



# THE VOTER

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

Volume 15, No.12

April 2011

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## Save the Date

Reception for new members, all members invited.

May 7 10:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Rincon Valley Library

Program will include a **brief overview** of League activities and processes and a discussion of two timely and important issues: **immigration and health care.**

Light brunch fare will be available.

Also:

LWVSC ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON  
SATURDAY, MAY 21,  
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

See page 6

## FORUM

### HEALTH CARE REFORM

#### *Building a Healthier Sonoma County*

Monday April 11 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Santa Rosa City Council Chamber

100 Santa Rosa Avenue

#### CO-SPONSORS

League of Women Voters of Sonoma County  
Sonoma County Department of Health Services

Moderator Susan Gorin City council member – Santa Rosa

#### Panelists

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Julie Bennett     | Outreach Specialist for Health Insurance, Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) |
| Dr. Walter Mills  | Physician – Kaiser Permanente Family Medicine                                     |
| Dick Herman       | President 101MFG, Inc.  |
| Dr. Mark Netherda | Health Officer – So. Co. Dept. Health Services                                    |
| Nancy Oswald      | Chief Executive Officer-Redwood Community Health Coalition                        |
| Michael Purvis    | Chief Administrative Officer of Sutter Medical Center                             |

The speakers will discuss the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed in March 2010, by the United States Congress and signed by President Obama. Speakers will address the short and long term effects of the Health Care Act on their area of medical care in Sonoma County.

There will be time for audience questions.

See page 9 for further details.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

### Message from the Board

I have a couple of invitations for you. One is to ask long-time members to attend the new members' reception on May 7 so that you can meet some of the people who have joined recently and help them become oriented to League activities and positions.

The other invitation (or perhaps it's a challenge) is to ask each League member to recruit one new person in the next month. It's easy. Here's all you need to do:

Print the membership application in this VOTER and keep it handy.

Review your list of friends and choose the one you think most likely to join us.

Think about the reasons you think it is important to support the League.

Ask.

We have a vibrant League here in Sonoma County. Let's double our membership and make it even more so.

You will notice that our membership application form now has some new categories ((borrowed from our sister League in Mendocino County). Two of the names on the list were familiar to me, although I wasn't completely certain about what they did; two names were only vaguely familiar. So, just in case you find yourself in the same position, here is a brief history lesson.

Susan B. Anthony was a gifted speaker, active in anti-slavery, women's rights and temperance movements, who co-founded the National Woman Suffrage Association with Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1869.

Amelia Bloomer in 1849 began writing and publishing a bi-weekly news paper *The Lily* which began with a focus on temperance but soon included women's rights and suffrage. She advocated less restrictive dress for women, and the "bloomer" was named for her.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an early activist in the abolitionist movement, presented a Declaration of Sentiments for the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY in 1848. This document sparked the suffrage movement in the United States.

Continued on page 3..

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

555 Fifth St., Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
707-546-5943

league@lwvsonoma.org  
http://www.lwvsonoma.org

See CONTACT US page to email  
our directors.

*Directors on Executive Committee*

Alice Richardson, VP -  
Administration  
Chlele Gummer, VP of Advocacy  
Willard Richards, Secretary  
Nancy Richards, At Large  
Susannah Likins, Treasurer

*Directors*

Anita Lytle, Voter Service Co-  
Chair Muriel Smith, Voter  
Service Co-Chair Shirley  
Johnson-Foell, VOTER Editor  
Ardath Lee, Membership Co-  
Chair

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.

Carrie Chapman Catt served as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association when the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote was passed. In 1920, she founded the League of Women Voters as a successor to the NAWSA.

You can, of course, find out more about these fascinating women online. I am happy that our member registration form keeps their names before us. We owe them so much.

Hope to see you May 7.

Ardath Lee

Co-Chair, Membership Committee

### **MISSION**

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

# BOARD BRIEFS

Board Briefs March 3, 2011

The Board decided not to continue membership in the Sonoma County Conservation Council. The dues are \$150 per year and the communication and coordination roles of this organization are now mostly provided by email and the Internet.

The Board adopted the new membership application form which appears in this issue of The VOTER. It is based on a form used in Mendocino County.

Chlele Gummer reported that the Advocacy Committee is drafting the LWVSC position on Community Impact Reports. (See article in this issue.) The Board adopted recommendations from the program planning meeting on local positions which will be included in the Annual Meeting kit.

Because email and the Internet now provide rapid communication, the Board approved distributing the Annual Meeting kit by email to members who receive The VOTER by email and by first class mail to other members at least two weeks before the Annual Meeting. This decreases the previous deadlines of 20 days before the meeting for the kit and 30 days for the budget. This change in the bylaws will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

The Board approved four questions to be submitted to Supervisor Mike McGuire in advance of his speaking to "Lunch with League" on March 16.

