



The VOTER

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

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November 2008

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WINTER SOCIAL

SILENT AUCTION

Yes, Sunday, December 7th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM, is the correct date for our League's annual, fun-filled, fund raiser event, always well attended and generously supported by our members and friends. Enjoy delectable refreshments, beverages and the spirited bidding for a wide variety of auction items. All proceeds go to support our local League programs and office.

We need many, many nice auction items! Please donate curios, treasures, what-nots, trinkets. Recycle things of good quality. Auction items can be left at the League office or call Phyllis Clement, 823-0925, or Janie Hawker, 584-5210, for pick-up. Check the December VOTER for full details.



Janie Hawker

GENERAL MEETING

CLIMATE CHANGE

LOCAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

SPEAKER – RENATA BRILLINGER

Project Manager

Climate Protection Campaign

Introduction by Ardath Lee

Saturday, November 15

10:30 AM to Noon

Rincon Valley Library

6959 Montecito Blvd. Santa Rosa

Refreshments will be served

The Climate Protection Campaign (CPC) has led the way in Sonoma County and in the Nation in setting targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and developing strategies for achieving those targets. Under the leadership of the CPC, all nine cities in Sonoma County, the County, and the Water Agency have adopted a bold target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 1990 levels by 2015.

The key question now is, what do we do now to meet this target? Renata Brillinger of the CPC will present the County's newly released Community Climate Action Plan. The Plan lays out cost effective solutions for achieving rapid greenhouse gas reductions, all of which are under local control. This is a chance to hear about the Plan that will transform our energy and transportation infrastructure.

See page 5 for more information.

The League of Women Voters of Sonoma County

100 E Street, Suite 209
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-546-5943

league@lwvsonoma.org
<http://www.lwvsonoma.org/>

See CONTACT US page to email Directors

Directors on the Executive Committee

Chlele Gummer, President
Gloria Norton, VP Administration
Susannah Likins, Treasurer
Phyllis Stanley, VP Action/Advocacy
Carol Adams, Past President

Directors:

Elaine Book, Secretary
DeeDee Bridges, Voters Service
Sandy deLorimier, VP Program
George Ellman, Bay Area Representative
Nancy and Willard Richards, VOTER Editors
Ethel Schy, Membership

BOOK GROUP

League members are invited to join the book group to help select the books we will discuss in 2009. We will meet at 10:30 AM, Thursday, November 20 in the League office, Suite 209, 100 E Street, Santa Rosa.

The group will not meet in December.

To learn what book we will discuss on Thursday, January 15, check the calendar of events on our local League web site, <http://www.lwvsonoma.org>, after December first or call me.

If you have any questions about the group, please call or send me a message.

Lynda Hungerford

539-5770 league@lwvsonoma.org

MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In October, I received the annual state League Resource Directory. In it are some interesting statistics. Of the 68 local leagues within the state of California, Sonoma County ranks within the top twelve in membership. Within the top twelve are

seven Bay Area Leagues: Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, 372; Los Altos and Mountain View, 256; Marin County, 251; North and Central San Mateo County, 246; Oakland, 315; San Francisco, 282; and Sonoma County, 242. These membership totals are last year's statistics; I'm guessing that all Leagues are having lower renewal rates as we are, due to the money crunch that we all are experiencing. Nonetheless, our ranking within the top 12 impressed me. For the smaller population size of Sonoma County in relation to the other Bay Area Leagues, we have as many members doing many worthwhile projects.

Just think of all the candidate debates we have sponsored this election season, the advocacy forum for Proposition 11 and Measure Q, the 18 Pros/Cons presentations members prepared for and put on, the voter registration tables we have manned, the 3000 Pros and Cons pamphlets many members have distributed and jobs that I have forgotten to mention. We are a vital force in the role of voter education, as we are in guarding our democracy with our witness and advocacy. We have earned the right to be proud of our Sonoma County League of Women Voters. You are allowed to brag a little as you ask your friends to join us. There is much more for us to do and we need their help.

