



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 10, No. 2

March 2005

What's changing?

VOTING!

What needs fixing?

What's working?

The League is pleased to have Janice Atkinson, Assistant Registrar of Voters for Sonoma County, speaking to us on the topic of **“Elections, Voting, Democracy.”** Her presentation will include current issues facing the voting process: touch screen voting; electronic ballots; paper trails; provisional ballots...as well as other “Hot Button Issues.” Janice will encourage questions from the audience. This should be an informative and lively program.

Janice began her career in election administration in 1972, worked her way up through the division, was appointed Division Chief in 1979, and assumed the position of Assistant Department Head in 1995. As Assistant Registrar of Voters, Janice heads the division responsible for the conduct of all elections in the county, including city, school, and special district elections.



Janice Atkinson

She brings not only expertise to her presentation, but enthusiasm and an abiding commitment to help the community understand what is entailed in this most important job.

We are fortunate to also have League member **Eve Roberson** who served 3 weeks in Ohio with the “Citizens for Secure Elections” following the November '04 election. She will make a short presentation on her experience. She will explain what she learned and discuss her testimony before Congressman Conyers’ Committee hearings on “Open and Secure Elections.”

Please bring a guest and your questions and plan to join us for what is sure to be an informative program.

Saturday, March 19
10 AM to Noon
Rincon Valley Regional Library
6959 Montecito Blvd.
Santa Rosa
Coffee/Tea and Light Refreshments
Questions: Sandy Benson,
763-1629

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The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County

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 Marsha Vas Dupre
 May Huddleston
 Lynda Hungerford
 Caroline Ramberg

OAKMONT UNIT MEETING, MARCH 31

On March 31, the Oakmont Unit of the League will meet at Berger Center in the Fireside Room, 10:00 AM until noon. You are invited to come and bring your friends and neighbors to see the film, "Thirst." There will be a discussion of water issues. For information, contact Jean Gilmore at 537-1639.

WANTED:

Three volunteers to keep voter registration forms supplied to designated locations in Sonoma County

We have 17 active volunteers now, but have 3 openings. The areas to be covered are Santa Rosa J.C., Windsor and Bodega Bay. This task is:

1. A rewarding civic duty.
2. A fun job with no meetings to attend or reports to write.
3. Easy, with little work involved, perhaps four times a year, and usually concentrated in the two months before elections.
4. A big-time fundraiser for the League.

If interested, please contact Glenice or Larz Anderson at 573-4535.



BOOK CLUB CORNER

The book group invites you to join them at 2191 Siesta Lane on Thursday, March 17, at 10:30 AM to discuss *The Coming Generational Storm: What You Need to Know about America's Economic Future* by Laurence Kotlikoff and Scott Burns.

Kotlikoff is Professor of Economics at Boston University. He has been a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Fellow of the Econometric Society, and, in 1981-82, a Senior Economist with the President's Council of Economic Advisors. Burns is a financial columnist for *The Dallas Morning News*.



Laurence Kotlikoff

This book presents a dire picture of our financial future based on demographic realities that are widely known and "generational accounting."

Storm challenges those who minimize the consequences of the demographic picture and those who refuse to acknowledge both the size and potential impact of the deficit. The authors are non-partisan in their rejection of current nostrums, both Democratic and Republican. Of course *Storm* may be as wide off the mark as *The Population Bomb* or *Future Shock*, and we will consider that possibility too.



League members and guests are invited to join in our book discussions the third Thursday of every month from 10:30 AM until noon. The title of the book selected for April will be posted on our website: <http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org> shortly after the February meeting.

Lynda Hungerford

WATER REPORT ON THE WEB

You may now view and download LWVSC's *Water Watch in Sonoma County*.

Go to: <http://sonco.ca.lwvnet.org/>. Click on "Publications" and "Water Watch."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every year we conduct legislative interviews with our elected representatives for state League. Many thanks go to Susan Milstein and Nancy and Willard Richards for interviewing Noreen Evans. Liz Hawthorne and Joyce Scramaglia interviewed Wes Chesbro. We will also participate in the interview of Joe Nation with the Marin league.



Please take a moment to visit our national and state League websites. These resources are always full of information of interest to all of us. By visiting our national League website at <http://www.lwv.org>, you will find information about our opposition to the "Clear Skies Initiative" and support of the Clean Air Act. There is also a letter to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. At this point, I would like to ask if you would like to mentor other League members so that more people may realize how informative these websites are and how easy it is to use them. If you would like to assist, please let me know.

