



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

April 2014

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Calendar

Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 1–3 P.M.
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Wednesday, April 30, 2014, Noon–2 P.M.
Soquel Creek Water District: Prospects and Problems
Speaker: Kim Adamson,
SCWD General Manager
Bring your own lunch
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 11:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.
Voters Service Training Workshop
with Jackie Jacobberger
\$5 fee; bring your own lunch
RSVP by May 2
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Tuesday, May 13, 2014, 1–3 P.M.
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Thursday, May 22, 2014, 7 P.M.–9 P.M.
Sheriff Candidates' Forum
Mid County Senior Center
829 Bay Ave, Capitola
Free and open to the public.

Sunday, June 1, 2014, 12:30–2:30 P.M.
LWVSCC Annual Meeting
Featured Speaker: Helen Hutchinson, LWV
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos
Details to be announced.

Prospects and Problems facing Soquel Creek Water District



featured speaker

Kim Adamson
General Manager
SCWD

Wednesday
April 30, 2014
Noon--2 P.M.

Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
in the Solari Room

at the Jack & Peggy Baskin Center for Philanthropy
7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos

*On Soquel Drive south of State Park Drive across from the El
Rancho/Safeway shopping center; turn onto Aptos Rancho Road to park.*

*Free and open to League members and the public.
Bring your own bag lunch.*

What problems and issues need to be resolved to achieve a balance of water supply and demand in the Soquel Creek Water District? What are the prospects for achieving solutions? SCWD general manager Kim Adamson will address those issues at the League's April 30 lunch meeting.

Invite your friends, bring your bag lunch and join LWVSCC as we learn more about our county's water issues. Let others know about this event: go to lwvsc.org/calendar.html to print a flyer. To RSVP or for more information contact the League at 831-426-VOTE (8683) or by e-mail at league@lwvsc.org



President's Message

Dear League Members,

Homelessness is one of our program topics this year, and I would like to give kudos to Program Co-Chairs, Sue Becker and Jan Beautz, for their devoted efforts in bringing Monica Martinez, Executive Director of the Homeless Services Center, to speak to our League about solutions for homelessness in our county. We learned a lot from her with a new view on homelessness.

Monica presented the League with data on the most vulnerable homeless and the solutions for their homelessness, namely the 180/180 Program in our county. (See page 3 for an article on her presentation.)

Santa Cruz is lucky to have had Monica directing services at the homeless center for the past four years. She is upbeat, resolute in her goals, hopeful, and believes strongly that this controversial problem of homelessness, one that has split our community, can be solved. She realizes that homelessness can result in public safety concerns, and has strong convictions that all deserve equity in being sheltered and should be treated with dignity and respect. With her tireless efforts, her development of a tougher skin these past four years, her reasonable planning for integrating solutions that are working elsewhere, and her indomitable spirit and outlook, she seems determined to succeed in meeting her objectives. Of course, this means assistance from all of us in the community. (For more about what you can do to help, go to scshelter.org and click on "How to help".

Monica doesn't want to just "...manage homelessness, but provide *solutions*." She agrees that, "...much of what we have done so far has resulted in a broken and expensive cycle." At the beginning of her presentation, Monica showed the [60 Minutes TV program](#) narrated by Anderson Cooper on the Homeless Campaigns initiated in many cities (to view the video, go to www.cbsnews.com/news/housing-the-homeless-can-save-money/). With the statement: "What we can all agree upon is we'd all be better off without homelessness," in our communities she went on to show that the chronically homeless individuals living on the streets are often alcohol and drug-addicted or have health and mental illnesses. These individuals go to emergency rooms multiple times and an overnight's hospitalization can cost more than a month's rent for housing. Not surprisingly, their life expectancy averages 42–52 years of age from abuses and living decades on the streets. These individuals may have been unsuccessful in other programs and are the most expensive for us to deal with. The programs are to provide housing first for these individuals. Critics feel this is a reward for making bad choices and being irresponsible. But supporters say it is already costing us more with them on the streets, and we all benefit more with their being housed first. There is evidence that this is saving taxpayers' money and results in a more desirably humane community. Homelessness is dehumanizing and providing housing gives them that second workable opportunity most of us would want in trying to transform ourselves

Proposition 41 in our June primary will cover housing for veterans, who comprise 11% of the homeless in our county. (Veterans Housing And Homeless Prevention Bond Act Of 2014 www.smartvoter.org/2014/06/03/ca/state/prop/41/)

I hope you will mark June 1st on your calendars for attending LWVSCC's Annual Meeting/Luncheon at the Community Foundation in Aptos for the League's Program for 2014-2015, election of officers and directors, adopt a budget, and enjoy some socializing. We are privileged to have as our speaker Helen Hutchinson, LWV of California's Vice President for Program and Advocacy. She will tell us about how the state League makes decisions on what ballot measures to support. (For more details, see our calendar.)

—Peggy Marketello, President

Voters Service Training Workshop

Jackie Jacobberger, LWVC Management Training Advisor, will lead a workshop on learning how to present the Pros & Cons of ballot measures and how to run a candidates' forum. With key elections in June and November this year, there are sure to be many Voters Service opportunities for League members. The workshop will be from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Tuesday, May 6 in Solari room of the Community Foundation Santa Cruz County at the Jack & Peggy Baskin Center for Philanthropy, 7807 Soquel Drive, Aptos (on Soquel Drive south of State Park Drive; turn onto Aptos Rancho Road to park). Reservations required by Friday, May 2; to RSVP call (831)426-8683 or email league@lwvsc.org. To cover expenses, a \$5.00 registration fee will be charged at the door. Bring a sack lunch. The League will provide coffee, tea and water.

