



THE VOTER

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

Volume 12, No. 3

April 2007

WHAT'S UP IN SACRAMENTO

**LWVSC MONTHLY MEETING
10:00 AM SATURDAY, APRIL 21,
SONOMA COUNTY CENTRAL LIBRARY
THIRD AND E STREETS, SANTA ROSA**

Trudy Schafer of the League of Women Voters of California will bring us up to date on the status of current legislation in California. She works with members of the Legislature and other lobbyists to help advance legislation supported by the LWVC. This year the focus includes redistricting reform, clean money elections, and single-payer health care. Trudy will describe the current status and outlook for these legislative efforts as well as others of interest to the League. This is an opportunity to hear an insider's view of the current workings of our State government.

Following the meeting, Trudy will join us for lunch at Gary Chu's restaurant. League members who are interested in joining us should make a reservation by email to program@lwvsonoma.org or by calling Liz Hawthorne at 433-5477 by Wednesday, April 18.

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NOREEN EVANS TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

Be sure to SAVE THE DATE, Saturday, June 9, for the League annual meeting. The guest speaker will be Noreen Evans, LWVSC member and our assemblywoman representing most of Santa Rosa as well as Napa and Solano Counties. She will be talking about current issues in the California State Legislature, especially those issues that Leagues at the state and local levels are interested in learning more about.



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**The League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County**

100 E Street, Suite 209
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-546-5943
info@lwvsonoma.org
<http://www.lwvsonoma.org/>
<http://www.lwv.org/>
<http://www.lwvc.org/>

Officers:

Corol Ann Fontana-Cary, President
Willard Richards, VP Action
Jane Ernsberger, VP Administration
Chlele Gummer, Secretary
Susannah Likins, Treasurer

Directors:

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VOTER Team:

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Marsha Vas Dupre
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Betty Keefauver
Caroline Ramberg
Nancy Richards

Realism: A Vision for America's Role in the World. Lieven has published many articles in distinguished magazines and journals. You can learn more about him and view a list of his recent publications at his Web page at the New America Foundation site, http://www.newamerica.net/people/anatol_lieven.

The book group's schedule can be downloaded in PDF format from the [calendar page](#) of the LWVSC Web site, www.lwvsonoma.org. Check *The Voter* or the Web site for the place of a particular meeting, since, although the group usually meets in the office, occasionally it meets elsewhere.

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

Lynda Hungerford
539-5770
info@lwvsonoma.org

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDY
GROUP**

The International Relations discussion group will meet on Tuesday, April 10, at 12 NOON in the Santa Rosa League office. It is a brown-bag lunch session and lasts about 1-1/2 hours.

The topic for discussion will be "**Central Asia.**" Rich in energy supplies and strategically located, the five countries of Central Asia attract attention from the Middle East, China, Russia and the United States. How will international competition for energy supplies affect each country? What are U.S. interests in the region? (The five countries are: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.)

The group meets the second Tuesday of the month. The topics are selected from the Great Decisions briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association in New York City. All members and friends are welcome to join the group discussion, with or without the briefing book. We also refer to the most current news items and articles pertaining to the discussion topic. There is no homework involved and everyone is invited to come with ideas, opinions and suggestions or just to enjoy the discussion.

If anyone has a question about the group, please contact me at 769-8826.

Rosalie Gillmore

BOOK GROUP CORNER

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM on Thursday, April 19, for a discussion of *America Right or Wrong: An Anatomy of American Nationalism* by Anatol Lieven. The group will meet in the League office, Suite 209, 100 E Street, Santa Rosa.



America Right or Wrong examines American nationalism, both as a virtue and a vice, tracing the historical sources of nationalistic attitudes and their influence today. According to Lieven, American nationalism "embodies beliefs and principles of great and permanent value for America and the world, but it also contains very great dangers." Among those dangers are a loss of global leadership and the possible loss of the struggle against Islamist terrorism and revolution.

Lieven is a fellow at The New America Foundation and the author of two earlier books, *Chechyna: Tombstone of Russian Power* and *The Baltic Revolution: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Path to Independence*. *The Baltic Revolution* was a *New York Times* Notable Book. His latest book, coauthored with John Hulsman, is *Ethical*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a fun evening! The theater party was a great success. Janie Hawker and Lynda Hungerford, along with other committee members, worked very well with AAUW in a joint effort for this fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a winner.



We are indeed fortunate to have Trudy Schafer as our guest at our April 21st meeting. She is a wonderful speaker and will bring all of us up to date with what's going on in the state legislature. Please invite friends to come and see just what league is doing in Sacramento. You can read about some of these exciting activities on the LWVC website at <http://www.lwvc.org>.

As we plan our "Fall Kick-Off Meeting" we look forward to participating in our new LWVUS study on immigration. This study will continue for two years and will help all of us to become better informed on the issues. You can start now by visiting the LWVUS website at <http://www.lwvus.org>.

Carol Ann Fontana-Cary

BOARD BRIEFS

MARCH 6, 2007

Ann Berens, chair of the Juvenile Justice Study committee, reported on the progress of the forum in March on Juvenile Justice in Sonoma County. She presented the flyer, the press release and the e-mail invitation for board approval. The board passed a motion to use the League letterhead on the invitation and to have it signed by president, Carol Ann Cary.

Carol Ann, George Ellman, and Lynda Hungerford are in the final stages of reviewing the bylaws. These bylaws will be based on a model presented by the state League. Proposals of bylaw changes are posted on the member side of our Web site. These will be part of the annual meeting kit to be published in the May VOTER.

Carol Adams presented a draft phone tree that she had designed for use for advertising our special events and forums to our membership. The Board showed much interest in it and is hopeful that it will increase attendance at our functions.

