



League of Women Voters
Of Sonoma County

Volume 26, Issue 4

Visit us at www.lwvsonoma.org

THE VOTER

Centennial Celebration Continues

The Pandemic caused many centennial celebrations to be cancelled or postponed. We are happy to let you know that the West County Museum has opened their "Suffrage Headquarters" on Saturdays and Sundays only, 11 am to 2 pm.

SUFFRAGE HEADQUARTERS



Columbia

At "Suffrage Headquarters" you will be informed about the highlights of the suffrage movement and the life and times of the major leaders. Did you know about our own local Suffragists, women who lived nearby and who were active in the fight for the vote? Also, you will discover the travelling speakers who made event stops here in Sebastopol, such as the Women's Suffrage Public Meeting at Janssen's Hall.

We hope you will enjoy the many authentic suffrage artifacts on display and books related to the topic, such as, "Mr. President, How Long Must We Wait!" by Tina Cassidy.

The Museum will limit the number of people inside, keeping in line with current COVID safety standards. Masks are required. "Suffrage Headquarters" will remain on view through the summer. So, plan a visit. You will notice cheerful poppies and suffrage banners flying!

May Board Meeting Highlights

At their May 1st Board meeting the members approved several changes to our fiscal policies to ensure we comply with General Accounting Principles. All the League procedures may be found under the members section of our webpage (www.lwvsonoma.org) and the revised procedures will be posted there soon.

The Board also finalized plans for our participation at the virtual Annual CA League Convention in June. Our delegates are Judie Coleman, Sue Jackson, Donna Roper, and Karen Weeks. Our delegates will be reporting on the Convention at the June 26th Annual Member's Meeting.

The Nominating Committee Chair, Carrie Anabo, reported that we have nominees for most open board positions, but they are still trying to fill a few roles on the Board. There are also some off-Board roles open, including the Bay Area League Representative and the Telephone Tree Coordinator. If you are interested in serving, please contact Carrie Anabo for more information at info@lwvsonoma.org.

The Board is exploring ways to raise funds to support Spanish translation for League forums.

Membership renewal information will be finalized once we complete the transition to a new website and management system called Club Express. Juanita Roland, Leona Judson, and Judie Coleman are working on this project. Watch for more information in future editions of the newsletter about how to use the new website and how to renew your League membership.

Club Express

Our redesigned website is almost ready. When we make the switch, all members will receive a welcome email, with instructions on how to login to the members section and how to verify and update their contact information. Whichever site we are on, you can get to it via www.lwvsonoma.org.

If you are not a member and want to continue receiving *The Voter* or other League announcements, you will be able to request that you be added to our mailing list. Of course, we would be delighted if you join the League.

If you are uncertain about your membership status you can contact Judie Coleman at membership@lwvsonoma.org.

Meanwhile: Our current site is still active at www.lwvsonoma.org or <https://my.lwv.org/california/sonoma-county>. There you can find the calendar of upcoming events, contact information, and other useful information about the League as well as helpful links to government sites. Most of this information is available to everyone, but there is some additional information on the members' page, including a searchable members directory. To get there you must be logged in. Members are initially given a login ID consisting of their FirstLast names with no space and a password, which should be changed on the initial login. Your email to address may also be used for an ID. Contact Juanita Roland at treasurer@lwvsonoma.org if you need help logging in.

Santa Rosa Police Actions After the Black Lives Matter Protests in May and June, 2020

In the aftermath of the George Floyd murder in Minneapolis, protests took place in Santa Rosa for several days. The protests were largely peaceful. But there were incidents of vandalism and protester disregard for police efforts to maintain order. As a result, the police engaged in use of force tactics, including tear gas for crowd dispersal and the use of projectiles resulting in injury to some protesters. In the interest of transparency and community engagement, the Santa Rosa City Council held two days of public hearings May 4-5th, 2021. They reviewed and discussed several reports from various entities listed below. There was public comment after each presentation.

Three LWV Sonoma County Chapter board members observed the hearings. For a link to the city meetings go to: <https://santa-rosa.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> To download specific reports, go to the May 4th and 5th dates for the agenda and attached reports.

- 1) Sonoma County Human Rights Commission,
- 2) The OIR group, an independent consulting firm with expertise in police investigations,
- 3) The Hillard Heintze, LLC: presented an internal review by the police department and city manager,
- 4) The Santa Rosa Office of Community Engagement presented the Community Empowerment Plan Listening Sessions Report,
- 5) Police Reform Update: a report by Rainer Navarro, Chief of Police, and other senior officers presented an update on the police reform actions that have been initiated since June 2020.

