



THE VOTER

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

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October 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Advocacy Committee</i>	3
<i>Board Briefs</i>	5
<i>Juvenile Justice</i>	6
<i>Book Group</i>	11
<i>Calendar</i>	12

Juvenile Justice Consensus Meeting



Save the Date

**ANNUAL WINTER
SOCIAL AND
SILENT AUCTION
FUNDRAISER**

See page 9

National League Study
Saturday, Nov. 19

See page 8

This Year's Events!

See page 10

We need your participation in this consensus!

October 15, 2011

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Windsor Library

9291 Old Redwood Hwy., Bldg. 100, Windsor

**Please bring your VOTER with the Consensus Questions
(see page 6) to the meeting.**

Beverages will be available.

PRESIDENT'S 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

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

Directors

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

Fall is here and many of us are wondering what happened to summer. Time rushes by and so it is important that we stay on top of issues and continue to be well informed. October is Voter Education Month and so I thought in light of that I would share some good League websites for voter information. For many of our members, these are very familiar places, but for some of our newer members you might enjoy checking out some of these sites.

At the national level there is www.lwv.org. Right on the home page there are current news articles pertinent to issues the League opposes or supports. On the left is a column displaying national priorities and each one is a link to provide even more information on that topic,

For the state of California there is www.ca.lwv.org. This home page has two prominent columns—one for Education and one for Advocacy. Each column covers topics of interest for that particular category. If you haven't done much in one area, check it out and see if there is something that piques your interest.

Close to home is the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area, www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org. Their website uses the same template as our local League, so it is very user friendly. Under the LWVBA Publications is a link to The Monitor, a bimonthly review of local issues.

Finally, peruse the Sonoma County LWV website for information on positions, events, actions and much more. So...try a little surfing and learn something of interest to you.

You will be receiving your membership roster soon. Please note that we are still looking for members to fill these vacant positions:

Fund Development Committee, Member-at-Large for the Nominating Committee, Publicity, representatives to the Sonoma County Child Care Planning Council and Task Force on the Homeless.

Please consider volunteering a small amount of time to support the League in any of these areas.

Thanks!

Dee Dee Bridges, President
president@lwvsonoma.org

ADVOCACY

The Advocacy Committee met on August 31. The five of us in attendance discussed the planned Community Impact Report (CIR) Forum to be held on September 24 and the need to encourage attendance for that event. Those efforts were successful as we had a total of 65 attend the Forum.

Other items discussed at the Advocacy Committee meeting on August 31 included:

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Preservation Ranch Project
- Health Care Reform
- Santa Rosa Charter Review
- Airport Expansion
- Climate Recovery and Adaptation
- SMART

We will be meeting again on September 28 and will critique the CIR Forum and discuss additional information obtained as follow-up on several of the above items as well as 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

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.

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

On Saturday, September 24, in the Santa Rosa City Council Chambers the League's Advocacy Forum "Community Impact Reports: An Essential Information Tool for Community Decision Making" was a great success, with 65 people gathered to hear five speakers: Mike McGuire, Supervisor, County of Sonoma, 4th District; Teresa Barrett, Petaluma City Council; Scot Stegeman, Land use and Planning Consultant; Martin Bennett, Co-Chair, Living Wage Coalition; and Michael Allen, Assembly member, California, 7th District, moderated by Susan Gorin.

If you missed it, you can view it on Comcast cable in Santa Rosa at the times listed below:



Sunday Oct 2	9:30pm Ch 30
Monday Oct 3	10:30am Ch 26
Monday Oct 3	1:30pm Ch 30
Tuesday Oct 4	6:30am Ch 30
Tuesday Oct 4	6:30pm Ch 26
Sunday Oct 9	9:30pm Ch 30

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.

BOARD BRIEFS

for September 8, 2011

Membership Chair Juanita Roland reported the Membership Committee will meet next on October 4, but has not established a regular meeting date. Retiring Grand Jury members have been contacted, and three have joined the League.