Finally, to Sandy Benson, Janie Hawker, Susannah Likins and everyone who helped make our theater party a success, thank you very much. I can't wait to attend next year.

Carol Ann Fontana-Cary

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

The International Relations Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, March 8, at noon at 226 Windsor Drive, Petaluma. It is a brown-bag lunch session.



Sudanese Refugees in Darfur

The topic for discussion will be **Sudan's Crisis in Darfur**. The conflict in Sudan's Darfur region has drawn the world's attention because of the humanitarian crisis it has spawned. What role will the international community take in resolving the Darfur crisis? What role should the U.S. play?

The group meets the second Tuesday of each month except in January, July, August and December. The topics are selected from the *Great Decisions* briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association in New York City. If anyone is interested in purchasing the *Great Decisions* briefing book or has a question about the group, please contact Rosalie Gillmore at 769-8826. All members and friends are welcome to join the group discussion.

Rosalie Gillmore

In honor of International Women's Day and Sponsored by the United Nations Association

WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

a talk by International Women's Advocate

SOHEIR STOLBA, PH.D.

*President, Share Institute
President, International Health and Development Association
Medical Anthropologist*



When

Saturday, March 12
1:30 - 2:00 PM Snacks
2:00 - 3:30 PM Program

Where

Fellowship Hall
First United Methodist Church
1551 Montgomery Drive
Santa Rosa

Free Admission

Public Invited

For more information: <http://www.unasonomacounty.org>

BOARD BRIEFS

February 2005

At the February 1 meeting of the LWVSC board of directors, the following key items were covered:

- The board approved a revised Electronic Mail and Communication Policy that will allow us to send electronic messages to notify members of important dates and events not listed in the VOTER without also having to send notification through the regular mail.
- In reviewing the recommendations made at the State and Local Program Planning Meeting on January 24, the board approved the recommendations to retain all state positions and to update the state League positions on Agriculture, Election Systems, Open Government and Water. The board voted to recommend passage of the revised local Transportation position at the Annual Membership meeting in June.
- The board will seek members interested in chairing study committees next year in one policy area that was recommended for update and in three that were recommended for study at the Jan. 24 meeting. Transportation was recommended for an update and Agriculture, Land Use and Water Privatization were recommended for local study. The membership will vote on these recommendations at the Annual Meeting in June.
- Acting on the recommendation of the Action Review Committee, the board voted to support Measure A, the Cotati-Rohnert Park Parcel Tax for Schools.
- Voter Outreach: League volunteers are needed to deliver voter registration forms around the county.
- Phyllis Clement will chair the Budget Committee.
- Sandy Benson and Olive Horrell volunteered to be the board members on the Nominating Committee. Susan Gorin, Chair, Janie Hawker and Caroline Ramberg also are on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Milstein

NEW MEMBER

Victoria Wikle
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Villa Grande, CA 95486
865-2474
victoriawikle@usa.net

THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Mildred Benioff
Margaret Millner

MEMBER PROFILE

Willard Richards

Have you ever suspected that League membership is genetically determined? That the gene involved may be linked to others that lead to the persistent pursuit of hard work, often for no personal gain? If there is such a gene, Willard Richards is a prime example.



Richards' mother was an active Leaguer in Riverside, California, where he grew up. After graduating from California Institute of Technology, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Harvard, staying in Massachusetts until 1974. He moved to Santa Rosa in 1979 to join an environmental consulting firm.

Three years later he was a co-founder of Sonoma Technology, Inc., a firm that provides air quality and meteorological research and services. Richards stepped back from full-time participation in the firm in 1997 when the firm moved from Santa Rosa to Petaluma, but he is still an active air quality consultant.

As a volunteer, he put his professional expertise to use for the benefit of us all when he worked on the development of Santa Rosa's ordinance for wood stoves.

Following that, he worked on the charter review committee for Santa Rosa that recommended the strengthening of Santa Rosa's campaign finance ordinance. He then led our League's effort to influence the implementation of the charter review committee's recommendations with as strong an ordinance as possible.

A League member since 1999, at League events he has been known to introduce himself as "Mr. Nancy Richards." His League activity picked up considerably when his wife, Nancy, took on the job of President and he took on the portfolio of Voters Service.

As Voters Service chair, he established the goal of ensuring that each of Sonoma County's nine cities and the county itself had candidate forums for every contested city council and county supervisors election.

