



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

OF SONOMA COUNTY

Volume 15, No.8

November 2010

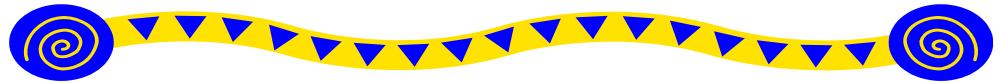
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Special points of interest:

- Annual Winter Social and Silent Auction Fundraiser
- Santa Rosa Plain Ground-water Basin Planning Workshop
- New Member Profile

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SONOMA COUNTY
ANNUAL WINTER SOCIAL AND SILENT AUCTION
FUNDRAISER



You Are Invited!

Sunday, December 5

1- 4 PM

Located at the Cotati Hilltop home of Bob and Susannah Likins

6868 Gravenstein Highway

Always a relaxed and jolly get-together guests are welcome. Enjoy tasty savories and sweets, wine , spiced hot cider and beverages as you participate in spirited bidding on a wide array of auction items.

Auction proceeds supplement the League's Santa Rosa office operating expenses.

MOST IMPORTANT AND ASAP

We need donations of new or good-quality items. Please check closets and cupboards for jewelry, bric-a - brac, pottery , scarves, books ,etc. or offer gift certificates for service or vacation rentals. Paintings, wall hangings, table linens, bowls, silver plates, lamps and glassware are also desired merchandise.

Information about drop-off locations, or to arrange for a pickup, please call: Susannah Likins, 707-792-2660 or Janie Hawker 707-584-5210.

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

We look forward to seeing you!

Directions:

Take Exit CA 116/Gravenstein Highway. Turn West toward Sebastopol onto Highway 116. Drive about 1.4 miles and continue straight at the intersection of 116 and Stony Point Road. Proceed 0.3 miles. Driveway is on the left side of the road with two mail boxes: 6800 and 6868.

BOARD MESSAGE

*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

*Amy Howder-Thompson, Program -
Chair
Anita Lytle, Voter Service Co-Chair
Muriel Smith, Voter Service Co-Chair
Shirley Johnson-Foell, VOTER Editor
Amy Southwick, Membership Co-Chair
Ardath Lee, Membership Co-Chair*

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend our deepest gratitude to all of our members and friends in the community who worked so hard and **so thoughtfully on this fall's election. Under the leadership of Anita Lytle** and Muriel Smith our League volunteers held nine forums across the county, which included a US Congressional district, city councils, and school boards. Janie Hawker, unplugged from the internet, and using only her telephone and typewriter, coordinated nine Pros/Cons meetings in September and October. Cheers to our behind the scenes volunteers who have been registering voters and encouraging new members.

It was a delight to see the work of the League recognized on the front page of the Press Democrat, September 28, 2010 in a report about a **Santa Rosa forum: "It was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Sonoma County, whose non-partisan forums are widely respected for their impartiality and focus on issues important to voters..."**

Our work is possible thanks to you who faithfully pay dues and make contributions to our general fund and our education fund. As you know, we share our dues with the state and national levels of the League retaining only about \$5.00 per member for our local activities. Your donations really make a difference!

Have a wonderful holiday season. We invite you to relax and enjoy at our annual winter party and silent auction at my home on Sunday, December 5 from 1-4 PM. Details are inside the Voter.

Happy Holidays,

Susannah Likins, Treasurer



ADVOCACY BOARD REPORT

At our last meeting in September, Rue Furch presented a summary of the work of the Ground Water Steering Committee, which will be featured at a public workshop co-sponsored by the League. One fact that amazed us is that in Sonoma County 50% of the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin is paved over. Paving causes the rainwater to accumulate in streams where it rushes downhill and is lost to the ocean. Naturally, without paving, the water would spread out and slowly sink into the basin aquifer.

The Sonoma County Water Agency convened the steering committee representative of local groundwater interests to guide preplanned work and build common understanding. The Steering Committee will develop recommendations on if, when, and how groundwater management planning might move forward. They are trying to identify the stakeholders who could represent rural residential well owners interested in the planning. Half the population of Sonoma County resides within the Santa Rosa watershed which includes the cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Town of Windsor, and portions of the city of Sebastopol.