Please contact me with ideas and suggestions.

Chlele Gummer, President
707-537-1207: chleleg@sonic.net.





Craig Scheiner Photo

Candidates for the Santa Rosa City Council at the September 29, 2008 forum.

VOTERS SERVICE

Voters Service activities continue at a great clip. At the time this VOTER is being written there are still League members out there conducting forums, presenting pros and cons, delivering easy voter guides and pros and cons to sites throughout the County, registering voters, and keeping the voter registration boxes filled.

A final wrap up of this almost overwhelming election season will be presented in the December VOTER. Stay tuned.

As an aside, there were 130 versions of the ballot for Sonoma County. Surely a challenge for any voter registrar's office.

DeeDee Bridges

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NEXT PRESIDENT

Mary Wilson, president of the United States League, in an open letter to the next U.S. president cites four crucial problems confronting our country, **climate change, immigration, health care and growing inequality.**

Climate change threatens our public health, our environment and our economy. She calls for reducing global warming by capping pollution, reducing greenhouse emissions and quickly shifting to clean technology.

The health care system leaves 47 million Americans uninsured while creating havoc for the economy due to rapidly rising health care costs.

The immigration system has not addressed the status of 12 million unauthorized immigrants living and working in the U.S. The system is incapable of dealing with legal and illegal immigrants.

Growing inequality in wealth and incomes threatens our society. In 2000, 31.5 million Americans were living in poverty. In 2006, that number had increased to 36.5 million. That means 12.2% of Americans are living in poverty, defined as a family of 4 earning less than \$20,500 a year. This gap between rich and poor is widening due to an unfair tax system and insufficient public investment in education, job creation, and crucial social support to low income individuals.

League president Mary Wilson believes that these four issues should be a priority for the next president of the United States.

Nancy Richards



BOARD BRIEFS

Board was reminded that Bay Area League Day is scheduled for January 31. The topic that will be discussed is "Water: California's New Gold".

G. Norton reported that a number of members registered voters at Exchange Banks throughout the County during the week of September 29.

C. Gummer said that a budget committee should convene in January or February to plan the 2009-2010 budget.

D. Bridges suggested that LWVSC produce a DVD of pros and cons that could be sent to various schools and organizations that request pros and cons speakers as the number of requests seems to be outstripping our ability to meet them.

Board approved spending up to \$250 for an easel replacement and LWVSC banners.

Board approved a draft of a letter written by Stan Gold in opposition to Petaluma's Measure K. The advocacy committee will finalize the letter and return it to the board for final approval.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



The International Relations discussion group will meet on **Tuesday, November 11, 2008, at 12 noon in the Santa Rosa League office.** It is a brown-bag lunch session. The November *Great Decisions*

discussion is the final meeting for 2008.

The topic of discussion is: "**Private Philanthropy.** Foreign aid: new players, new goal? Billionaire Warren Buffett's June 2007 pledge to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation prompted headlines about the size of the gift and the impact it could have on global education and health initiatives. Can private donors be more effective than governments in tackling world problems?" Check the website at www.greatdecisions.org.

Everyone is welcome with or without the *Great Decisions* briefing book. Printed media articles are welcome on the topic of discussion. If anyone has a question about the group, please contact me at 769-8826.

Rosalie Gillmore

5 IDEAS FOR OUR M R I

(Membership Recruitment and Retention Initiative)

ASK: Ask your friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers and others to join League. Recently Rosalie Gillmore asked Helen Grieco and Cynthia Morfin, and they joined. Nancy Richards also asked Dawna Gallagher and Debbie Schneider, and they joined.



Just keep some applications handy or email me their addresses. ethels@sonic.net

INVITE: Invite people to our events. Phyllis Stanley and Nancy Richardson are just two of our members who have had success inviting people to our events. If possible, offer a ride - it's good for the environment and for making friends!

