



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

Volume 17, No.1

January 2012

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**Tickets on Sale!**

**THEATRE PARTY!!!**

Wednesday  
February 8 7:00 PM  
6th Street Playhouse

*PROOF*  
by David Auburn  
See page 7 for details

*This Year's Events!*  
See page 8

# THE VOTER

## **BAY AREA GOVERNMENT** A FORUM ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT **ABAG BAAQMD BCDC MTC**

Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30 – 11:30 AM  
Santa Rosa City Council Chambers

### **SPEAKERS**

SUSAN ADAMS                      SUSAN GORIN  
JAKE MACKENSIE                SHIRLEE ZANE

Speakers will discuss four regional government agencies  
that affect all nine counties in the Bay Area  
See page 6 for details

### **PROGRAM PLANNING**

Saturday January 28 10:00 – 2:00

Christ Church United Methodist  
1717 Yulupa Avenue

Discussion of National and Local Positions  
See page 8 for details

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy 2012!

This month's subject may be uncomfortable for some of you...it is about resolutions. There are so many people who will not under any circumstances make a resolution, but take another look. Resolutions are wonderful! They give you a chance to examine what you are doing and see what new directions you would like to explore. Many people say they just don't work, that they break them before they even start, but the problem is that they want some kind of spectacular change right away. The way to success is through small steps and no one says that a particular step must start on January 1, 2012 at midnight. There is the whole year ahead of us to bring about changes that we have considered, but have yet to take action.

For January I would like to suggest a small step by getting more involved with the League of Women Voters. Money is terrific of course, but your time—just a small amount will help to create a strong and energetic league. January 21<sup>st</sup> the League has a forum on Regional Governments. What a great chance to get an in-depth look at what happens here locally. On January 28<sup>th</sup> we are having our annual Planning Program and we will take a look at both National and local positions.

So, please take some time and think about some small way you can contribute. Perhaps you could attend a committee meeting or the book group or attend our Annual Theater Party, **Proof** on February 8<sup>th</sup> (Hey a night out! Great idea!). This year with the elections, we are going to need a lot of support from all of you—this is one resolution I hope you make.

Cheers to you all and best wishes for taking some small steps!

DeeDee Bridges  
President

P.S. Seating for the play is limited, so if you are planning to attend, please get your tickets early.

*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*

*DeeDee Bridges, President  
Alice Richardson, VP Admin.  
Max Bridges, VP of Advocacy  
Willard Richards, Secretary  
Susannah Likins, Treasurer*

*Directors*

*Linda Garcia, Voter Service  
Chair  
Shirley Johnson-Foell, VOTER  
Editor  
Juanita Roland, Membership  
Chair  
Chlele Gummer, Program Chair  
Nancy Richards, At Large*

## ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee met on November 30.

Discussion included updates on the various issues the Committee has been following, in particular a recommendation from Stan Gold to add the LWVSC to the list of organizations supporting the California Disclose Act—AB 1148.

Judy Kennedy of the Neighborhood Alliance discussed a possible forum on district elections for the Santa Rosa City Council.

The scheduled meeting on December 28 was cancelled due to Holiday commitments. We will be meeting again on January 28 to kick off 2012.

The Advocacy Committee meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am in the Third Floor Conference Room at 555 Fifth Street in Santa Rosa. Please join us.

Max Bridges, VP Advocacy

[action@lwvsonoma.org](mailto:action@lwvsonoma.org)

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 15th of the month preceding the issue month.

## BOARD BRIEFS

Alice Richardson thanked Susannah and Bob Likins for holding the Winter Social at their home and also thanked the League members who helped: Sandy Benson, Janie Hawker, Phyllis Clement, and Rosalind Morino. Phyllis Clement offered to hold the Winter Social at her house next year.

The Board agreed that a January VOTER will be published in late December.

