



# THE VOTER

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

Volume 15, No.9

Dec. 2010/Jan. 2011

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**Voter Going Electronic**

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**Special points of interest:**

- League Speaks with One Voice
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- New Member Profile

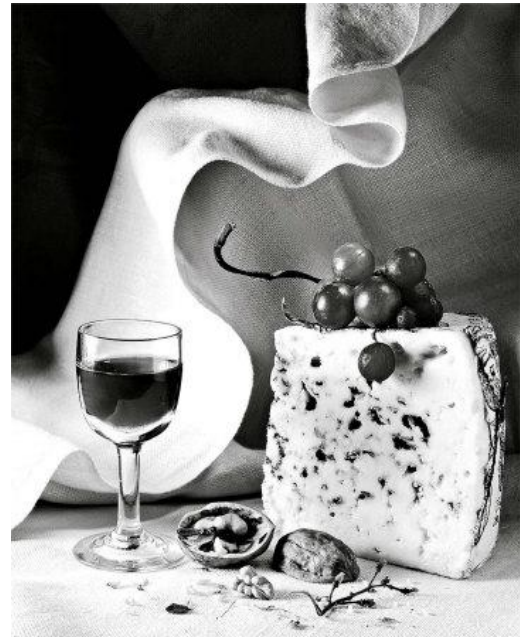
## **Program Planning / Wine & Cheese Social!!**

This year's annual Program Planning meeting will be held at our office on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3 to 5 PM followed by a wine and cheese social.

Every year we have a Program Planning meeting where we review either the state League or the national League positions and our local positions to determine whether the positions need more study or updated wording.

This year we will be evaluating the California League positions. Because of the focus upon our basic principles, this meeting is an excellent one for new members to attend. For experienced members it is valuable to review our positions and remind ourselves what we, as a League, are doing to make our local governments become as democratic and responsive to the citizens as possible. An outcome of this meeting is the program emphasis for the following year.

Please join us!



Details on page 7

## BOARD BRIEFS

*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*

*Amy Howder-Thompson, Program -  
Chair*

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

**Treasurer Susannah Likins reported that the Theater Party netted \$951. Also, she advised the board that beginning in 2011, people who contribute more than the cost of the annual dues to the National League will no longer be listed by the National League as a member of the LWVSC.**

**Susannah summarized the arrangements for the Holiday Social at her house on December 5 and reminded the Board of the need for silent auction items. Phyllis Clement, Sandy Benson, and Janie Hawker will help Susannah with the arrangements.**

**Membership Co-chair Ardath Lee reported on work to reach out to the Hispanic community and on plans to work with La Voz to prepare a feature article on the League.**

**Advocacy Chair Chlele Gummer reviewed planning for the November 17 general membership meeting, Santa Rosa Plain Ground Water Basin Planning Workshop. She reported that the LWVSC sent a letter to the Supervisors opposing the Dutra asphalt plant.**

**The general membership meeting for January will be the Annual Program Planning Meeting on Saturday, January 22. The state and local positions will be reviewed. It was also suggested that the Program Planning meeting be held in the afternoon and that wine and refreshments be served at the end.**

**The Board appointed Anita Lytle to the Nominating Committee as the Board appointee. Alice Richardson reported on the excellent reception she received when presenting Pros and Cons in Sonoma. This resulted in better contacts with AAUW Sonoma Branch and perhaps new members or possibly co-sponsoring events in Sonoma.**

**Bob Hawthorne has resigned as the LWVSC representative on the Sonoma County Recycling Task Force because of health issues. Max Bridges is currently the alternate, but cannot become the LWVSC representative this year because he is serving on the Grand Jury.**

# CONTINUED.....

Secretary Willard Richards presented data on the makeup of the membership roster and database used to prepare bulk mail labels for The VOTER. Only six members are known to have no email, and we have email addresses for all but 17 of the remaining members. He recommended, and the Board approved, publishing The VOTER electronically beginning with the February issue.

Anita Lytle and the Voter Service Committee were applauded for the excellent candidates forums and Pros & Cons presentations this year.

*“Presented data on the makeup of the membership roster and database used to prepare bulk mail labels for The VOTER. Only six members are known to have no email, and we have email addresses for all but 17 of the remaining members.”*



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

In early October I re-sent the letter we used for our former action against the establishment of the Dutra Asphalt Plant at the south entrance to Petaluma and adjacent to Schollenberger Park and Wetlands area. As a League we believe that the location of the plant is detrimental to the environmental quality of the area. The County Board of Supervisors supported Dutra with a three to two vote; Supervisor Carrillo reversing his earlier vote in March which was against the development.

I looked at the County reports on the Roblar Quarry and the Syar Gravel mining requests to the Board of Supervisors and decided to not pursue League action. These reports showed considerable negotiation in the establishment of guidelines that insist upon best practices in regards to environmental concerns. The Supervisors supported both developments in front of standing room only crowds.