The reports and hearings appeared to be an honest and transparent effort to understand what happened and to make improvements. There was detailed analysis and candid discussion of some events where historic policies and methods of police response to peaceful protest, unruly crowds or unlawful behavior now seem inappropriate or are ineffective. The Council members were attentive. They asked pointed questions. The police acknowledged shortcomings and mistakes, and described changes in policy that have been made or are underway. They described some controversial use of force incidents from their perspective. Many heads nodded in agreement when Chief Navarro said “Nobody in the Police Department wants this to happen again.”

One LWV member who says he was the organizer of civil rights and antiwar demonstrations in the 1960’s added “There are many changes needed in police policy and methods, and some of the protestors have got a lot to learn as well. Nonviolence and demonstration discipline are essential if you are trying to persuade people to support your position.” The hearings were an excellent exercise in “Making Democracy Work.” We hope this will lead to significant police reform.

Accessing Membership Resources on the Website

On the Members page of the League Website you will find many resources, including our by-laws, procedures, the members directory, board and officer position descriptions.

Soon the Annual Membership meeting agenda and packet will be posted there too.

Until we transition to the new site:

Go to the League webpage at www.lwvsonoma.org.

At the top of the page (upper right corner) enter your “user name” and password. By default, your username is your FirstnameLastname, (both your first and last names **capitalized** and **without any space between them**), and your password is **change!me@** the first time you log onto the page.

Members Page: After you are logged in, click the “members” tab on the left side of the page.

Changing your password: After you log in for the first time, you can then choose your own password, **but be sure to write it down**.

- If you have trouble logging on to the "members" section of the web page, contact Juanita Roland at treasurer@lwvsonoma.org.

A Gift that Could Last a Lifetime

Consider purchasing a LWV Centennial T-shirt at <https://my.lwv.org/california/sonoma-county/t-shirts>

for only \$20 and then gift it as a gift.

The League’s Centennial T-shirt makes a great gift and often generates a good discussion about the history of the battle for women’s rights. Gifting a T-shirt also provides an opportunity to talk about the importance of voting and making informed decisions.

We assume that young people know how to register and cast a ballot, but often they do not. Consider giving a Centennial T-Shirt as a graduation or birthday gift. You can let that graduate know about the resources at Voter’s Edge or explain the voter registration process. Voting early in life has been shown to create a lifelong habit of voting.

Use the gift of a Centennial T-shirt to generate a dialogue with someone you love and help them develop a healthy lifelong habit!

Changes to By-laws

Officers:

After several months without a President, at the March 2021 Board meeting an Executive VP position description was approved by the board. The Executive VP will be an assistant to the President and would be a good way for a member to be an understudy for becoming President in the future. The Executive VP and the President will work jointly to keep the League operating smoothly. We are proposing to modify the By-laws to reflect this new position.

Proposed By-Laws Revisions to be ratified by the members in June 2021

Article IV--Officers

Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League shall be a president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall take office immediately following the annual meeting and shall hold office for one year or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the board of directors. The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee and audit committee, if any, and shall have the usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the board. The president may sign or endorse checks, drafts or notes in the absence, disability, or death of the treasurer. The office of president may be held concurrently by more than one person.

Section 3. The Vice Presidents. There shall be at least one vice president. If there is more than one vice president, one shall be designated as the **Executive** first vice president. The **Executive** first vice president shall in the event of the absence, disability, or death of the president possess all the powers and perform all of the duties of that office until the board of directors shall fill the vacancy. Vice presidents shall perform such duties as the nominating committee, the president or the board may designate.

Article VI--Committees

Section 3. Executive Committee.

- a) Composition. The executive committee shall be elected at the first board meeting by the newly elected board. It shall include the president, the **executive** first vice president, and three other officers or directors elected by the board. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

Dues Renewal Date

Our current by-laws call for annual dues which are payable by September 1st of each year. When we move to Club Express this may change to dues being annualized, based upon when the member joined.