Anita Lytle presented lessons learned from past candidate forums and options for future forums. A brief questionnaire will be added to the thank you letters emailed to participants. Co-sponsoring forums with Chambers of Commerce will continue provided the Chamber has not endorsed or opposed any candidate before the forum. It is preferred, but not required, that the moderator be a League member. Many forums in Marin County are recorded in a TV studio with no audience, but the Board favored continuing to use live forums in Sonoma County.

Willard Richards, Secretary

*"Co-sponsoring forums with Chambers of Commerce will continue provided the Chamber has not endorsed or opposed any candidate before the forum."*

The **VOTER**, a publication of The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, is published monthly except during the summer, i.e. nine regular issues per year. The deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

## ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

At our February 24 meeting, Jay Halcomb, Chair of the Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club, detailed the reasons for opposition to the Preservation Ranch Project of the Premier Pacific Vineyards of Napa, California. The project contains 20,000 acres of over-logged forest in the Gualala watershed near the town of Annapolis in northern Sonoma County edging Mendocino County. It is 19 times larger than Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. CalPers, California's state workers pension fund, bought the land as an investment; Premier Pacific is developing the area with deforesting 1700 acres on the ridge tops for planting vineyards and installing residences for owners and workers. Once developed, parcels and vineyards will be sold.

Up to this point in time, the area has been clean cut in blocks; those blocks of cleared land are eroding allowing sediment to flow down the hills into the streams causing serious changes to the habitat. The Sierra Club wants the land to be at rest for at least 30 years, giving the forest sufficient time to recover, protecting habitat for the animals and plants to thrive.

Jay explained that CalPers has conflicting policies that need to be justified. The forest policy is at odds with the agricultural real estate policy. Sonoma County has a Timberline policy which mainly regulates mitigation requirements. Projects must follow local ordinances and be for the public benefit.

As you know, the League believes in protecting the environment, especially the use of land that ensures best practices for preservation of quality air, water and resources for later generations.

For more information on this project:

Redwood Chapter, Sierra Club: <http://www.redwood.sierraclub.org/sonoma/Forest.html>

The rest of the meeting, the group worked on the League proposal to be used in our advocacy for a Community Impact Report Ordinance for the city of Santa Rosa.

Chlele Gummer  
Director of Advocacy

*“CalPers, California’s state workers pension fund, bought the land as an investment; Premier Pacific is developing the area with deforesting 1700 acres on the ridge tops for planting vineyards and installing residences for owners and workers.”*

## BOOK GROUP

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 21 to discuss John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge's *The Right Nation: Conservative Power in America*. The group meets in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.



Published in 2004, *The Right Nation* traces the history of the Conservative Movement from McCarthyism to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Micklethwait and Wooldridge were both educated at Oxford University. Micklethwait was United States editor of the *Economist* and ran the New York Bureau for two years. Wooldridge was formerly Washington Bureau Chief for the *Economist*.

The book group meets on the third Thursday of the month, except for December. You may download the 2011 schedule for the book group from the calendar page of the local League website.

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

Lynda Hungerford

[lh@sonic.net](mailto:lh@sonic.net)

539-5770

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

LWVSC ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

at the

Rohnert Park Senior Center

Corner of Hunter and Enterprise

(Please note: This is an earlier date and  
at a different location than prior years)

Additional details will be provided in the  
May issue of the VOTER

Janie Hawker

## VOTER SERVICE

In February, we held our first Voter Service meeting of the New Year. The emphasis was on beginning to evaluate our very busy 2010 calendar of forums and pros & cons presentations for last year’s Primary and General Elections.

Thanks to all on our team who attended this very productive session, and for your many constructive suggestions for making the 2012 election year an exciting one!

Last month, we had our first candidate feedback meeting with a candidate from one of our forums. The feedback was positive and constructive with several suggestions to consider for next year’s planning. As a result of that meeting, we plan to include an invitation for feedback from all forum candidates in the future.

Voter Service was also asked to complete a lengthy survey for the California LWV, which we sent in on March 1. The principal intent of the survey was to evaluate all the resources the State League makes available to regional voter service groups, and to determine how useful these resources are to us for planning and conducting forums and presentations. Again, thanks to all on the team who contributed information about their pros & cons presentations to help us complete this survey.

Please join us at our next Voter Service meeting on Thursday, April 14 at 10 a.m. in the League office. All are welcome; just bring your ideas and suggestions! If you have any questions about our Committee or need any further information, please email or call us.

ANITA LYTLE	544-1633	alytle@sonic.net
MURIEL SMITH	576-7791	murielinCA@sbcglobal.net
VOTER SERVICE CO-CHAIRS		

*“The principal intent of the survey was to evaluate all the resources the State League makes available to regional voter service groups, and to determine how useful these resources are to us for planning and conducting forums and presentations.”*

## GracEva

GracEva Howard is a native Californian feminist activist and longtime LWV member.

