



THE VOTER

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

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February 2011

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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF WOMEN’S RIGHT TO VOTE IN CALIFORNIA

On October 10, 1911, male voters in California approved Senate Constitutional Amendment 8 giving women the right to vote. Amendment 8 passed by a margin of 2%, making California the sixth state to give women the vote.

Some Leagues will celebrate this centenary in February, the time of the League’s birthday. Others may celebrate in October 2011. Look around for a celebration near you. Options include

LWV San Francisco, Thursday, February 10, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The gala will feature the California Woman’s Suffrage Exhibit, (originally produced and toured by the international Museum of Women and The California History Center Foundation)

LWV Santa Cruz, Saturday, February 12, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Robert P.J. Conney, Jr. will speak on “How California Women Won the Vote 100 Years Ago, and What It Meant to the Rest of the County”. Mr. Cooney is the author of *Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Women Suffrage Movement*.

Special points of interest:

- Remembering Bob Hawthorne
- New and Returning Members

Check out the calendar for the Bay Area Centenary events at our website www.lwvbayarea.org

SAVE THE DATE - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

For our 4th annual Lunch with League, Mike McGuire, newly elected Sonoma County Supervisor for the 4th District will be our speaker. Lunch will begin at noon at the Santa Rosa Junior College Café.

The price will be \$25 which includes a 3 course meal, tax and tip.

It’s not too early to get your reservation in.

Send your check made out to the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County (or LWVSC) to Sandy deLorimier, 2350 Geyser Road, Geyserville, CA 95441.

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

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

Bill Sorensen and Stella Kwiecinski gave a presentation on the documentary they are producing about the Russian River. They became interested in the League when they read our Water Document, and are generating support for their project. The film maker's website is www.intrepidprod.com.

Susannah presented a list of 40 members whose dues have expired. She deleted them from our National roster so we would not have to pay \$52.80 per year to other levels of League for them. This is where a large fraction of our \$60 annual dues goes.

This year the annual grant from the Community Foundation will be \$1,700.

Chlele Gummer described plans for the Program Planning Meeting. The topics and discussion leaders are: Government, Willard and Nancy Richards; Natural Resources, Ardath Lee; and Social Policy, Anita Lytle. We will select three areas for focus to recommend to the State League. Local positions will be reviewed and an area for local focus will be selected.

Ardath Lee will join the Latino Service Providers (LSP) organization as a League representative. The Board approved her hosting a couple of informal LSP lunch meetings and a February 2012 meeting of LSP.

Ardath recommended a workshop for new members to explain Advocacy, Voter Service, and Program. The first Saturday in May was selected as the date.

The Board formally accepted the resignation of Amy Howder-Thompson as Program Chair because of health issues in her family

The Board declined to co-sponsor a forum on banning plastic bags because we have an insufficient understanding of the unintended consequences of such a ban.

Sandy deLorimier is arranging the Lunch with League for March 16. Supervisor Mike McGuire will be the guest speaker.

Anita Lytle reported that the next Voter Service Committee meeting will be in February. Maureen Shea, a candidate for Sebastopol City Council will give some feedback on her experience at a candidates forum.

BOARD BRIEFS CONT.

Secretary Willard Richards said that switching to an electronic VOTER will require setting up a new email list so interested non-members can receive The VOTER. This list will include elected officials, other Leagues and levels of League, friends of LWVSC, and frequent donors.

Willard will revise the membership database so it indicates the members whose membership recently expired. Former members will continue to receive The VOTER and meeting announcements unless they unsubscribe.

Willard Richards, Secretary

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Happy New Year? To some this may be true for others, I send my sympathies.

Since the holidays I have been comforting family and friends over loss. I can't remember when so much sorrow has surrounded me, personally and professionally. One takes stock at times like these to ask, "What is life all about?" I understand this too shall pass, but still I see the bigger picture. To paraphrase one of Zen's Noble Truths...there is suffering. I feel a sense of shared grief and in that sharing there is community. We are in this thing together, sharing, caring and giving support. This kind of kind mindfulness need not be parsed out, but deliberate in one's daily acts. We are connected socially, environmentally, and economically. I value the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, especially the board members who have been so kind to me my first year. As a new League member and editor for *The Voter*, I have so much gratitude for the mentoring and support delivered by the board members. These folks not only talk the talk, they walk the walk.



SHIRLEY AND
GRANDSON

Our organization is charged with making society a better place to live by building citizen participation in the democratic process. Also, enabling people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management. The League believes in respect for individuals, the value of diversity, and the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities.

LWV Sonoma County has numerous policy positions, voter services, and community education projects that help build the character and accountability that makes our county so special. During January the League had a Program Planning event that will prioritize the issues we should focus on for the next biennium. It can't be all things to everyone, but the few key policies and projects that it partakes are paramount.

I am looking forward to an eventful and satisfying year ahead, the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County plans to make it so.