ENCOURAGE: Encourage members to participate by citing examples like Amy Southwick, Alice Richardson, our past presidents, and so many others who have been examples and mentors.

TELL: Tell people **your** League story so they'll know the benefits of joining. For example, my story is that I've been enriched by participating in studies on the national, state and local levels. There is much to learn from the study materials, but the process of coming to consensus by asking ourselves questions that help us examine our values and priorities is very exciting. So think about what excites you about LWV and tell your story, too!

You may choose to tell your story to others and to us in person or in an article to this newsletter, or you can even submit your story to lwv.org

Just please remember to ASK, INVITE, ENCOURAGE, and TELL YOUR STORY!

Thank you,

Ethel Schy, Membership Chair
579-1488 ethels@sonic.net

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PARTICLES

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

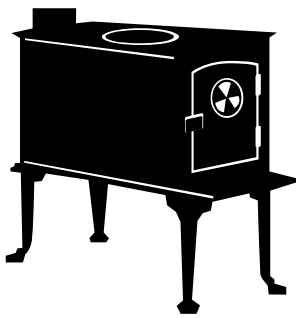
Nile Hall in Preservation Park

Downtown Oakland

9:00 am: Registration and Breakfast

9:15 am to noon: Forum

No Charge



A public health issue of growing concern is particulate air pollution, which scientific study has linked to asthma and other serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Medical and scientific professionals will discuss these public health impacts and

communications experts will explain how local Leagues and other concerned organizations can help increase public awareness on this issue

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has been a long time supporter of our *Bay Area Monitor*. They have asked us to co-sponsor a forum to reach Bay Area decision makers and League members about Public Health and Particles. The timing of this forum coincides with the start of wood burning season. The BAAQMD is hoping that we can help clear up some of misinformation about the new regulations on wood burning. Please plan to attend.

GENERAL MEETING

Community Climate Action Plan (Continued from Page 1)

The Climate Protection Campaign has been working on the Plan for two years, following the greenhouse gas reduction target adopted by the County's cities, the County, and the Water Agency in 2005. The Plan is the result of input from two dozen consultants and experts, as well as fifty community representatives. The Plan and its 500 pages of source material will be publicly released in mid-November.

What the Plan illustrates is that achieving Sonoma County's climate goal requires a monumental and extremely challenging intervention in business as usual. We must move together at tremendous speed and scale. Individual actions and volunteerism, while essential, are insufficient. Transforming our energy infrastructure from fossil fuels to renewables entails a unity of purpose, ingenuity, and commitment similar to this country's mobilization during World War II and the New Deal era.

Although our challenge is great, this crisis also presents us with opportunities. We have the knowledge, resources, and technology to initiate change that will not only reduce our GHG emissions, but also will result in a more robust and secure economy powered by local, reliable energy; a healthier environment with cleaner air and water; and preservation of the natural world.

There is a role for everyone in moving forward with this Plan. Renata Brillinger is Project Manager with the Climate Protection Campaign, and is coordinating the implementation of the Community Climate Action Plan. On November 15, she will provide an overview of the most powerful and important aspects of the Plan, and lead a discussion on the next all-important implementation phase.

The CPC website, where you can download a summary of the Plan, is:

<http://www.climateprotectioncampaign.org/>

THE SCENE



It is time to order tickets for **The Scene**, a polished dress rehearsal of this scathing comedy by the 6th Street Playhouse. We are sharing the evening with members of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy.











The event, Wednesday, January 14, starts at 7:00 PM with wine and dessert. The play begins at 8:00 PM.

Invite friends and family. Send donations of \$25 per ticket to LWVSC, 100 E Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Checks should be made out to LWVSC and note that it is for the theater party. Your reservation will be held at the door.