In addition to his League work, Richards is treasurer of Friends of SMART, a citizens group working for the resumption of passenger rail, and he is active in the Sonoma County Transportation and Land Use Coalition. According to Richards, the prime motivation for his commitment to transportation policy is less its impact on air quality than its link to land use. "Transportation policy," he says, "is key to keeping our county the way we like it."

In addition to civic activities, Nancy and Willard Richards maintain a garden on a forty-acre retreat near Geyserville—another way to keep the county "the way we like it."

Lynda Hungerford

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

In February, we heard three members of a committee appointed by Supervisor Paul Kelley describe the expansion plans of California American Water (Cal Am), which provides water to the Larkfield/Wikiup area. Our visitors were concerned about both Cal Am's expansion plans and the proposal to combine Larkfield/Wikiup with Cal Am operations near Sacramento for ratemaking purposes.

Water Privatization

Clean Money Campaign

Solid Waste Disposal

SMART Property

Cal Am has purchased 7.5 acres outside their present service area in the open space separator beside Highway 101 near Mark West Station Road and is making plans to drill a new well there estimated to cost \$1 million. The California Public Utilities Commission recently allowed Cal Am to include \$275,000 of the cost in their rate base to fund planning and permitting. Our visitors indicated that water rates in Larkfield/Wikiup are already almost double those in Windsor and Forestville, and that they could not identify the need for the additional supply.

Phyllis Stanley is the LWVSC member leading this effort. Work is continuing to learn more about Cal Am's plans and the resulting issues, as well as League positions that enable action.

While this article is in press, Stan Gold will make a presentation to the Action Committee about co-sponsoring a forum with the California Clean Money Campaign in April. More information on this is available at <http://www.caclean.org>, and information on the experience with Clean Money elections in Arizona and Maine can be found at <http://www.publiccampaign.org>. See the April VOTER for details on the forum.

Leena Merritt is the LWVSC representative on the Solid Waste Committee, and will report at the Action Committee meeting on current efforts to solve the solid waste issue in Sonoma County. Roni Jacobi will discuss ways that League members can become involved in the Sonoma County General Plan Update. I will comment on the status of the plans to develop the SMART property across the tracks from the old railroad station in Railroad Square.

There is an abundance of opportunities for local action. If you wish to become more involved in your community, come to the Action Committee meetings at 10 AM in the League office on the third Tuesday of each month.

Willard Richards, Action Chair
(707) 575-7160

VOTERS SERVICE

As you know, there will be a special election on March 8 with 10 school tax measures on the ballot.

The measures are:

- Measure A: Cotati-Rohnert Park - \$97 per year for 4 years
- Measure B: West Sonoma County High - \$76 per year for 8 years
- Measure C: Forestville - \$76.34 per year for 8 years
- Measure D: Gravenstein - \$52 per year for 8 years
- Measure E: Harmony - \$52 per year for 8 years
- Measure F: Oak Grove - \$52 per year for 8 years
- Measure G: Old Adobe - \$75 per year for 6 years
- Measure H: Piner-Olivet - \$72 per year for 6 years
- Measure I: Sebastopol - \$52 per year for 8 years
- Measure J: Twin Hills - \$52 per year for 8 years

Information on all of the March 8 local measures is available on Smart Voter, <http://www.smartvoter.org>.

There will *not* be a Voters Service meeting in March.

Rosalie Gillmore

ACTION – SONOMA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The LWVSC and about nine other Sonoma County organizations will sign a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending a series of public meetings as part of the final approval process for the Sonoma County General Plan. This plan has been in preparation for nearly three years, and the current draft is available on the County website at <http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/gp2020/index.html>.

Even though the process has been open, few members of the public have participated in the detailed work required to prepare this draft. Now, when the draft is about to be published and go before the Planning Commission, is a good time to become involved.

The letter to the Supervisors was prepared by Greenbelt Alliance. Their local representative, Kelly Brown, spoke to the Action Committee in February and presented a report that lists five critical issues that merit public inputs: open space, agriculture, water, affordable housing and transportation. Seven specific action items are recommended. The report is available at <http://www.greenbelt.org>.

Is your issue the conversion of forests to vineyards, or the use of package wastewater treatment plants to permit development in rural areas? My focus is on transportation. If you wish more information, contact Kelly Brown or me.