Shirley Johnson-Foell
Editor

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

At our December meeting we listened to Terry Price, a local political consultant, as he gave us his perspective on campaign finance reform. He sees the main issues as, public financing, voluntary spending caps, and signage regulations. He suggests that the League work on unifying the cities in the campaign policies and to (1) strengthen disclosure laws (2) require lobbyist registration at the county level; (3) require retired council members to wait a year before registering as a lobbyist, (4) campaign contribution caps for all.

Sukey Robb-Wilder reported the suggestions of Steve Mack, Sweet Water Springs Water District, for updating our Water Report of 2004. The Water Laws and the discussion on Hydrology need to be separate. The Water Agency only has jurisdiction over the Russian River. The County Board of Supervisors manages the unincorporated areas. Water Law needs to be in one section. What is missing is a clear picture of who does what and who is responsible. The complex arrangement of water districts, well owners, the County Water District needs to be charted for easier understanding.

Sukey suggested a way in dealing with the amount of information needed to update our Water Report is to use links to information that people can access from our website. The major problem in following that suggestion is to find someone to do it. That person needs to evaluate the information and decide how to refer to it. Having our Water Report on our website with links to the latest information would be, I think, a valuable service to the community.

Due to attendance problems of some valuable committee members, the meeting time will return to the fourth Thursday at 10 AM beginning January 27.

Chlele Gummer
Director of Advocacy

“The Water Laws and the discussion on Hydrology need to be separate. The Water Agency only has jurisdiction over the Russian River. “

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.

BOOK GROUP

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, February 17 to discuss Isabel Wilkerson's *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. The group meets in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

The "great migration" refers to the mass exodus of African Americans from the South to the Northeast, the Midwest, and the West. Arguably this was a migration greater in numbers than that from the Dust Bowl.

Using the stories of three migrants, culled from many hours of oral history and interviews, Wilkerson creates compelling narratives to bring scholarly research to life.

Once a Pulitzer Prize winning feature writer for The New York Times, Wilkerson now teaches writing at Boston University.

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

539-5770



VOTER SERVICE

WHAT IS VOTER REGISTRATION OUTREACH?

This is the League committee that quietly performs a far-reaching service here in Sonoma County. This is how it works: one of the responsibilities of Sonoma County Registrar of Voters is to ensure that voter registration forms are available throughout the county. The county contracts with the League to keep these voter registration boxes filled. Distributing these forms supports the Leagues mission by encouraging voter registration and voting. In addition, it contributes a significant amount of money to our budget.

It is the members of the Voter Registration Outreach Committee who distribute forms to the many sites in the county such as libraries, city offices, post offices, high schools and others. Following are the members of this active group and the far-flung sites they serve:

Ginny Benson, Donna Roper, Mary Fricker, Laurie Hall

West County including Sebastopol, Forestville, Guerneville,
Rio Nido, Monte Rio, Graton, Valley Ford, Occidental, Camp
Meeker, Bodega and Bodega Bay, Cazadero, Duncan Mills

Susan Clark

Cloverdale, Geyserville

Kay and Jim Kline

Healdsburg

Kati Quibel

SRJC

Andrea English, Lynda Hungerford, Anita Lytle, Pat Anton,

Gretchen Paradis, Diane Graner

Santa Rosa

Anita Lytle

Annapolis, Gualala

Diane Graner

Windsor

Janie Hawker, Rosalind Morino

Cotati, Penngrove, RohnertPk

Lynn Camhi

Petaluma

Claudia Robbins

Sonoma, El Verano, Boyes Hot Sp, Vineburg

Lynda Hungerford

Kenwood, Eldrige

The team's talented coordinator is Nancy Richardson. She has encouraged the team to do outstanding work and found people as needed to get the job done. She has organized the delivery sites into a workable list, and has recorded this revised list to make a master guide available for League, a much-appreciated achievement.

THANK YOU one and all for the superb work you have done in helping the League continue to achieve our goals of Voter Service.

Please join us on Thursday Feb 10 at 10:00 for Voter Service Meeting at the office. We welcome your feedback and input especially as we review our work during the previous elections and plan ahead.

Anita Lytle (544-1633) and Muriel Smith (576-7791)

Voter Service Co-Chair



NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Ann Hancock

Ann Hancock is the co-founder and executive director of the Climate Protection Campaign, an organization which works to mobilize action in response to the climate crisis. The CPC works with business, government, youth groups and the broader community to come up with practical, science-based solutions for change. In recognition of her work, she was honored in 2009 by the Leadership Institute for the Ecology and the Economy, and in 2010 by the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County. In 2007 the Climate Protection Campaign received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's award for exceptional contributions to global environmental protection.



Ann received her BS from UC-Davis and holds a Masters in Public Health Administration from UC-Berkeley. She has been active in Planned Parenthood, and has been a sustainability planner for the County of Marin. She has also taught at New College of California. In addition to all of this, she was a real estate broker for a number of years. She is happy to become a member of the Sonoma County League because of the enormous, on-going contribution the League makes to effective, informed governance.