The League Board supported, through an email vote, allowing League members to offer individual monetary support for the Sonoma County Water Coalition's continuing legal battle with the Sonoma Water Agency over improper reporting of water statistics. We cannot join the Water Coalition in this lawsuit, because that would put us in a vulnerable position in regard to lawsuits.

At our Advocacy meeting on October 28 Ann Berens reported that the written report of the Juvenile Justice Interest Group is nearly complete, hopefully in November.

At our November general membership meeting, "Santa Rosa Plain Ground Water Basin Planning Workshop," we had a League table. The Board agreed to co-sponsor this event with the Sierra Club and the Sonoma County Water Coalition.

**Chlele Gummer**  
**Advocacy Chair**

## 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.

## LEAGUE SPEAKS WITH ONE VOICE

How frustrating it is to know that at some level the League has what appears to be an applicable position and then to be told that in this instance our local League may not act. The basic rules are simple:

- Our local board may decide to take action on governmental issues that will affect only Sonoma County and its governmental units. It may base its decision on a local position or a vertical position. A vertical position is one which has been reached by other levels of League AND which has been designated as “vertical” in League publications devoted to action.
- If our board wants to take action on governmental issue that will affect more than one League, for example Marin County, then it must consult with that League. The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area coordinates action that affects the Bay Area. If the issue is a state issue, the local League must consult with the League of Women Voters of California.
- Action that involves contact with state government officials *including our state senators and assembly members* requires consultation with appropriate members of the state board.

In addition, only a League spokesperson designated by the board may speak for the League. Individual members may take action on their own behalf.

For a more extensive discussion see *How to ... Take Action: Guidelines for Local Leagues*, a publication of The League of Women Voters of California. *How to ... Take Action* can be downloaded from the members only site of the League of Women Voters of California. The Web address is in your directory.

Lynda Hungerford

539-5770

<mailto:lh@sonic.net>

## BOOK GROUP

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, January 21 to discuss two short books about China, the Chinese and Chinese languages. The group meets in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

Deborah and James Fallows spent two years living and writing in Beijing and Shanghai. Among the results are Deborah's *Dreaming in Chinese: Mandarin Lessons in Life, Love and Language*, and James' *Postcards from Tomorrow Square: Reports from China*.

The two books together reveal the diversity and complexity of the Chinese people and nation. *Dreaming* does this through a memoir of struggles with learning Mandarin. *Postcards* is a collection of articles originally published in *The Atlantic*. The collection covers a wide range of specific topics from gambling in Macao to education and on to the response to the 2008 earthquake.

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

*"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."*



## PROGRAM PLANNING / WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL CONT. FROM PG.1

To prepare yourself for the meeting you can check our website for our local positions, <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/positions.html>. The State positions can be found at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/index.html>. For those of you who don't have access to the internet, call our League office (546-6943) to leave your name and address on the answering machine. The local positions will be mailed to you.

If you can't attend the meeting, please take the time to read the positions and let us know your input. Are there changes that need to be made? Are there new issues that we need to evaluate and/or form a position? We need every member to weigh in so that our conclusions will reflect the feelings of the membership. That is the League way.

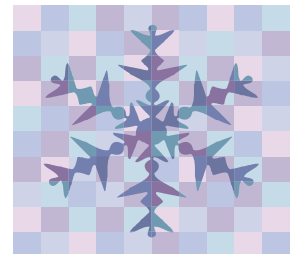
So plan to join us on Saturday, January 22nd, 3-5 PM, in our office space to do our annual planning and to enjoy wine and cheese and meeting old and new members.

Chlele Gummer  
Program Planning Chair

## VOTER SERVICE

The Voter Service team extends warm wishes for a very happy holiday season to all.

There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting of Voter Service will be on Thursday, January 13, 10:00 AM, at the League office. At our first meeting of the New Year, we plan to evaluate our very busy 2011 schedule. We welcome your ideas on more efficient ways to reach voters, and conduct forums for the next election cycle.



All are welcome to our Voter Service meetings.  
Hope to see you on January 13.  
Happy Holidays!

Anita and Muriel  
[alytle@sonic.net](mailto:alytle@sonic.net)  
[murielinCA@sbcglobal.net](mailto:murielinCA@sbcglobal.net)

*"We need every member to weigh in so that our conclusions will reflect the feelings of the membership. That is the League way."*

## SPEAK UP CALIFORNIA

The organization *California Forward* is looking to how Californians can improve their quality of life by creating a more responsive, cost-effective government. The goal is to formulate an initiative for the November 2012 ballot. *California Forward* has invited the League to join other local organizations to participate in a series of community and online gatherings to discuss how we can change our state's direction. North Bay Leadership Council is interested in participating and other organizations are being contacted to co-sponsor, as well.