The nominating committee has restructured the board to include four vice presidents: administration, community services, program and action. The vice president of administration is the one that would take on the president's duties in an emergency. They reported that most positions have been filled.

Willard Richards shared the article he wrote for the *Marin Voice*, "Transportation That Does Work", a rebuttal to a letter that was against rail transit.

He also raised a call for action in the monitoring of the commercial developments in Petaluma and Santa Rosa. He believes that these developments need to be watched in regard to our land use values.

George Ellman has recommended to some members of the SMART board that before the SMART rail project is put on the ballot again, it would be helpful to have a bike lane partially built, to have already begun negotiations with the bus people on suggested routes, etc. and even have a demonstration train. These actions may have a positive influence on the voters.

Chlele Gummer

Secretary

BIG BANG

The Big Bang theater party at the 6th Street Playhouse was a big success and bang-up fund-raiser. According to one member, "This event put the "fun" back in fund-raiser." Although there were some unsold seats in the theater itself, it is hard to imagine many more people fitting into the lobby for food, drink and conversation beforehand.

For the first time, the League shared not only the theater seats ("the house") but also the pre-play refreshments and socializing with another group, the Santa Rosa Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The groups share some common interests and some members, so the pre-play festivities were convivial.

On the fund-raising side, the League's net profit will be approximately \$1,200. Except for the cost of the house itself, all costs including refreshments, programs and publicity were covered by generous cash donations from two sponsors: Karen Contos, Certified Financial Planner with Foothill Securities, and Edward L. Keiner, architect with Keiner & Kasten; and by donations of food, wine and other beverages from members of the League and AAUW.

Of course, it could not have happened without the work of volunteers from both the League and AAUW. On the League side, special thanks go to our hardworking hospitality committee headed by Janie Hawker. In addition, our treasurer, Susannah Likens, deserves special thanks for having handled all of the reservations and name tags for both groups.

Thank you for all of your help, for donating time and food, for organizing, and for coming. League is richer, metaphorically and literally for your help.

TRUDY SCHAFER COMING TO SONOMA COUNTY

(continued from front page)

Trudy Schafer joined the staff of the League of Women Voters of California in 1992 and has been Program Director of the LWVC and the LWVC Education Fund since 1997. Because of term limits, Trudy has witnessed a complete turnover of the California State Senate and Assembly.



A League member since 1978, she served as president of the Sacramento League and was legislation director on the League's State Board of Directors before becoming the staff lobbyist in 1992. As Program Director, she works on a broad spectrum of projects both in citizen education and in advocacy. Her focus has been on advocacy at the state Capitol and in a number of ballot measure campaigns, including campaign finance and budget reform measures. In 2001, she represented the League as a member of the Speaker's Commission on the California Initiative Process. Working for redistricting reform, clean money elections, single-payer health care, and inclusion of smart growth principles in infrastructure bonds were priorities in the 2006 legislative year, and many of those topics continue to be the focus for the League in 2007.

Ms. Schafer received a B.A. from Northwestern University and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Chicago. She and her husband, John, a neurologist, have two grown children.

Liz Hawthorne
Program Chair

MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LEAGUE APPLAUDS BIPARTISAN VOTE FOR DC VOTING RIGHTS ACT

FATE OF DC REPRESENTATION NOW IN THE HANDS OF FULL HOUSE
MARCH 15, 2007

Washington, DC - The League of Women Voters today praised the committee passage of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act, which would grant citizens of our Nation's Capitol voting representation in the House of Representatives. Today, the House Judiciary Committee passed the measure by a vote of 21 to 13. On Tuesday, the bill passed in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform by a vote of 24 to 5. The bill will now go to the House floor for a vote before the end of March. "Finally, a vote for voting rights. This is a hopeful sign that, for the first time in decades, lawmakers are taking seriously their duty to provide voting representation for all citizens of this country. We intend on ensuring they see this effort through," said National League President Mary G. Wilson.

"This week's action demonstrates that there is clear bipartisan support for voting rights in our nation's Capitol," said National League president Mary G. Wilson. "I would like to congratulate Delegate Norton (D-DC) and Representative Davis (R-VA) on the progress of their historic legislation."

"Looking ahead, the League strongly encourages every member of the House to keep up the momentum and grant DC citizens the rights they deserve as American citizens," Wilson concluded.

Citizens of DC pay U.S. taxes, fight and die for the U.S. during wartime, and are governed by the laws that Congress passes—yet they have no voting representation in Congress. Since 1938, the League of Women Voters has worked to support self-government and representation in the District of Columbia. In the 110th Congress, the League has worked closely with lawmakers and other groups to encourage the immediate passage of long overdue legislation granting voting rights in the House of Representatives.

The "DC House Voting Rights Act," sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R-VA), would provide voting representation in the House for DC citizens by increasing the size of the House by two seats - one for DC and the other for the state of Utah, which is entitled to the next seat by size of population. This balanced approach provides voting rights for District citizens without upsetting the partisan balance of the House.



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or visit www.SchulzMuseum.org
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



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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.

APRIL 2007 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Tuesday April 3	10:00 AM - 12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Board Meeting League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Tuesday April 10	12 NOON	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	International Relations Study Group Central Asia See p. 2.
Tuesday April 17	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Action Committee
Thursday April 19	10:30 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Book Club <i>America Right or Wrong: An Anatomy of American Nationalism</i> by Anatol Lieven See p. 2.
Saturday April 21	10:00 AM	Sonoma County Central Library Third and E Streets Santa Rosa	What's Up in Sacramento - Speaker Trudy Schafer See front page.

Please consult the web calendar - <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/calendar.html> for any additional meeting times and locations.