ANNE SEELEY

I was born in Punxsutawney, PA (yes, where the groundhog foretells the weather every winter), but grew up entirely in California. I went to school in Walnut Creek, and then went to UC Davis, thence to UC San Francisco for my BA in Nursing. We moved to Santa Rosa in 1977, where my husband opened his ophthalmology practice. We have 2 children in their 30s, one grandchild and one on the way.

I work weekday mornings in my husband's office, which I enjoy. My other activities center on being the Chairwoman of Concerned Citizens for Santa Rosa, a volunteer group that assembled in 1986.

To be continued on page 9

NEW MEMBER PROFILE

Anne Fitzgerald

Anne was raised in Old Greenwich, CT, and attended Immaculata College (PA) and graduate school at Ohio State University. She joined the Peace Corps and served in Costa Rica from 1964 - 1967. She is fluent in Spanish, and has travelled throughout the world. Most recently, she and husband Brian Lloyd accompanied the young chefs of Worth Our Weight on a trip to the Slow Food International conference in Torino, Italy.



Now retired, Anne worked for many years in philanthropy supporting international development efforts, graduate and undergraduate fellowship programs, and projects to advance social change/justice. In addition to travel, Anne's interests include reading, walking, visiting and being visited by friends, and she has a new hoola hoop! Some years ago, Anne was a League member in Colorado Springs, and is pleased to rejoin the Sonoma County League because she believes the measured, reasoned scholarship provided by the League is deeply needed in a political environment characterized by empty rhetoric and disregard for facts, civility or common ground.

ANNE SEELEY

Continued...

Our mission has been to ensure that the public has the opportunity to be involved in the many decisions made by local government that affect them; to help to elect City Council members who support our goals; to assist in locating and supporting appointees to boards and commissions who do the same; and to watch over the planning processes that mold our community. That means attending many city meetings. I issue a City Council Agenda Highlights email message every week to a large group of people so they might attend if they're interested.

I joined the League of Women Voters after years of admiring the League's work, and its training of leaders in the community.

REMEMBERING BOB HAWTHORNE

The League was saddened to learn of the death of member Bob Hawthorne on November 26, 2010. He and his wife Liz joined the local League of Women Voters shortly after retiring and moving to Healdsburg in the early 90's. He was born in Santa Monica, saw combat in France and Germany, graduated from Caltech in engineering, worked and, with Liz, raised a family in southern California. He was always interested in community affairs, serving on the Yorba Buena school board and Junior College Board. In Healdsburg he was active in the Healdsburg Peace Project, Health Care for All, HARC and Veterans for Peace.

He was the League representative first on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and then served on the Sonoma County Recycling Task Force for the past 2 years and only recently resigned.

Bob, although quiet and reserved, was very knowledgeable in many areas and earned the respect of all who got to know him. His death is a loss to the League and to the community. Members of the League send sincere condolences to Liz, their two daughters and six grandchildren.



Thank You!

Contributions in Memory of our
Friend and Long Time League Member Bob Hawthorne

Jim and Janet Aldrich
Nancy and Willard Richards
Alice Richardson
Anita Lytle
Susannah Likins
Chlele Gummer

Many thanks to all of you who came to our Holiday Party!

Thank you for bringing treats, providing us with gift items for our silent auction, and for then buying them. Our fun evening netted the League \$819.00. Special thanks to Sandy Benson, Janie Hawker and Phyllis Clement for organizing the party with us. Happy New Year!

Susannah and Bob Likins

NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Linda Garcia

Cotati, CA 94931

Joanne James

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Katherine (Wendy) Hanes

Sonoma, CA 95476

CAMPAIGN FINANCING AND DISCLOSURE

FOLLOW THE MONEY

Millions of campaign \$\$\$\$ are flowing everywhere in our elections. Tracking the money path can be challenging because the information is patchy and found in different places.

The League of Women Voters can help you find out *Who* is funding political campaigns and *How Much* money is being spent.

State Elections – The Role of Money in California Politics

Do you want to know who is contributing money, who receives the money and how the money is spent? Follow these easy steps through the statewide information on campaign finance activity.

Cal-Access - The Statewide Campaign Financing Information Web Site

To find out more visit:

<http://www.cavotes.org/issues/campaign-finance-and-disclosure>

Roster Correction

Address Change

Jean Gilmore
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Ronald Thiele
Santa Rosa, CA 95409



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
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



GRU... 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.

FEBRUARY 2011 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Tuesday, Feb.1	11:30 AM– 1:30 PM	555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa	Membership Committee Bring your lunch
Thursday, Feb.3	10 AM	The Conference Room*	Board meeting. Open to members, and by invitation, open to the public.
Thursday, Feb. 10	10 AM	The Conference Room*	Voter Service Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 17	10:30 AM to noon	The Conference Room*	Book Group
Thursday, Feb. 17	3:30 to 5:00 PM	151 Second Street, Petaluma	Petaluma Unit Meeting
Thursday, Feb. 24	10 AM to 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). [Www.lwvsonoma.org](http://www.lwvsonoma.org), for current dates and time for meetings and for back issues of The VOTER.