Willard Richards, Action Chair

LEAGUE INTERVIEWS 7TH DISTRICT ASSEMBLYWOMAN NOREEN EVANS

Susan Milstein and Nancy and Willard Richards met with Assemblywoman Noreen Evans on January 21 for League's annual legislative interview. Evans, an LWVSC member, is already knowledgeable about many state issues and is enthusiastic about her committee assignments to Budget, Judiciary, Veterans Affairs and Budget Subcommittee overseeing funding for environmental and natural resources programs. She is also Chair of the Assembly Committee on Human Services. Here are highlights from our interview.

The State Budget: Evans said she tells "anyone who will listen" in Sacramento that her constituents tell her they would be willing to pay higher taxes for increased services. But since Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the Republican legislators have pledged not to raise taxes, she and her colleagues in the Legislature are forced to devise other possible solutions to the state's budget crisis. One possibility is to try to get more federal funds directed to California. Evans said that there is a \$50 billion gap between what the State pays annually in federal taxes and what it receives in federal grants and services. "If we got one-tenth of what the federal government owes us, it would solve our on-going deficit," Evans said. She is hopeful that the governor's good relationship with President Bush and other Republican national leaders will translate into more federal funds for California. "California is well-positioned to get much of our money back," she said. "If we can't do it now, we can't ever do it." Evans supports an annual review of tax expenditures. She has had discussions with her colleagues about analyzing current tax incentives to determine whether loopholes and incentives are having the effect they were intended to have when they were adopted. If the tax breaks aren't working as intended, they should be eliminated, resulting in increased state revenues.

Budget Cuts: Without a tax increase or more federal funds, Evans said the only three areas that can be cut enough to make a substantial savings in the budget are the corrections system, education and social services. The area where she favors looking for savings is the corrections system. As chair of the Human Resources Committee, she will be looking into consolidating the application processes for state social service programs as one way to save funds.

Health Care: Evans said she will likely support State Senator Sheila Kuehl's universal health care bill to be introduced in February. She is also co-authoring a package of legislative proposals designed to lower the cost to consumers of prescription drugs.

Redistricting: Evans does not favor the governor's redistricting proposal because it would put the responsi-

bility for redrawing district lines "in the hands of a randomly chosen group of retired judges, who, almost without exception, are white men age 65 or older, and who would do their work in a back room with no public scrutiny. This is not something I heard people mention on the campaign trail," she said. "The governor's proposal would create more problems than it is trying to correct."

Term Limits: Evans thinks six-year limits contribute to the divisiveness in the Legislature and discourage legislators from building bi-partisan alliances that would help them work together to find solutions to California's most difficult problems. When one-third of the legislature leaves every two years, she said that it is difficult to develop collegial, bi-partisan relationships. She added,

legislators have a limited time to "make their mark" in the public arena and some take strident stands on issues in an effort to "get noticed and make a name for themselves" instead of building alliances and cooperating with their colleagues on problem solving. "I think extending term limits would allow people to get beyond partisan politics and address long-term, structural problems of the state," she said.

Financing of Campaigns: She said the campaign finance laws currently on the books work well. She sees public financing of campaigns as "desirable but unlikely in the near future" given the ongoing budget problems of our state.

Proposition 13: Evans supports the reassessment of the fair market value of commercial property "on a regular basis, not just when the property changes hands."



Assemblywoman Noreen Evans

Major Issues in 2005 and Personal Priorities: In the area of human services, Evans wants to ensure that the re-authorization of the Federal Welfare Act does not have a negative effect on the state's welfare program. She wants to improve the foster care system, especially the transition to adulthood for foster children who turn 18 and are immediately released from the system. Evans also intends to fight for continued, and possibly increased, funding for waterway restoration projects involving Santa Rosa Creek, the Napa River, the Vallejo waterfront and the wetlands in Vallejo. She plans to introduce legislation to allow rural communities to meet state-mandated housing requirements in different ways than are currently permitted, such as negotiating with cities to have them assume a portion of the counties' housing requirements and having new housing concentrated in existing urban service centers in unincorporated areas. Finally, Evans plans to educate both the Governor and the legislature on the uniqueness of the natural environment and the diverse agriculture in our part of the state.

MARCH 5 FORUM TO RELEASE NEW REPORT ANALYZING THE WIDENING INCOME GAP IN THE NORTH BAY

New Economy, Working Solutions (NEWS) will release a new report, "The Limits of Prosperity: Growth, Inequality and Poverty in the North Bay," at a forum on Saturday, March 5, at Santa Rosa Junior College. NEWS is a non-profit research and educational organization supported by labor, religious and community organizations in the North Bay. The report, funded by the University of California Institute for Labor and Employment, documents the polarization of incomes, the growth of working poverty in the North Bay, and the impacts on the economic wellbeing of working families in Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino and Napa counties.