Among her many passions are women's causes, music (especially opera), politics (especially women candidates), and social justice.

In 1995, Howard co-founded the Nineteenth Amendment Anniversary Project, a coalition of North Bay feminist groups creating events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. For the next 15 years, NAAP went on to organize many events and projects, including school presentations, historical re-creations, educational panels, and a feminist film festival.

With her husband Bill Howard as John Adams, GracEva portrayed Abigail Adams for numerous educational presentations and on community TV.

The Howard's moved to Santa Rosa in 1993. Before that, GracEva, a music, art, and French language teacher at Wayne State University and other institutions, was based in southern California and traveled around the world solo during a year's break from teaching. Her mother, the artist Emma Bridges Gott, worked on the suffrage movement in southern California in the early 1900s, at one point standing up on the seat of a bus yelling "Vote for women!"

--Carol Singer



[http://www.sewallbelmont.org/mainpages/images/membership\\_000.jpg](http://www.sewallbelmont.org/mainpages/images/membership_000.jpg)

## FORUM ON HEALTH CARE

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed by Congress and signed by President Obama in March, 2010 is an important step in bringing affordable, quality healthcare to all Americans. The process to implement the Act has begun and will take place over several years.

Some provisions that are already, or soon will be, in place include:

- Coverage for adult children which allows parents to cover under their plan, most children under the age of 26.
- Lifetime and annual dollar limits eliminated for certain health benefits.
- Banning of insurance companies from dropping people from coverage when they get sick.
- Denial of coverage for children with pre-existing conditions not allowed.
- Provision of preventive services without cost sharing for new health insurance plans.
- Coverage for uninsured with preexisting medical conditions.

These are some of the provisions that are already in place.

The panel of speakers at the forum will discuss various aspects of the health care act and how the measures in the Act will impact their discipline.

Dr. Mark Netherda, Deputy Health Officer with the Sonoma County Department of Health Services, will provide a general introduction to health care reform followed by a discussion of the effects of the Act on public health.

Dr. Walter Mills, physician at Kaiser Permanente, will provide an overview of the opportunities/impacts of the Act on physicians.

Nancy Oswald, Executive Director of the Redwood Community Health Coalition, will discuss the impacts and opportunities of the Act on community clinics.

Michael Purvis, Chief Administration Officer with Sutter Medical Center in Santa Rosa, will give an overview of the opportunities and impacts of the Act on hospitals.

Dick Herman, President and CEO of 101MFG, Inc., will present information on how business will be affected.

Julie Bennett, Community Outreach Specialist with the Sonoma County, will off insights into the effects on seniors from the Act.

Plan to attend this informative meeting and bring your questions as there will be time for written questions from the audience.

Nancy Richards

575-7160

nancyr@sonic.net



### APRIL 2011 CALENDAR

Thursday, Apr. 7	10 a.m.	The Conference Room*	Board meeting. Open to members, and by invitation, open to the public.
Monday, Apr.11	6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	S.R City Council Chamber	Health Care Reform Forum
Thursday, Apr. 14	10 a.m.	The Conference Room*	Voter Service Meeting
Weds. Apr. 20	10 a.m.	The Conference Room*	Membership Committee
Thursday, Apr. 21	10:30 - noon	The Conference Room*	Book Group
Friday, Apr. 22	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	151 Second Street, Petaluma	Petaluma Unit Meeting
Thursday, Apr. 28	10 AM - noon	The Conference Room*	Advocacy Meeting

*\*The Conference Room is opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.*

Check out the **League website.** <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/>  
for current dates and time for meetings and for back issues of The VOTER.



### New and Returning Members

**Jane De Young**  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

**Kathy McConnell**  
Windsor, CA 95492

**Wanda Tapia-Thomsen and Richard Thomsen**  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

### Address Change

**Jewell Ford**  
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

**Sandra Forsyth**  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



There's something special in your own backyard.

Be a part of it!  
Become a member.  
Become a volunteer.

For Membership call Renee @579-4452, #273  
To volunteer call Kristi @579-4452, #271

or visit [www.SchulzMuseum.org](http://www.SchulzMuseum.org)  
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



## League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_

Zip\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$60

Limited Income Membership \$40

Amelia Bloomer Household Membership \$90

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership \$100

Carrie Chapman Catt Membership \$200 or more

The membership year is July 1-June 30.

Please send to

LWV Sonoma County, 555 Fifth St. Suite 300 O, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SONOMA COUNTY  
555 Fifth Street, Suite 300 O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Return Service Requested**

**Time Dated Material**