The Board approved the new position on Juvenile Justice based on the work of the Juvenile Justice Interest Group. This position will be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

The Membership Committee:

1. Worked on plans for the lunch the LWVSC will provide for the February 23 meeting of the Latino Service Providers.
2. Recommended that an event be co-sponsored with Elaine Holtz addressing voter apathy among women. The Board approved contacting Elaine Holtz to discuss cosponsoring this event.
3. Continued planning the March 31 new members social, tentatively scheduled for late morning.

-The Board voted to be listed as a supporter of the California Disclose Act, AB 1148. The LWV California and a number of local Leagues in California are already listed as supporters.

-The Board voted to continue planning an education forum on Preservation Ranch, a very large project near Annapolis that would convert forest to vineyards.

-The Board approved Willard Richards' request that he try to find someone to manage a LWVSC Facebook site. Many of the young, active people we would like to reach use Facebook.

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.

*"The Board approved the new position on Juvenile Justice based on the work of the Juvenile Justice Interest Group. This position will be submitted to the membership at the Annual Meeting."*

## BOOK GROUP

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, January 19, to discuss Kenneth L. Kann's *Comrades and Chicken Ranchers: The Story of a California Jewish Community*. The group meets in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

The book group starts out the year with a subject close to home. Join the group to learn more about the early history of Petaluma and to consider what constitutes a community.

Beginning in April, we will suggest several books about a single topic, so that members choose one book and bring insights from that book to the discussion. The 2012 schedule for the book group can be downloaded from the calendar page of our local League website.

<http://www.lwvsonoma.org/files/bookgroup2012.pdf>

The book group meets on the third Thursday of the month, except for December.

Lynda Hungerford

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

*"The book group starts out the year with a subject close to home. Join the group to learn more about the early history of Petaluma and to consider what constitutes a community."*



## A FORUM ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

**What is ABAG? What is BAAQMD? What is MTC or BCDC?**

**How do these regional agencies affect what happens in Sonoma County?**

### **Speakers**

**Marin County Supervisor Susan Adams, Ph.D., R.N. Bay Conservation and Development Commission**

**3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Shirlee Zane, Bay Area Air Quality Management District Representative**

**Rohnert Park Mayor Jake Mackenzie, Metropolitan Transportation Commission Representative**

**Santa Rosa Councilmember Susan Gorin, Association of Bay Area Governments Representative**

**Moderator - Edie Mendez from SSU, Sonoma State University**



**Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30-11:30  
Santa Rosa City Council Chambers**

To learn about the “alphabet soup” of regional agencies, come to our discussion on Regional Government. Our speakers will talk about the history and mission of each organization, and how they work together to plan for the future of the Bay Area.

Our panel presentation will be televised live on the Community Media Channels in Santa Rosa from 10 - 11 AM at the Santa Rosa City Council Chambers on Saturday, January 21st, beginning with coffee and treats at 9:30 and ending with audience questions from 11-11:30, which will also be broadcast live.

Come and learn about the structures of our regional governments. Bring questions about these organizations. Do they benefit you as you live in this area? How are they funded? Do they represent the will of the people? These are a few questions I've thought of; I'm sure you can bring many more.

Chlele Gummer

Director of Program

## **Theater Party and Fundraiser for the League of Women Voters and the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy**

**Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2012**

**Location: 6th Street Playhouse, Santa Rosa**

**Wine and hors d'oeuvres: 7 pm**

**Play: 8 pm**

**Donation: \$30 a person**

Send your check for \$30 per person to:  
League of Women Voters of Sonoma  
County

555 5th Street, Suite 300-O  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

or to:

Leadership Institute for Ecology and the  
Economy

555 5th Street, Suite 300A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401



For more information, please call Susannah at 792-2660 or Tanya at 578-9133.

