



# THE VOTER

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

Volume 16, No.8

November 2011

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**Save the Date**

**ANNUAL WINTER  
SOCIAL AND  
SILENT  
AUCTION FUND-  
RAISER**

Sunday, December 4  
See page 8

**BAY AREA  
LEAGUE DAY:**

Housing and the Bay  
Area's Future  
Saturday, February 4,  
2012, 9 - 2  
*See page 7*

*This Year's Events!*  
*See page 6*

## National Education Study Consensus Meeting

Please come to our Consensus Meeting on Saturday, November 19, Rincon Valley Library on Montecito Boulevard just west of Maria Carillo High School. We will meet at 10 AM for refreshments, and the program will begin exactly at 10:30 AM with presentations, brown bag lunch at noon, followed by discussion of the consensus questions(15) of the five papers of the study to be completed by 2:00 PM. Coffee and punch will be provided.

All members can view the study at <http://www.lwv.org>, For Members, Projects and Programs, Education Study, or members can click on this link: <http://members.lwvsonoma.org/Education.html>.

To reach a true consensus we need everyone's input. If you can't attend the meeting and have some ideas you want to share with the group, take time to send them to me. Read the Education Papers produced by the National League to better inform your decisions. If you know members who require a printed copies in the link above, please let me know so that we can get the information to them.

Thank you for your participation in this study.

Chlele Gummer, Education Study Chair  
[chleleg@sonic.net](mailto:chleleg@sonic.net)

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*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  
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, Programs  
Nancy Richards, At Large*

The Juvenile Justice Consensus Meeting on Saturday, October 15, was one of the last steps the Juvenile Justice Interest Group presented in establishing a local position on Juvenile Justice in Sonoma County. This group of women has worked diligently for several years to come up with their findings for this issue, many thanks to Ann Berens, Angelica Tercerro, Katie Sanchez, Lynn Camhi and Linda Picton. Ethyl Schy was the moderator for the Consensus meeting and did a fantastic job.

Our involvement in studying issues is an integral part of who we are and what we do. We are non-partisan, but we are committed to take action on issues that we have studied in depth and on which our members have reached consensus. Because we are well known for our thorough study of an issue, community members rely on us and support us as we all work to implement an issue.

The Juvenile Justice Interest Group was a local study and we are now in the midst of The National Education Study, which will bring together the results of local leagues from around the United States. For our local league, Chlele Gummer will lead the membership study group to discuss and debate the facts, pros and cons. This is our core—this is what we are all about and each member brings a unique perspective to this process. For our results to truly reflect the opinions of the membership, we need you to come and be an active participant in this process.

When we talk to new voters, we always let them know that their one vote is so very important. The same goes for coming together to reach consensus on an issue. When you are not there, what doesn't get said? Who will be there to raise a question, or challenge a position?

You are so very important to the League. Each and every one of you is makes the League and strong and effective voice in the community. Please come and be part of this Consensus meeting on The National Education Study on November 19, 2011. Let's really make this a Thanksgiving. See you there!

Dee Dee Bridges, President  
president@lwvsonoma.org

## ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee met on September 28. We had a total of 10 attendees, including new members Julie Combs, Maggie Larue and Carroll Estes in addition to guest Alex Dolginow from Climate Protection Campaign.

We discussed the Community Impact Forum and all agreed that it was very productive and well done.

Other items discussed included:

- Preservation Ranch Project
- Santa Rosa Charter Review
- Airport Expansion
- Climate Recovery and Adaptation
- SMART

Carol Estes described her involvement with the National Committee to Preserve Medicare and Social Security. Local support is needed to educate voters regarding the true status of these vital programs.

Stan Gold provided information on the Disclose Act for campaign finance reform. It would require new reporting action intended to provide more transparency for large supporters of political advertising.

We will be meeting again on October 26 and will discuss status and additional information obtained as follow-up on several of the above items as well as any additional items that may be presented for consideration.

The Advocacy Committee will be meeting 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)

### 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.

# THANK YOU HARVEST FAIR VOLUNTEERS!



*A note from Gloria Coulter, Asst. Registrar of Voters, said, "Thank you and your members for a job well done. We are ever grateful for your efforts in ensuring every vote counts."*

League members answered the call to volunteer and helped register voters at the annual Harvest Fair, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa on Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and Oct. 2. Fourteen League members took time out of their busy weekend to register voters at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair. This had been a yearly event until a couple of years ago when the County had budget problems. However, this year the County again asked the League to register voters and paid for the booth and passes. Over the three-day period several people, as they strolled by, thanked us for our candidate forums around election time and just for "being there."

We registered 26 and 7 signed up to receive more information about League membership.

Thank you to the following people for taking a few hours out of your busy lives to help the League with this basic service we provide to the community.

Mary Lou Velasquez

Dee Dee Bridges

Max Bridges

Shirley Johnson-Foell

Nancy Richards

Jeannette Anglin

Juanita Roland

Nancy Lewis

Judie Giampaoli

Gail Whooley

Mary Fricker

Linda Garcia

Anita Lytle

Alice Richardson

The Harvest Fair is an annual event held the first weekend in October. We always need volunteers. Think about it.

Alice Richardson  
amr36@prodigy.net



A note from Gloria Coulter, Asst. Registrar of Voters, said, "Thank you and your members for a job well done. We are ever grateful for your efforts in ensuring every vote counts."