Chair Linda Garcia reported that the Voter Service Committee will meet on the first Thursday of the month beginning October 6.

Nancy Richards reported that the Registrar of Voters has agreed to pay for a League booth at the Harvest Fair to register voters. Alice Richardson volunteered to manage this event.

Chlele Gummer reported that there will be four elections in November, all in West County, for such things as school boards and fire districts. Sukey Robb-Wilder will ask candidates to submit their information to Smart Voter and approve their submissions.

Alice Richardson reported that petitions, called Fairness and Accountability, are being circulated to put a measure on the June 2012 ballot to overturn the recent redistricting. LWV California is urging people not to sign petition and has *decline to sign* buttons. The Board recommended that Dee Dee Bridges write a letter to the editor and submit it to The Press Democrat. Voters should be warned that putting the measure on the ballot will cost the State money.

Susannah Likins announced that the December holiday party and silent auction will be at her house again this year. Janie Hawker is resigning as Hospitality Chair for health reasons.

The Board approved revisions to the Policies and Procedures needed because The VOTER is now distributed by email instead of bulk mail, as well as other issues. The new version will be posted on the LWVSC website.

Dee Dee Bridges and Juanita Roland attended a meeting of the Sonoma County Coalition of Women's Organizations (Commission on the Status of Women). That group will meet quarterly.

Willard Richards, Secretary



Juvenile Justice Study Consensus

Our Consensus Questions:

Which statement best reflects the consensus of the group?

Select one or more from each category.

Establishing a model with the courts serving as an alternative

- 1 Should Sonoma County take action to promote Restorative Justice Practices as the model and primary treatment strategy for juvenile offenders? The court system would serve as the alternative to this model.
- 2 Should Sonoma County take action to promote some other model for juvenile offenders as the primary treatment strategy? The court system would serve as the alternative to this model.
- 3 The group could not reach consensus.



Referrals of youth Under 18 years of age

- 1 Should Sonoma County take action to establish that all youth offenders under 18 have a fitness hearing when the treatment strategy is delivered by the courts?
- 2 Should Sonoma County take action to establish that all youth offenders under 18 be referred to the Juvenile Court when legally permissible?
- 3 The group could not reach consensus.

Note:

Consensus on government issues is the backbone of the League of Women Voters and is the basis for our action program. Several techniques can be used to reach member agreement, but the one most often used by the League is consensus by group discussion. It is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather, it is the overall sense of the group as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions, whether in a meeting of the full membership or a series of smaller discussion meetings. (In League, LWVUS)

Continued on page 7

Accountability of the Juvenile Justice System

- 1 Should Sonoma County take action to establish criteria whereby data collection and reports result in accountability of the system?
- 2 Should Sonoma County take action to establish transparent and comprehensive data collection and reports for the purpose of increased accountability of the system?
- 3 The group could not reach consensus.

DMC (Disproportionate Minority Confinement/Contact)

- 1 Should Sonoma County take action to address DMC (Disproportionate Minority Confinement/Contact) at all stages of the Juvenile System?
- 2 Should Sonoma County take action to eliminate DMC (Disproportionate Minority Confinement/Contact) at all stages of the Juvenile Justice System?
- 3 The group could not reach consensus.

As a refresher, the Juvenile Justice study involved:

- Interviews- including youth, parents, 30 plus stakeholders employed in the system, and the general public.
- Tours - 3 major juvenile justice facilities:
 - o Juvenile Hall
 - o Probation Camp for boys
 - o Sierra Youth Center for girls
 - o Statistical data from state and county sources.
 - o Town Hall Forums- convened in March 2007 and March 2008 respectively:
 - o Juvenile Justice in Sonoma County – Choices, Consequences, Community. (A panel presentation of top professionals in the system.)
 - o Building Pressure – Looking at Alternatives. (in lieu of incarceration)
 - o Related events

Research - internet and a wide range of printed material

In May of 2009, the findings were reported to the LWVSC at the General Membership Meeting in a ninety minute presentation, which included a power point, questions and answers.

