and raised in the East Bay where she attended public elementary school and Bishop O’Dowd High School in Oakland. Starting college at UC Santa Cruz, she transferred to San Francisco State and completed her BA in Women’s Studies. She followed that with an MSW degree from UC Berkeley in Community Mental Health. Her academic studies led her to employment as a social worker at Bonita House, a non-profit mental health agency in the East Bay focused on the treatment of clients with co-occurring psychiatric disabilities and substance abuse disorders. After meeting her future husband, Victoria moved to Santa Rosa where she now lives with her husband, Josh Dwork, a biomedical engineer at Medtronic, and their 3-year old daughter Evie

Dwork Fleming.

Always interested in politics, Victoria became involved locally working for Julie Combs’s election campaign for City Council. She is a member of the Democratic Central Committee, the Santa Rosa Community Advisory Board and the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women. She has recently accepted a position as Campaign Manager for Jay Foxworthy’s run for Sonoma County Sheriff.

Despite her party affiliation, Victoria was drawn to the League because she wished to work on local community issues in a nonpartisan way, encouraging voter education and participation in areas that effect the community broadly. She feels that working locally gives her a better sense of making things happen and seeing things progress. Having joined the League, she enjoys working among others who are dedicated and committed to the iconic role that the League plays in voter registration and education.

In addition to her personal interest in yoga and a love of comedy (she has actually done stand-up), she dedicates her recreational time to her husband and daughter, participating in gatherings with other young families and making sure that her daughter has plenty of opportunities for playdates and social interaction. She is very grateful to live in a community with lots of contacts and a few very good friends.

While she is disappointed in the way our culture has fragmented into silos of sameness where we don’t get to move freely into different cultural spheres, she maintains the optimistic goal of working to improve trust and cohesion in the community.

We look forward to having Victoria’s candid and open personality among us, and the Board has already experienced the joy of her sense of humor. She says that she “works against pessimism” in herself and in our present political environment I say for all of us:

**“Amen to that.”**

By Nancy Burrington

## Membership News

Thanks to all of you who returned your membership renewals in such a timely manner! We are working to get the Roster compiled and out to you as soon as possible. **If you haven't yet returned your renewal, please to so ASAP so you can be included.**

A new member orientation and get together is being planned for early

October. We hope all new members who haven't attended an orientation presentation will come. It will be a great time to meet other new members, discover the rich history of the League of Women Voters, and connect with members of our committees who can help you become more involved. It's also a great time to bring a friend who may like to know more about the League. *Look for more information at the September 14 Fall Kickoff.*

## Book Club Reads

### September 21: Moderated by Mary Fricker

*The Less You Know, The Better You Sleep: Russia's Road To Dictatorship Under Yeltsin and Putin*, David Satter, 240 pages, 2016.

In December 2013, David Satter became the first American journalist to be expelled from Russia since the Cold War. In this book, Satter tells the story of how Boris Yeltsin presided over the criminalization of Russia, why Vladimir Putin was chosen as his successor, and how Putin has suppressed all opposition while retaining the appearance of a pluralist state.

### 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.





## On the World Wide Web

As the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County's selected priorities include immigration, health care and water management, your Facebook subcommittee is always looking for news to share around these issues along with longstanding concerns such as voting rights and affordable housing. Some of the highlighted posts over past month include:

"Five issues to watch in the California Legislature's final month" (Sacramento Bee, August 21). Affordable housing, immigration and bail are some issues on the table.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article168277612.html>

"Housing crisis: Will California force its cities to OK more building?" (Mercury News, August 12)  
"As soon as next week, lawmakers are expected to unveil a package of affordable-housing bills that will include new tools to prod cities and counties to add their share of housing — at least, in theory."

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/08/12/housing-crisis-will-california-force-its-cities-to-ok-more-building/>

"Most of Sonoma County psychiatric patients sent out of county for hospital care" (Press Democrat, August 5). According to this article, "Sonoma County has a chronic shortage is psychiatric hospital beds."

[http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/7262479-181/mental-health-patients-sent-outside?utm\\_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm\\_content=5986f6b704d3014b67643519&utm\\_medium=trueAnthem&utm\\_source=facebook](http://www.pressdemocrat.com/news/7262479-181/mental-health-patients-sent-outside?utm_campaign=trueAnthem%3A+Trending+Content&utm_content=5986f6b704d3014b67643519&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=facebook)

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](mailto: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.



## Connect with the League

### LWVSC Board of Directors

Rebecca Jones, **President**

Anita Lytle, **VP Administration**

Gene Zingarelli, **VP Advocacy**

Victoria Fleming, **Secretary**

Terry Wall, **Treasurer**

Gayle McKinney Peterson,

**Membership Chair**

Chlele Gummer, **Media Outreach**

Donna Roper, **Voter Service**

Mary Virdeh, **Program**

Nancy Burrington, **Member-at-large**

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](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)



LWVSC [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty](https://www.facebook.com/lwvsonomacounty)

LWV of Bay Area <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWV of California [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

LWV of the United States [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvoters>

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

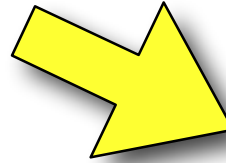
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

*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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