# BOARD BRIEFS

## For October 13, 2011

Treasurer Susannah Likins reported that the largest income item last month was \$2,205 from the Registrar of Voters for the second half of the contract to keep voter registration forms in display boxes throughout the County.

The LWVSC is a member of Latino Service Providers and attends their monthly meetings. We will provide lunch and the program for their February 23 meeting.

The Board recommended Saturday, March 31, as the date for a meeting for new members.

Max Bridges, Advocacy Chair reported that League members Julie Combs and Gary Wilkening will attend the Santa Rosa Charter Review Committee meetings and will report back. The Advocacy Committee discussed co-sponsoring a voter education forum on Preservation Ranch.

Dee Dee presented the Voter Service report for Linda Garcia. There was a discussion of the Leagues that we now need to coordinate with during elections in the new districts and also using radio broadcasts to reach out to some of the large districts that include parts of Sonoma County.

Willard Richards, Secretary



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.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Save these dates

*(there may be changes)*

**November Sat.19 National Education Study Consensus meeting**

**December Sun. 4 Holiday Party and Silent Auction**

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

**Sat. 28 Program Planning**

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

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

**April TBD SSU Lecture on "Following the Campaign Money"**

**May Fri. 18 Family Justice Center**

**June Sat.2 Annual Membership Meeting**

*"The Voter Service Committee needs your help. We need volunteers to fill key positions as we gear up for an exciting 2012. Consider attending a meeting on November 3, 2011, 10-12 at the League office."*

## VOTER SERVICE

This is my first year as Voter Service Chair. It will be an exciting 2012 election. If you would like to be part of it, we are meeting on Thursday, October 6, 2011, 10-12 at the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County office meeting room at 555 Fifth Street, Suite 300, Santa Rosa. Future meeting dates in 2011 are Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

The Voter Service Committee needs your help. We need volunteers to fill key positions as we gear up for an exciting 2012. Consider attending a meeting on November 3, 2011, 10-12 at the League office.

We will be discussing the training and staffing needs for the upcoming Forums and Pros & Cons registration for 2012. Consider being part of it. Please RSVP and tell a friend.

I look forward to hearing from you [drc\\_lcg@pacbell.net](mailto:drc_lcg@pacbell.net).

Best Regards, Linda Garcia



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

## BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY: HOUSING AND THE BAY AREA'S FUTURE

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



The keynote speaker will be David Rosen, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing finance, policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning.

There will be panels of experts on

- 1) meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities strategy,
  - 2) difficulties of financing affordable housing,
- and
- 3) how to serve the hardest to house.

There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience during each panel.

Cost: In advance: \$30 (\$15 without lunch); at the door \$35 (\$20 without lunch).

To register please write a check payable to "LWVBA" include your name and any guest names, and mail to

LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org).

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



**You are invited to the League of Women Voters – Sonoma County  
ANNUAL WINTER SOCIAL AND SILENT  
AUCTION FUNDRAISER**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4  
1—4 PM**

**LOCATED AT THE COTATI HILLTOP HOME OF  
BOB AND SUSANNAH LIKINS  
6868 GRAVENSTEIN HWY**

Always a merry gathering of members and guests who enjoy tasty treats with wine, spiced cider and other beverages, as they write-in their bids at the auction tables. As always, proceeds augment LWSC Santa Rosa office operating expenses.

**MOST IMPORTANT!!  
YOUR DONATIONS OF GOOD-QUALITY-OR-NEW ITEMS  
FOR AUCTION!**

Jewelry, bric-a-brac, art work, books, scarves, linens, silver, glassware, etc. Gift certificates for vacation rentals or services are desirable.

Call the League office for questions or to arrange pick up at 707-546-5943.

It helps to have a donation submitted early to facilitate preparation of bidding slips and labeling.

We look forward to seeing you!

# Book Group

Come to the November book group meeting on November 17 to help select an exciting and informative list of books for 2012. The group will meet on Thursday, November 17, at 10:30 AM, in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

At the November meeting attendees will suggest books for the year, discuss them, and then decide by vote and consensus which books to read in 2012 and create a tentative calendar. Even if a favorite book of yours is not selected, you will go home with an interesting reading list. Anyone considering joining the group is welcome to attend and make suggestions.

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

*Lynda Hungerford*

**lh@sonic.net**



## NOVEMBER 2011 CALENDAR

Thursday, Nov. 3	10 a.m.– noon	The Conference Room*	Voter Service Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 10	2:00 p.m.	The Conference Room*	Board meeting. Open to members, and by invitation, open to the public.
TBD	10 a.m.	The Conference Room*	Membership Committee
Thursday, Nov. 17	10:30 - noon	The Conference Room*	Book Group
Wednesday, Nov. 30	9:30 a.m. - noon	The Conference Room*	Advocacy Meeting
Friday, Nov. 25	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	151 Second Street, Petaluma	Petaluma Unit 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.



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## NEW MEMBERS

W  
e  
l  
c  
o  
m  
e  
!

Beth Haylock, Sebastopol 95473

Maggie LaRue, Santa Rosa 95409

Kathleen McConnell, Windsor 95492

Rejoined

Janet Hack, Cotati 94931

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following areas:

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Speakers Bureau \_\_\_\_\_ Social Policy \_\_\_\_\_

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

Natural Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Voters Service \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider joining at one of these levels:

Cable TV \_\_\_\_\_ Smart Voter \_\_\_\_\_

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership \$60

Community Outreach \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

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.