Our November General Membership Meeting will focus upon the work of the above mentioned committee. The goal is to engage public comment and concern over the diminishing ground water supply and to educate the community on ways to mitigate the damage done to date, and to enlist cooperation among the environmentalists and the developers and other stakeholders in collaboration in solving this problem.

* * *

Those of you who are interested in issues to advocate are needed to become active members of the Advocacy Committee. In November and December, the Advocacy Committee will meet on the third Tuesday. This may become a permanent change.

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.

“One fact that amazed us is that in Sonoma County 50% of the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Basin is paved over.”

SANTA ROSA PLAIN GROUNDWATER BASIN PLANNING WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 17

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.

About the Workshop

The Sierra Club, Sonoma County Water Coalition and League of Women Voters are sponsoring a workshop to inform interested parties about groundwater planning currently under consideration.

Workshop Date and Location

The workshop will be held on November 17, 2010, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. located at the Santa Rosa Veterans Memorial Building, 1351 Maple Ave. Santa Rosa, CA.

Workshop Goals

- Provide in-depth information about the groundwater basin and groundwater planning options.
- Identify concerns and solicit feedback regarding possible groundwater management planning.

Where is the Santa Rosa Plain?

The Santa Rosa Plain groundwater basin, covering an area of approximately 80,000 acres, is located within the larger Laguna de Santa Rosa Watershed and is home to approximately half the population of Sonoma County, including the Cities of Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Cotati, Town of Windsor, portions of the City of Sebastopol, and unincorporated areas of Sonoma County.

For More Information

Visit the website: <http://www.scwa.ca.gov/srgroundwater/>

Join the email list to receive periodic updates: clove@ccp.csus.edu



NEW MEMBER PROFILE - MARLENE BALLAINE

Marlene has already begun League activities, both as a greeter and staffing the membership table at recent forums. She is a native of Detroit, **and moved to California in the 60's, first to Berkeley and then to Sonoma County.** She was Associate Director of Admissions and Records at Sonoma State University, and has been very active in many community organizations. She was President of the Board of the Sonoma County Museum, and served twice as interim Director of the Museum. She was also Executive Director of ArtStart.

Current activities include the Friends of the Library, fund-raising for Elsie Allen High School, and serving on the Board for the Living Room. She finds reading fiction as necessary as eating, and has traveled widely-to Africa, India, and has made many visits to her favorite places: Mexico, Paris and New York City.

She has long admired the League for its registration of voters, and for providing opportunities for candidates in local elections to present their views. She has joined the League Membership Committee, and looks forward to continued involvement.



*Photograph by Rory McNamara
Artstart geniuses from left:
Marlene Ballaine, Liz Uribe,
Mario Uribe.*

VOTER SERVICE

By the time you read this, our hardy band will have put on 9 forums and, at this count, 9 pros & cons presentations in Sonoma County, a very ambitious and successful program schedule. Most of our forums were recorded and have been streamed online atwatchsonomacounty.com or were made available on Community Media Center channels on Comcast Cable.

We extend our thanks, again, to all those members who have so willingly shared their time and talent to make our forums and presentations possible. We cannot do this work without a contingent of available volunteer helpers.

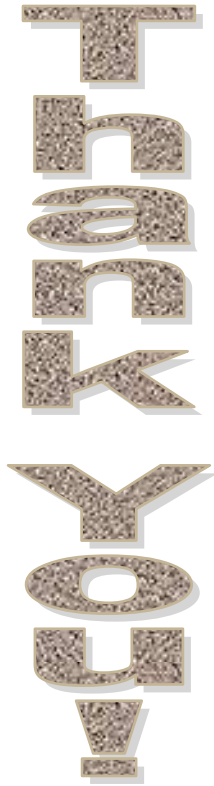
At the beginning of each forum or presentation, we tell our audience the purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in their government. Throughout its history, the League has been recognized for providing non-partisan, unbiased opportunities for public forums, so that candidates seeking public office can take their cases directly to the voters.