1. Proposed By-Laws Revisions to be ratified by the members in June 2021

- a) **Article VII--Financial Administration**

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be determined by the members at the annual meeting by a majority vote of the local League members present and voting. Such dues shall be payable by each member ~~on a date determined by the Board of Directors. or before September 1 of each year.~~ Board policy shall determine how dues will be assessed and allocated for those joining during the year. When more than one member resides in a household, the dues for each additional member in the household may be reduced by recommendation of the board. Upon the request of a member, the board may reduce the dues for financial hardship. Any member who fails to pay dues within 60 days after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Honorary life members shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Book Club Reads

May 20--Moderated by Carole Sunlight

The Unspeakable Mind: Stories of Trauma and Healing from the Frontlines of PTSD Science, by Shaili Jain, M.D. Pub. Harper Books: May 2020.

The Unspeakable Mind is the definitive guide for a trauma-burdened age. Dr. Jain, a practicing psychiatrist and PTSD scientist at the National Center for PTSD shines a light on the PTSD epidemic affecting today's fractured world.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder goes far beyond the horrors of war and is an inescapable part of all our lives. More than six million Americans are suffering with PTSD. Dr. Jain demonstrates the ways this disorder cuts to the heart of life, interfering with one's capacity to love, create, and work—incapacity brought on by a complex interplay between biology, genetics, and environment. Beyond the struggles of individuals, PTSD has a tangible imprint on our cultures and societies around the world.

June 17—Moderated by Jan Randall

Midnight in Chernobyl, by Adam Higginbotham, 366 pages, 2019.

The untold story of the World's greatest nuclear disaster. The definitive, harrowing story of the accident at Chernobyl nuclear power plant and a powerful investigation into how propaganda, secrecy and myth have obscured the truth of one of the twentieth century's greatest disasters. A riveting, deeply reported reconstruction of the event.

The 2021 Reading list is online at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZtbZjf6rDN02zzZ01J-0gRcg4uLXcb-T/view?ths=true>

LWVSC Calendar

Always check the League Calendar on our webpage at www.lwvsonoma.org under the “Calendar” tab to see the latest dates and times for committee meetings, and other events and the Zoom log-in information.

Zoom Training - Learn the Basics of Zoom

Wednesday May 18th 10 am

Sign-in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82445917539?pwd=Q3RGQmdGdDRDaHNTSGZPL3FRT11EZz09>

Meeting ID: 824 4591 7539 Passcode: 957116

Voter Services Committee

Thursday May 27th 10:30 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82204963317?pwd=UUR2R28rTHFQcjRhNlhoZ3hUbWlsQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 0496 3317 Passcode: 326861

Save the Dates

Making Democracy Work - Part 4 - A joint project of the Marin and Sonoma Leagues.

Monday June 21st 11:45 am: The National Popular Vote

Mr. Scott Drexel, Senior Advisor, National Popular Vote, will share information about a way to make the Electoral College process reflect the popular vote nationwide. Watch for details on how to sign-up the beginning of June.

Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 26th 10 am via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83315166738?pwd=QXRQdGZMbWdMdjlxcUdVRnI3ck9XZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 1516 6738 Passcode: 065035

LWV-Sonoma Zoom Membership Social: Come Meet Other Members (BYOB!)

Thursday, May 27th at 5 pm via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544670363>

Meeting ID: 845 4467 0363

Visit our website for updated calendar information.

LWVSC

Board of Directors

Vacant, **President**

Linda Rosen, **VP Administration**

Leona Judson, **VP Advocacy**

Debbie McKay, **Secretary**

Juanita Roland, **Treasurer**

Judie Coleman, **Membership**

Sue Jackson, **Community Outreach**

Karen Weeks, **Voter Service**

Mary Virdeh, **Programs**

Iris Levitis, **Communications**

Susan Novak and Jim Masters,
Members at Large

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>

Voter's Edge

<http://votersedge.org/en/ca>

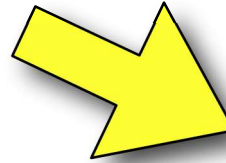
Addresses of Members Only websites are in the front of the LWVSC directory.

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*



or

Make a
DONATION

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 Individual Membership</i>	\$75
<i>Centennial Membership</i>	\$100
<i>Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership</i>	\$100
<i>Carrie Chapman Catt Membership</i>	\$200 or more
<i>Household Membership</i>	\$110

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

Please circle any topics you are interested in knowing more about.

Voter Registration
Housing/Homelessness
Newsletter

Candidate Forums
Climate Change
Website Management

Transportation
Immigration
Local Governance

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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