We hope this provides you with a sense of what we have been doing. In preparation for our discussions at our Consensus Meeting October 15th, you may wish to review the original proposal, the executive summary, the full report and other pertinent materials which will be sent by e-mail to all members.

NATIONAL EDUCATION STUDY NEEDS YOU

On Saturday, November 19, we will meet at the Rincon Valley Library at 10 a.m. for our consensus meeting. We will discuss the five papers of the study in the morning and then, after a bag lunch, we will discuss the consensus questions. I encourage new members to come to this meeting to learn how the League forms its positions that it uses to advocate for the good of the citizens. The League needs every ones feelings and opinions to be expressed so that the consensus is true to the feeling of our total membership.

Listed below is the website for the consensus questions created by the national study committee. Print them out to use as you read the papers which are available to you through this link.

All members can view the study at <http://www.lwv.org>, For Members, Projects and Programs, Education Study.



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.

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.

Best Regards, Linda Garcia

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE

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

Sunday, December 4th, 1 – 4 p.m.

Held at the Cotati hilltop aerie home of Bob and Susannah Likins.
(See the Nov. VOTER for driving directions and more info)

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.

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





Save the Dates!

Save these dates

(there may be changes)

October Sat.15 *Juvenile Justice Consensus Meeting*

November Sat.19 *National Education Study Consensus meeting*

December Sun. 4 *Holiday Party and Silent Auction*

January Sat. 28 *Program Planning*

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

Sat. 25 *Regional Governments*

March Wed. 21 *Lunch with the League*

April Sat. 21 *Truth in Campaign Advertising*

June Sat. Jun 2 *Annual Membership Meeting*

Explore the National League Education Study

The Education Study scope is broad and includes the following areas under the role of the federal government in public education (pre-K through grade 12): the history, funding and equity issues which are addressed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and the common core standards/assessments which are required for many federal grant programs but are national, not federal. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope.

Every member is important in executing this study. We need members to work on the committee, to help with the proposed consensus meeting on Saturday November 19 by facilitating discussion, recording important points, helping with hospitality.

Please let me know if you can help at chleleg@sonic.net.

All members can view the study at <http://www.lwv.org>, For Members, Projects and Programs, Education Study.

Chlele Gummer, Education Study Chair

Book Group

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, October 20, to discuss Ilyon Woo's *The Great Divorce: A Nineteenth-Century Mother's Extraordinary Fight Against Her Husband, the Shakers, and Her Times*. The group meets in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

A fitting book to read in the month that celebrates the 100th anniversary of the women in California gaining the right to vote, *The Great Divorce* chronicles the battle of a woman who was the first and last person to gain a divorce in this country by means of a legislative act. By itself the divorce was not enough for Eunice to regain custody of her children, but she accomplished that too.

The story is fascinating to read. In addition, it offers many timely topics for discussion, such as the manipulation of public emotion, the role of church and state, and the place of marriage in the public sphere.

The book group meets on the third Thursday of the month, except for December. The group will select books for 2012 at the November meeting.

Lynda Hungerford

lh@sonic.net



SEPTEMBER 2011 CALENDAR

Thursday, Oct. 6	10 a.m.– noon	The Conference Room*	Voter Service Meeting
Thursday, Oct.13	9:30 a.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, Oct.20	10:30 - noon	The Conference Room*	Book Group
Friday, Oct.28	10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	151 Second Street, Petaluma	Petaluma Unit Meeting
Wednesday, Oct.26	9:30 a.m. - 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/>
for current dates and time for meetings and for back issues of The VOTER.



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NEW MEMBERS

Mary Burns
Santa Rosa 95403

Julie Combs
Santa Rosa 95405

Vicki Connolly
Cloverdale, 95425

Sally and Hank Patterson
Santa Rosa, 95407

Liz Uribe
Santa Rosa 95404

Gary Wilkening
Santa Rosa 95405

Contact information for
new members is in the
2011-2012 Roster, which
will arrive in the mail in
late September.



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.