While we sincerely appreciate all those who have helped during this round of forums and pros/cons presentations, It was a disappointment to us that we had to very reluctantly cancel our planned forum for the State 7th Assembly candidates, and were unable to respond positively to requests for forums from at least three communities. We "lacked the resources" or could not find League members to staff these events. We have looked **closely at these results, and recognize that we cannot always say "Yes" to every request.** However, we also want to encourage our members to be more available to carry out our mission, which is respected and much appreciated by candidates and the voting public. We seriously need more member participation on our Voter Service Committee if the LWVSC is to maintain the reputation we treasure, and which we have all worked so hard to earn.

Please join us at Voter Service meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 am at the League office. There will be no meetings in November and December. Our next Voter Service meeting will be Thursday, January 13, 2011. If you have any questions about our Committee, or need any further information, please email or call us.

Anita Lytle 544-1633 alytle@sonic.net
 Muriel Smith 576-7791 murielinCA@sbcglobal.net
 Voter Service Co-Chairs

"We seriously need more member participation on our Voter Service Committee if the LWVSC is to maintain the reputation we treasure, and which we have all worked so hard to earn."



*Donations received from July 1 to
October 15, 2010*



THANK YOU TO FRIENDS AND MEMBERS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR EDUCATION

- * Lea Barron-Thomas
- * Corol Ann Cary
- * Lymona Castleberry
- * Joan Dickerson
- * Jack and Marsha Vas Dupre
- * Susan Gorin, in memory of Carol Adams, Jane Ernsberger and May Huddleston
- * Lynda Hungerford
- * Jake and Barbara Mackenzie
- * Catherine Mackenzie
- * Helen Rudee
- * Grace Schulman
- * Jean Schulz
- * Irene and Roger Stewart
- * Virginia Thornthwaite

THANK YOU TO FRIENDS AND MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO OUR GENERAL FUND.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| * Anne Therese Ageson | * Anita Lytle |
| * Larz and Glenice Anderson | * Hilda Mansfield |
| * Alexandra Benson | * Edith Mendez |
| * Barbara Biebush | * Margaret Millner |
| * Ellen Brosbe | * Maurine Olson |
| * Aurelie Christiansen | * Karen Panting |
| * Robert and Phyllis Clement | * Patricia Raley |
| * Myrtle Cox | * Nancy and Willard Richards |
| * Joan Dickerson | * Nancy Richardson |
| * Jack and Marsha Vas Dupre | * Sukey and Natalie Robb-Wildner |
| * Andrea English | * Jean Schulz |
| * Carroll Estes | * Ethel and Stuart Schy |
| * Stanley Gold | * Daphne Smith |
| * Susan Gorin | * Muriel Smith |
| * Greta Goulden | * Irene and Roger Stewart |
| * Laurie Hall | * Judith Temko |
| * Robert and Elisabeth Hawthorne | * Roseanna Toretto |
| * Doris Lasky | * Priscilla and Joe Vivo |
| * Louisa Leavitt | * Warren Watkins |
| * Ardath Lee | * Carleen Watts |
| * Susannah Likins | |

NEW OR RETURNING MEMBERS

To protect the privacy of our members, contact information is not included in the VOTER posted on the Internet.

Glen Buelteman
Sebastopol, CA 95472

W

Gwendolyn & Nirmal Dhesi
Santa Rosa, CA 95409

E

Patricia Robles-Mitten
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

L

Sofia, Rosa, and Francisco
Vázquez-Durán
Windsor, CA 95492

C

O

M

E

!

Roster Correction

(street address)
 Joanne Feldman
 Santa Rosa, CA 95404
 545-7605



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.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
 OF SONOMA COUNTY
 555 Fifth Street, Suite 300 O
 Santa Rosa, CA 95401

NON-PROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U. S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 SANTA ROSA CA
 PERMIT NO. 65

Return Service Requested
Time Dated Material

NOVEMBER 2010 CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are open to the public.

Thursday, Nov. 4	10 AM	The Conference Room*	Board meeting. Open to members, and by invitation, open to the public.
Thursday, Nov. 11	10 AM	The Conference Room*	Voter Service Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 18	10:30 AM to noon	The Conference Room*	Book Group
Thursday, Nov. 18	3:30 to 5:00 PM	151 Second Street, Petaluma	Petaluma Unit Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 25	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, for current dates and time for meetings and for back issues of The VOTER.