LWVSCC Sponsors Sheriff Candidates' Forum

On Thursday, May 22 from 7 to 9 P.M. our League will hold a forum for the three candidates running to replace Phil Wowak as Santa Cruz County's Sheriff-Coroner. This election marks the second time in the last 40 years that an open sheriff's seat is up for election in the County. If one of the candidates receives 50% of the votes, that candidate will be elected to the office; otherwise there will be a November runoff election between the top two candidates.

Chief Deputy Jim Hart and retired Sheriff's lieutenants Bob Pursley and Roger Wildey are vying for the position. In addition to opening and closing statements, the three candidates will answer questions from the League and local journalists followed by questions submitted by the audience.

We are looking for volunteers to help during the event with everything from greeting candidates to sorting written questions. To volunteer, please contact Jan Karwin, Voters Service Chair at 460-1714 or jan@karwin.com

Homelessness: A Solvable Problem

At the League's March meeting Monica Martinez, executive director of the Homeless Services Center in Santa Cruz, brought the encouraging message that homelessness can be solved permanently, not only for individuals, but for our community. Rather than managing homelessness by offering short-term emergency services, we can end homelessness through a coordinated approach that offers permanent housing first followed up by long-term case management and services, and we will save money while doing so.



Martinez believes everyone deserves dignity, respect, and the opportunity to thrive and be treated with equity. The 180/180 program, a local response to a nationwide effort to permanently house 100,000 of the nation's most vulnerable chronically homeless people, has that mantra as its guiding principal. Providing permanent, supportive housing first, without conditions related to employment or behavior and without time limits, affords

individuals a secure foundation on which to begin rebuilding their lives and improving their health.

Many who end up homeless remain so for only a short while, 50% for less than one year. They need only temporary assistance to recover and become permanently housed. Santa Cruz has a population of about 1,000 longer-term homeless with more serious problems that require a more focused effort to attain and maintain housing. That is the population targeted by the 180/180 program.

In Santa Cruz, the 180/180 program is well on its way towards its goal to permanently house 180 people and help them make a 180 degree change in their lives by July 2014, having housed over 150 by the beginning of March. The program, based on proven, cost-effective methods with measurable results, is funded primarily by existing programs and has over 50 community partners, including businesses, faith-based organizations, community groups, county and city agencies, civic organizations, outreach providers, student groups, and concerned citizens.

They started with a survey to identify and understand the community's most vulnerable homeless; those most difficult to help who often have no natural support systems or have burned all their

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bridges. The 2012 survey of 325 of our County's homeless revealed an interesting snapshot of homelessness. 73% were most recently housed in Santa Cruz, with 155 of the most vulnerable averaging 19 years of residence in Santa Cruz and eight years of homelessness. Causes of homelessness range from job loss, substance abuse, and mental health problems to divorce and rent increases. 28% had some college education and 23% had been in foster care. 48% had been to the emergency department in the past three months (many for multiple visits) and 52 % had been hospitalized in the last year. Hospitalization costs for the most vulnerable individuals averaged over \$15,000 per year. (Complete survey results are available online at <http://www.slideshare.net/sibleyvs/santa-cruz-180180-registry-week-survey-results>)

When homeless individuals are housed, the average monthly public cost decreases from almost \$3,000 to about \$600, with health care accounting for the largest decrease. Once individuals are housed, then health and abuse problems can be addressed with the help of a case manager who continues to be involved with that person. With case managers to follow up on any problems that may arise, the program has a stellar 97% success rate. Martinez pointed out that only about 1% truly choose to be homeless if offered appropriate housing without conditions or paperwork barriers.

Homelessness affects the community as a whole. The costs for treatment are just a part of the concern. Environmental degradation, community safety, economic development, and quality of life are all impacted by homelessness. Santa Cruz has used programs from across the US as models for its program, using proven, evidence-based solutions that work rather than trying to invent its own system.

Part of the solution is preventing homelessness by identifying those likely to become homeless, such as vets, individuals exiting the foster care system, and those exiting the prison and jail systems, and helping them before they become homeless.

Martinez emphasized that homelessness is a solvable problem, and that with community support we can restore health and dignity to the homeless while benefiting the entire community. The Santa Cruz Homeless Shelter is only part of the whole safety net; it will take community-wide collective action to deliver effective programs that move people to permanent housing and eventually reduce and end homelessness. Help is needed from all sectors of the community from landlords willing to rent to volunteers who can help clients navigate the system (To volunteer or donate go to scshelter.org, How to help.). She encouraged the audience to support increased funding for homeless programs.

If we keep the focus on solutions, Martinez feels confident that ending homelessness in Santa Cruz is an achievable goal. "I love the work I do," she said, "I love my job."

—Pam Newbury, VOTER Editor

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 _____

Higher Education Study Committee Seeking Applicants

In accordance with the approval of delegates at Convention 2013, LWVC Education Fund (LWVCEF) will undertake an update study of Higher Education in California and is now accepting applications to join the committee.

More information and the application to join the committee are online at ca.lwv.org/about/job-opportunities/higher-education-study-committee-member. The deadline for applications is April 28. If there is someone you think would make a good committee member, but who is not yet a League member, this is a great opportunity to recruit them to the League!

League of Women Voters
of Santa Cruz County
PO Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010
(831)426-VOTE(8683)

Editor: Pam Newbury
President: Peggy Marketello
Membership: Barbara Lewis

league@lwvsc.org | <http://lwvsc.org>