The study is an unprecedented analysis of long-term trends in inequality in the North Bay, based on the latest available data from the Census Bureau and the State of California.

The report analyzes employment growth by industry and occupation, wages, working family income and poverty. UC researchers Dan Acland and Nari Rhee examine how the economic growth and prosperity of the 1990s was accompanied by an expansion of working poverty, and the persistence of racial and gender inequality in all four counties.

The main findings of the report include:

1. Growing income inequality Income inequality in the North Bay grew incrementally during the 1980s, but spiked sharply during the 1990s. Between 1989 and 1999, working families at both the middle and bottom trailed far behind the richest families in income growth.

- During the 1990s, the income of the top one-fifth of working families grew six times as fast as that of the bottom one-fifth in Sonoma and Napa counties.
- During the same period, the income of the top one-fifth in Marin grew by +38%, while that of the bottom one-fifth fell 2% in real terms.
- In Mendocino County, only the top one-fifth saw income growth (10%), while the incomes of the bottom four-fifths fell 2-10% in real terms.

2. Growing ranks of working poor During the boom of the 1990s, the percentage of working families living in poverty and facing serious economic hardship increased in the North Bay. The report indicates that one in six working families in the North Bay do not receive wages and income sufficient to pay for basic needs.

"Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey will chair a panel of elected officials including Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, Sonoma County Supervisor Mike Kerns, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Wong..."

"The single biggest roadblock to working families' efforts to improve their lives is the poverty-wage, dead-end character of jobs in fast-growing sectors like tourism."

3. Emergence of the hourglass economy The primary cause for growing inequality and poverty even during times of rapid economic growth is the emergent hourglass economy, in which job growth is primarily split between high- and low-wage occupations, and middle-wage job creation is weak. Projected job growth in the North Bay will further widen the bottom of this hourglass and worsen poverty and inequality.

- Over one-third of North Bay workers do not earn wages that will allow two parents working full time to support two children.
- Over one-half of North Bay workers do not earn a high enough hourly wage for a single parent raising a child to meet the most basic monthly expenses.

4. Latinos are a growing underclass Latinos, the fastest growing ethnic group in the North Bay, are the most likely to experience working poverty.

- In Mendocino County, where economic hardship is the worst in the region, more than 30% of all working families and 60% of Latino families cannot make ends meet.
- Region-wide, Latinos are twice as likely to be poor

as Anglos.

- Compared to the population as a whole, Latinos are five times as likely to be in farming occupations and twice as likely to be in production and service occupations—the occupations with the lowest wages.

The report argues "the single biggest roadblock to working families' efforts to improve their lives is the poverty-wage, dead-end character of jobs in fast-growing sectors like tourism." The report concludes with specific policy recommendations to reduce inequality and poverty in the region, such as raising the minimum wage, expanded protections for the right of workers to organize unions, and increased access for low-income families to affordable housing and quality health care.

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey will chair a panel of elected officials including Assemblywoman Noreen Evans, Sonoma County Supervisor Mike Kerns, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carl Wong and other community leaders who will hear a summary of the findings by the researchers and presentations by low-wage workers struggling to make ends meet. The forum will be held in the Faculty Lounge/Doyle Student Center at Mendocino Ave. and Elliott from 9:00 AM-11:30 AM. Coffee will be provided at 9AM. The facility is wheelchair accessible and admission is free. Co-sponsors of the forum include the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County and many other local organizations.

The report will be available after March 1 at <http://www.neweconomynorthbay.org>. For more information, call Martin Bennett at 707-545-7349 ext 221 or email: JnnfFlch@aol.com.

**MORE THAN 100
ATTEND JANUARY BAY
AREA LEAGUE DAY**



Bay Area Regional Planning – from Vision to Reality

This year's Bay Area League Day was well attended by more than 100 attentive, enthusiastic participants. Ted Droettboom, Regional Planning Program Director for the MTC, ABAG, BAAQMD Joint Policy Committee (JPC) listed the four areas of regional concern as:

- Housing (population)
- Traffic/transportation (infrastructure)
- Economic activity (jobs)
- Environment/air quality (open space)

He pointed out that there exist agencies that have responsibilities for each area except jobs/economic activity. He also noted how interrelated they all are.