Susannah Likins and Sandy Benson

LEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS ON BALLOT MEASURES

THE LWVC RECOMMENDS:

-  YES ON PROPOSITION 1A -- Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act
-  YES ON PROPOSITION 3 -- Children's Hospital Bond Act
-  NO ON PROPOSITION 4 -- Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy
-  YES ON PROPOSITION 5 -- Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation
-  NO ON PROPOSITION 6 -- Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws (Runner Initiative)
-  NO ON PROPOSITION 7 -- Renewable Energy Generation
-  NO ON PROPOSITION 8 -- Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry
-  NO ON PROPOSITION 9 -- Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole
-  NO ON PROPOSITION 10 -- Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds
-  YES ON PROPOSITION 11 -- Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **Proposition 2**, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and **Proposition 12**, Veterans' Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

See the October VOTER for a discussion of each of the above State ballot measures. Back issues of The VOTER are online at www.lwvsonoma.org under publications.

THE LWVMC AND LWVSC RECOMMEND:

 YES ON MEASURE Q – SMART Rail and Trail

THE LWVSC RECOMMENDS:

 NO ON PETALUMA MEASURE K: Petaluma Rate Rollback





There's something special in your own backyard.

Be a part of it!
 Become a member.
 Become a volunteer.

For Membership call Emily
 @ 579-4452 # 108
 To Volunteer call Kristi
 @ 579-4452 ext. 116

or visit www.SchulzMuseum.org
 click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



HURRY TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS!
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NEW MEMBERS

Ellen Bleeclue
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Debbie Schneider
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

RETURNING MEMBER

Denise Frey
Forestville, CA 95435

ROSTER CHANGES

Lorene Coconas
is incorrectly listed in the
Roster as Coconan on
pages 8 and 23.

Ms. Susan Hull
Windsor, CA 95492

Allen Lewis
Tucson, AZ 95472-4115

Sue Scott
changed phone number



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 _____

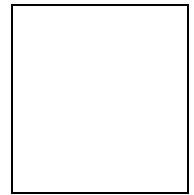
Cable TV _____ Smart Voter _____

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, 100 E
Street, Suite 209, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.
Thank you.

The League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County
100 E Street, Suite 209
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material

The VOTER, a publication of The League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County, is published monthly except during the summer, i.e. ten regular issues per year. The deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are free and open to the public.

Date	Time	Place	Description
Thursday October 30	7:00 PM	Merlo Theater at Wells Fargo Center	China and Human Rights. Speaker: John Kamm Co-sponsored with the United Nations Association of Sonoma Co, and the Sonoma Academy. See Oct VOTER
Mon Nov 3	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting
Tuesday November 4	10:00 AM to Noon	League Office 100 E Street, Suite 209 Santa Rosa	LWVSC Board Meeting First Tuesday of the month League members only except by invitation
Thursday November 6	10:00 AM to Noon	League Office	Voter Service
Tuesday November 11	Noon	League Office	International Relations Study Group Second Tuesday. See page 4
Thurs Nov13	10:00 AM	League Office	Action/Advocacy Meeting
Saturday November 15	10:30 AM	General Meeting	Global Warming (Climate Change?) Real Energy Solutions for Climate Protection. Renata Brillinger of the Climate Protection Campaign
Mon Nov 17	1:00 PM	League Office	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting
Tues Nov. 18	10:00 AM	League Office	Membership Committee
Thurs. Nov 20	10:30 AM	League Office	Book Group will select books for 2009. See page 2
Tuesday December 2	9:00 AM Reg. 9:15 to Noon	Nile Hall in Preservation Park Oakland	Public Health and Particles sponsored by the LWVBA and the BAAQMD. See page 5 for more information
Sunday December 7	2:00 to 5:00 PM	Home of Bob and Phyllis Clement 753 Hurlbut Ave., Sebastopol	Winter Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser
Wednesday January 14	7:00 PM wine etc. 8:00 PM play	6 th Street Playhouse 52 West Sixth St.	Theater Party and Fundraiser. Dress rehearsal of The Scene. See page 5
Saturday January 31	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	MetroCenter Auditorium 101 Eighth St., Oakland	Bay Area League Day. Water: California's New Gold

Check out the League website: www.lwvsonoma.org for correct dates and times for meetings.