



# Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

February 2014

Volume 48, Number 4

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## Calendar

Sunday, February 9, 2014

12:30--2:30 P.M.

Valentine Luncheon & Silent Auction

Hilton Scotts Valley

6001 La Madrona Drive, Scotts Valley

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

1--3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Saturday, March 8

Noon--3 P.M.

International Women's Day

Speaker begins at 1 P.M.

Louden Nelson Community Center

301 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Tuesday, March 11

1--3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Wednesday, March 12

Noon--2 P.M.

Helping the Homeless

Community Foundation of SCC

7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos

*The League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County  
presents our annual  
Valentine Luncheon and Silent Auction Fundraiser*  
**Rail and Trail Plans for Santa Cruz**

*Featured Speakers from the Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission:*

**Executive Director  
George Dondero**



*and*

**Senior  
Transportation  
Planner Cory Caletti**



**Sunday**

**February 9, 2014**

**12:30 to 2:30 P.M.**

Hilton Santa Cruz/Scotts Valley

6001 La Madrona Drive

Scotts Valley, CA 95066

*Open to League members and the public.*

Cost: \$27 prepaid or \$35 at the door; reservations required.

Includes admission and buffet luncheon

**RSVP by Monday, February 3**

Send check payable to LWVSCC to:

LWVSCC

P.O. Box 1745

Capitola, CA 95010

For more information or to RSVP

e-mail [league@lwvsc.org](mailto:league@lwvsc.org) or call (831)426-8683

At LWVSCC's annual Valentine Luncheon and Silent Auction Fundraiser Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Executive Director George Dondero and Senior Transportation Planner Cory Caletti will speak about the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan and plans for train service in Santa Cruz County.

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## Membership Report

Welcome to Kathy Donovan, who recently joined our Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters. Kathy was previously a member of the League in New York State during the 1960's. She came to our library program in November, participated in the planning program in January, and is interested in increasing and updating her knowledge. As a local resident, she is currently involved in other community groups, including the American Association of University Women and the Friday Shakespeare Club of Santa Cruz.

Marilyn Hummel, a former President of the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz county, passed away on December 31, 2013, at the age of 86, following the death of her husband of 64 years, Donald. She had strong beliefs on the importance of social justice and environmental protection. She worked with other volunteers to create the Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve, and championed environmental causes as a member of the Executive Committee of the Sierra Club. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb 8th at 3 P.M. at the Provost House of Cowell College, UCSC, right off Hager Drive, just north of the East Field House. All are welcome to attend.

*--Barbara Lewis  
Membership Vice President*

## President's Message

Our January program planning meeting was well-attended, and the participants engaged in active discussion of many important issues. The board is considering the members' recommendations.



In late December long-time League member Marilyn Hummel passed away (see membership report). Marilyn was a great asset to our League, especially during its early years, serving as our third president (1969-1970). She was a role model of public service, having served on the Santa Cruz County Planning Commission, Board of Commissioners of the Housing

Authority of the County of Santa Cruz, and in leadership roles in community and environmental organizations.

I'm looking forward to our annual fundraiser in February. The rail and trail project topic is a timely issue for our community, and we will all benefit by learning more about plans for its development. This is our main fundraiser for the year, so I encourage you all to bring items to donate to the auction and to bid generously. We welcome new and gently-used items; here are some suggestions: potted plants, baked goods, books, craft items, nick-nacks, clothes, jewelry, and art. If you have any questions, about the silent auction, please contact LWVSCC by e-mail at [league@lwvsc.org](mailto:league@lwvsc.org) or phone: 831-426-VOTE (8683)

Our new program co-chairs, Sue Becker and Jan Beautz (taking over for Marilyn Radisch, who resigned due to unexpected time conflicts), have lined up a great meeting for March on the homeless issue that you won't want to miss.

Hope you are all having a great 2014; I'll see you at our fundraiser luncheon on Sunday, February 9 (see page one for details).

*--Peggy Marketello, President*

## Housing the Homeless

Our March League meeting focuses on how Santa Cruz's 180/180 initiative helps homeless people obtain the services and support they need to turn their lives around. Santa Cruz Homeless Services Center Executive Director Monica Martinez will outline the many services they provide. The brown-bag lunch will be held on Wednesday, March 12, from noon to 2 P.M. at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, 7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos. Bring your own bag lunch; we will furnish cookies and water. The meeting is free and open to the public. Save the date for this informative look at homelessness in Santa Cruz County and look for more information in our March VOTER.

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## Agriculture Study

The LWVUS is conducting a study to update its agriculture position. To learn about the issues being addressed in this study, go to <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>



Photo credit: [www.volganet.ru](http://www.volganet.ru)

## Voting Rights Act Amendment of 2014

[LWVUS](#) is urging members to let their legislators know they support the Voting Rights Act Amendment of 2014, a recently proposed update to the 1965 Voting Rights Act that fixes the damage done to it by last year's Supreme Court decision that struck down the law's most powerful provision. The original law required states that had a history of voting rights violations to obtain preclearance from the federal government before enacting any new voting laws. The court felt that, while the basic principal of preclearance was acceptable, the formula for deciding which states needed preclearance was out of date.

In response to this, the VRA Amendment will create a new formula for determining which states will be subject to preclearance that takes into account current conditions, requiring states that have five or more violations of federal election law over the most recent 15 years to be listed for preclearance. The Amendment also allows for states to be added to the list if the federal government can show intentional voting discrimination. The law also includes new requirements for notifications of changes in state election laws, makes it easier to obtain injunctions against new voting laws, and expands the attorney general's power to monitor elections.

[Take Action: urge Congress to support the Voting Rights Act Amendment.](#)



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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.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

\_\_\_\$65 Individual annual membership

\_\_\_\$100.00 Two members in a household

\_\_\_\$30.00 Student membership

\_\_\_Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*League of Women Voters  
of Santa Cruz County*

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## Rail and Trail Plans for Santa Cruz County

*--continued from page 1*

Dondero will update us on plans for the Santa Cruz Branch rail line, including seasonal passenger service and freight service, as well as a future feasibility study for commuter and intercity passenger rail service. Caletti will present plans for a multi-use bicycle/pedestrian path (the rail/trail spine of a larger Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network) and discuss the scope, goals, and development process for the Scenic Trail Network Master Plan.

Dondero's enthusiasm for sustainable transportation in all modes led him to join the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission in 2006 as Executive Director. Prior to arriving in Santa Cruz, he served as Executive Director at the Calaveras Council of Governments, and as a Project Manager at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in the Bay Area.

After earning her Masters in Urban and Regional Planning, Caletti has spent the past 15 years at RTC working to create environments that incentivize getting around by foot or bicycle, believing that active transportation creates vibrant, healthy communities.

The luncheon also features our silent auction fundraiser. This is your opportunity to bid on some of the many wonderful donated items to help support our League in its efforts to keep Santa Cruz County voters well-informed. Attendees are encouraged to bring new or gently used items to be donated to the event (when you check in, our auction coordinators will help you place your items on the auction tables). Send your reservations in today for this exciting and informative event.



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