As you may recall, in January 2010, our League sponsored a forum to discuss problems with the California Constitution. Fred Silva, senior fiscal policy advisor for *California Forward*, was one of the speakers. January 2010 issue of the VOTER <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/Newsletters.html> there is a brief description of some of the problems with the current constitution that need to be addressed.

The League is looking for members to join with other local organizations in beginning this discussion. If you are interested in learning more about this endeavor, please contact me.

Nancy Richards  
575-7160  
nancyr@sonic.net



### **REDUCE...**

fuel consumption, and greenhouse gases.

If you are planning to attend Bay Area League Day (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Taking it to the Next Level") as described in the flier enclosed

with this VOTER, consider carpooling.

Contact me, and I will try to organize convenient carpools by area.

Lynda Hungerford

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

539-5770

## THE VOTER IS GOING ELECTRONIC

Beginning with the February 2011 issue, the monthly newsletter of the LWVSC will be distributed electronically. The VOTER will be sent by email to LWVSC members, other local Leagues, other levels of League, local government officials, contributors, and friends of the League. All LWVSC emails contain information on how to change an email address or unsubscribe.

The current and back issues of The VOTER will continue to be available on the LWVSC website, <http://www.lwvsonoma.org/>

Click on Publications and Newsletters on the sidebar at the left to see any issue published since September 2003.

We will make a dozen or more copies of The VOTER on the copier in the LWVSC office and mail them first class to League members who do not have email as well as other people who need a paper copy. These mailings will arrive one to two weeks earlier because there will be no delay for commercial printing and bulk mailing. Please let me know if you need to receive a paper copy of The VOTER.

Printing and mailing The VOTER now cost roughly \$2,000 per year, or about 9% of our budget.

Distributing The VOTER electronically will ensure that we can continue our voter education and outreach programs.

Willard Richards, Secretary  
(707) 575-7160

*"Printing and mailing  
The VOTER now  
cost roughly \$2,000  
per year, or about 9%  
of our budget."*

## NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

**Peggy & Roger Barron**  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Ann Hancock**  
Graton, CA 95444

**Annette Lomont & Charles Raaberg**  
Sonoma, CA 95476

**Anita Christmas**  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

**Victoria Hopkins**  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

**Ms. Afsi Moaveni**  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

## NEW MEMBERS' PROFILE



Rosa, Francisco, and Sofia Vázquez

The Vázquez family is deeply involved in education. Daughter Sofia graduated from SSU in 2009, and is in her second year of the Masters of Library Science program at San Jose State. Rosa has a Masters in English and creative writing from SSU, and teaches sixth grade at Healdsburg Junior High School. Earlier in her career she taught in bi-lingual immersion programs and at World College West. Francisco holds a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University, and is Professor of Liberal Studies in the Hutchins School at SSU, where he also directs the Institute on Public Policy. His past and present civic involvements include the Community Action Program, the Sonoma County Community Foundation and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He also was the director of CAMP, a program which helped children of migrant workers transition into college.

The family loves to travel, and have enjoyed sojourns in Italy, England, Cuba, Hawaii, and Mexico. Their most recent trip was to Washington, D.C. where Sofia attended the American Library Association conference.

They have long been aware of the League of Women Voters, and are especially thankful for the support the LWV provided for a 2008 voter registration drive in Roseland. They want to support more directly the mission of the LWV as full fledged members.

# Roster Correction

(email address)

Lindsay R. Shere  
Healdsburg, CA 95448



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"



RETURN TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS

## 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, 555 Fifth Street, Suite 300 O, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Thank you.

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

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 ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
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 PERMIT NO. 65

**Return Service Requested**

**Time Dated Material**

## DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.*

|                                      |                  |                              |   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, Dec. 2<br>Thursday, Jan. 6 | 10 AM            | The Conference Room*         | Board meeting. Open to members, and by invitation, open to the public.  |
| Sunday, Dec. 5                       | 1-4 PM           | 6868 Gravenstein Highway     | LWV of Sonoma County Annual Winter Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser |
| Dec. No Meeting<br>Thursday, Jan. 13 | 10 AM            | The Conference Room*         | Voter Service Meeting   |
| Thursday, Jan. 21                    | 10:30 AM to noon | The Conference Room*         | Book Group  |
| Dec. No Meeting<br>Thursday, Jan. 20 | 3:30 to 5:00 PM  | 151 Second Street, Petaluma  | Petaluma Unit Meeting   |
| Tuesday, Dec. 14                     | 10 AM to noon    | The Conference Room*         | Advocacy Meeting  |
| Saturday, Jan. 22                    | 3:00 to 5:00 PM  | 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa | Annual Program Planning & Social  |

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

Check out the **League website**. [www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org), for current dates and time for meetings and for back issues of *The VOTER*.