The mandate for the JPC is to promote the *Smart Growth Vision*. One of the best ways to do this is to "maintain and strengthen existing communities." Regional collaboration has moved in a mode characterized by "hills and valleys," but it needs to move with "slow measured progress."

He reported that at the last meeting of the JPC on Jan. 28, the day before our event, there was consensus to stop agonizing about "the how" and "just do it!" For more info on the JPC: <http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/>

As the first speaker on the "Alternative Models for Regional Planning" panel, Revan Tranter, former Executive Director of ABAG, made a point of the importance of planning for 45 years from now. Would we not be in a better position if planning had begun in 1960?

Will Travis, Executive Director of Bay Conservation and Development Commission, said that his training in planning had taught him to ask two questions:

- What do we want to achieve?
- Why can't we do it with what we have?

Nick Bollman, CEO and President of California Center for Regional Leadership (CCRL), said they organized to add the 4th E, Civic Engagement, to sustainable development concepts of Economy, Environment and Equity and are presently working with 20 regional and civic groups. He stated "Regionalism is breaking out all over." You can learn more about CCRL at: <http://www.calregions.org/>

All the local officials on the "Thinking Regionally, Acting Locally" panel agreed that it was easy to get local jurisdictions to talk *Smart Growth* talk, but difficult to get them to walk the walk. Mostly, they said that if you are willing to have rational and consistent principles you don't fear being thrown out of office for supporting a more regional viewpoint.

(From the February 2005 LWVBA VOTER)

LWVSC PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING



Program Planning Meeting, January 24, 2005. Photo by Willard Richards

Every year, LWVSC reviews the state and local positions and recommends updates and new areas for study. This year, members met at the Rincon Valley Library on January 24 and made the following recommendations:

1. To retain all State (LWVC) positions
2. To update State positions on agriculture, election systems, open government, and water
3. To recommend education and advocacy for:
 - a) **Education** Especially for early childhood education
 - b) **Growth Management** To ensure our development occurs in a well-planned manner, integrating housing, transportation, and land use
 - c) **Water** Address concerns about privatization

Members agreed to retain all local positions and suggested an update to the transportation position for consistency with the State. For next year, it is recommended that our League undertake an update of our transportation position to include passenger rail. Included in the update would be a study of the SMART proposal to fund a passenger rail system including suggested routes, projected ridership, and anticipated costs and subsidies.



Susan Gorin moderated the meeting and Susan Milstein was the scribe. Photo by Willard Richards

**Join the Gang –
Become a member of the
Charles M. Schulz Museum**



We have a world-class museum as an attraction in our county. Memberships are important to sustain the museum, and every membership level rewards YOU!

Call Maite @ 579-4452 ext. 108
or visit the Museum web site:
www.SchulzMuseum.org
Click on Membership.



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QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING?

Attend the March program. Details are on page 1.



League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$50.00 for individual annual membership, \$75.00 for household, and \$37.00 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.

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 _____

MARCH 2005 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Tuesday, March 1	10:00 AM – Noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Board Meeting League members are welcome. Board meetings are not open to the public.
Saturday, March 5	9:30 - 11:30 AM	Faculty Lounge Doyle Student Center Santa Rosa Junior College Mendocino and Elliot Aves. Santa Rosa	Forum: The Widening Income Gap in the North Bay See p. 7.
Tuesday, March 8	12:00 Noon	226 Windsor Drive Petaluma	International Relations Discussion Group “Sudan’s Crisis in Darfur” See p. 3.
Saturday, March 12	1:30 – 3:30 PM	Fellowship Hall First United Methodist Church 1551 Montgomery Drive Santa Rosa	“Women in the Middle East,” a talk by Soheir Stolba, Ph.D. Sponsored by the United Nations Association. See p. 3.
Tuesday, March 15	10:00 AM	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	Action Committee See p. 5.
Thursday, March 17	10:30 AM	2191 Siesta Lane Santa Rosa	Book Club <i>The Coming Generational Storm: What You Need to Know about America’s Economic Future.</i> See p. 2.
Thursday, March 31	10:00 AM – Noon	Fireside Room Berger Center Oakmont	Oakmont Unit Meeting “Thirst” See p. 2.

LINK TO CURRENT CALENDAR

The VOTER, a publication of The League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County, is published monthly except for the holiday season and during the summer, i.e. 9 issues per year. The deadline is generally the 10th of the month preceding the issue month.