**Please join us for a fun night of theater with friends.**

**This is a preview show before opening night!**

**Theater Party and Fundraiser for the League of Women Voters  
and the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy**

**PROOF, Directed by David Lear**

**Winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play.**

*On the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that her father left behind. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: how much of her father's madness—or genius—will she inherit?*

## SAVE THE DATE

**Save these dates**

*(there may be changes)*

**January Sat.21 *Forum on Regional Governments***

**Sat. 28 *Program Planning***

**February Wed. 8 *Theater Party , 'Proof'***

**March Wed. 14 *Lunch with the League***

**May Fri. 18 *Family Justice Center***

**June Sat.2 *Annual Membership Meeting***




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## Local Program Planning General Meeting

Do you care about voting? Never miss an election? Then you need to come to the League's program planning meeting on January 28, 2012.

The League sets its agenda through the Program Planning process. You vote because you care about who will be setting our political future; you need to come make your voice heard about what you want the League's future to be.

This is a great meeting to attend, especially if you are fairly new to the League. We will be examining our National and local positions and making recommendations about what should be changed, added or deleted.

We'll be discussing League policy and positions at the National and local level, including where we should focus our energy over the next year. This year we completed our local study on Juvenile Justice. Do we think there should be a new study? What should be our focus? What are the areas of concern to us here in Sonoma County?

If you want your voice to be heard then attend the Program Planning meeting. It's the start of the grassroots process and the place for each of us to make our opinions heard.

DeeDee Bridges



## VOTER SERVICE

Make a New Years Resolution to join the Voter Service committee.

Voter Service Committee needs You! We meet the first Thursday of every month, January 5th, February 2nd, March 1st, April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th and so on.

In 2012 there will be the exciting, important elections affecting Sonoma County:

- President
- U.S. Senator
- Two members of the House
- Two State Senators
- Three members of the Assembly.

[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

There are also four Statewide Ballot Measures for June 2012:

- \*Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office
- \*Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research
- \*Safe, Clean and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act
- \*Restricts Union Political Fundraising by Payroll Deduction

And finally, County Supervisor office for District 1, currently held by Valerie Brown; District 3, currently held by Shirlee Zane; and District 5, currently held by Efren Carrillo.

Please feel free to contact me at [drc\\_lcg@pacbell.net](mailto:drc_lcg@pacbell.net)

Linda Garcia

## JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR

Thursday, Jan. 5	10 a.m.– noon	The Conference Room*	Voter Service Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 12	2:00 p.m.	The Conference Room*	Board meeting. Open to members, and by invitation, open to the public.
TBD	10:30 a.m.	The Conference Room*	Membership Committee
Thursday, Jan. 19	10:30 - noon	The Conference Room*	Book Group
Saturday, Jan.21	9:30-11:30 a.m.	Santa Rosa City Council Chambers	Forum on Regional Government
Wednesday, Jan 25	9:30 a.m. - noon	The Conference Room*	Advocacy Meeting
Saturday, Jan.28	10:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Christ Church United Methodist	Program Planning

*\*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.



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## NEW MEMBERS & ADDRESS CHANGES

**Julee Fullenwider**  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

**Address change**  
**Dawna Gallagher-Stroeh and Dietrich Stroeh**  
Novato, CA 94947

## USE FACEBOOK?

Ways of communicating are changing. We no longer send the monthly newsletter by bulk mail. Instead we use email.

Using Facebook would improve our outreach. Many active people, including elected officials, use Facebook to stay in touch. This is an audience we should inform and attract.

Is there somebody out there who would be willing to help the League communicate with members, elected officials, and the community through Facebook? If so, I would appreciate an email or a phone call.

Willard Richards, Secretary  
secretary@lwvsonoma.org

## BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012, 9 - 2  
METROCENTER, 101 EIGHTH STREET, OAKLAND,  
94607, ONE BLOCK FROM LAKE MERRITT BART  
PRESENTED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
BAY AREA

For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an email to  
editor@bayareamonitor.org

Or visit:

<http://www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org/calendar.html>



sca0355 www.fotosearch.com



## 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.