



Santa Cruz VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

November 2014 *Celebrating 50 Years of Voter Education in Santa Cruz County* Volume 49, Number 4

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Calendar

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Rethinking SUD/COD
International House of Pancakes
1549 41st Ave, Capitola, CA 95010
Attendees order lunch on separate tabs

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

1 p.m.-3 p.m.
LWVSCC Board Meeting
International House of Pancakes
1549 41st Ave, Capitola, CA 95010

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

1-3 p.m.
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

Tuesday, January 16, 2015

1-3 p.m.
LWVSCC Board Meeting
Santa Cruz County Bank
720 Front Street, Santa Cruz 95060

January 2015

State Program Planning
Details to be announced

Tuesday, February 11, 2015

1-3 p.m.
LWVSCC Board Meeting

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Noon-2 p.m.
50th Anniversary Celebration
With invitee John Laird, State Secretary of
Natural Resources
Severino's Bar and Grill
7500 Old Dominion Court
Aptos, CA 95003
Inside the Seacliff Inn

President's Message

Dear Members,

This week we've finished another exciting election season, and I assume you all have exercised your right to vote by heading to the polls or by turning in your absentee ballot.

Most of the action directives coming from the National League this past month have had to do with getting out the vote. Also, our US Representative Sam Farr (California's 20th Congressional District) has asked voters to contact their representatives and encourage them to pass H.R. 3899, the Voting Rights Amendment Act, which restores part of the VRA that the Supreme Court saw fit to gut in this 49-year-old law. The House of Representatives, with its abysmal non-action MO, has also failed to act to protect our at-risk voting rights. I repeat, again and again, constant vigilance and moves to action by all are sorely needed to keep voting fair and assure equal access to the polls for every citizen.

This is also a good time to praise your local board members for their diligence and dedication, particularly in maintaining and going beyond what we do best: registering and informing voters in our county.

Voter service co-chairs Sue Becker and Dottie Fry have had an active election season, doing a great job registering voters around the county and in high school classes, arranging candidate forums, and presenting pros and cons on the state ballot measures to various organizations. Many kudos for Sue and Dottie's grand efforts, and to all those assisting them with their time, labor, and expertise on the events of this election year (see page 3 for the full Voter Service Report).

Keeping us equally informed on what is happening is our VOTER newsletter editor, Pam Newbury, with her comprehensive reporting on our program's study issues and her monthly dedication to presenting an A-1 newsletter for the League.

Board member-at-large Dee Takemoto has kept the populace informed about our events through her effective announcements and contacts with the media and the Sentinel's Coast Lines.



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Membership Report

Welcome to new household members Caroline and John Elam, who joined our Santa Cruz League of Women Voters in October. Caroline and John moved from southern California to Felton, and then to a home in Scotts Valley to be near family. Previous League memberships were in Inglewood and Torrance. Caroline is interested in housing and disaster preparedness, and mentioned her involvement in the San Lorenzo Valley emergency preparedness project as a recent concern. Caroline and John joined at the October 15 pros and cons of ballot measures at the Scotts Valley library.

Our featured board member this month is Pam Newbury, who has contributed so well to the continued existence of our League in Santa Cruz County.

Voter editor Pam Newbury grew up in the Monterey Peninsula and graduated from San Jose State University with a BA in English. After graduation she worked and lived in the Silicon Valley. A year after marrying Ken in 1985, they moved to Bonny Doon in the mountains above Santa Cruz.

Believing that a strong democracy depends on an informed electorate and easy access to the voting booth, she became a supporter of LWV. Busy with homeschooling her two boys, she waited until they were older to take an active role in the local League, beginning with writing occasional member profiles for the VOTER. From there she became a board member-at-large. In 2011, she decided that her true calling was to edit the VOTER, which she has done ever since.

Now grown, her sons attend Cabrillo College, one just finishing and soon to transfer to UCSC, the other just starting. Ten years ago, Pam started taking martial arts classes, and to her surprise, she found them a fun and challenging way to stay fit. Today, she teaches martial arts in Aptos two days a week. Other hobbies include beading, tie-dyeing, and gardening.

Pam plans to continue as an active member of LWVSCC, and is currently focusing on efforts to examine the treatment of inmates in our county jails with substance abuse disorders and mental illness.

—Barbara Lewis,
First Vice President/Membership

Rethinking Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders in Our Criminal Justice System:

A look at the HSA's draft Strategic Plan and planning for our May, 2015 panel discussion

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

International House of Pancakes

1549 41st Ave, Capitola, CA 95010

Attendees will order lunch on separate tabs.

Our November 11 meeting will focus on this year's program planning topic concerning treatment of individuals in the county justice system with substance use disorders (SUD) and co-occurring disorders (COD). At the meeting, chaired by Pam Newbury, we will review and discuss the County Health Services Agency's newly-released *Draft Strategic Plan for Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention Services* (available online at www.santacruzhealth.org). We will also discuss plans for our May 2015 speakers' panel on the topic.

Questions to be put before the May, 2015 panel for discussion will address concerns about the best practices for treatment of those with SUD/COD who have entered Santa Cruz County's (SCC) criminal justice system. Questions will center on whether individuals can or should be diverted from the jails into treatment and how this can be accomplished. With every dollar in treatment saving at least four dollars in acute health care, criminal justice, and other public costs, how can we begin to invest more dollars in treatment? Why have some seemingly successful efforts in this direction, such as the recently disbanded drug court, failed? How can successful programs, such as the Serial Inebriates Program, be expanded?

Currently, in SCC efforts for treatment and prevention account for only 3.3% of the costs of SUD/COD, and less than half of those who seek treatment receive it. By reallocating resources from prosecution and incarceration to treatment, can we reduce our overall costs?

This meeting will begin with a review of the Draft Strategic Plan and a discussion of our response to the plan. Attendees are encouraged to read the plan and attend the [November 5 HSA presentation](#) of the Strategic Plan if possible. Following that, we will discuss possible speakers, topics, process, venue, publicity, and other aspects of planning our May event.

Come and contribute your ideas and energy to this effort on Tuesday, November 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the IHOP in Capitola. This meeting is open to all LWVSCC members. Attendees will order lunch on separate tabs. All are welcome to stay and attend the LWVSCC Board meeting immediately following at the same location.

Voter Service Report

NOVEMBER VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

This September 23, National Voter Registration Day, the League registered voters at three sites throughout Santa Cruz County.

On the Westside of Santa Cruz, at the Safeway store, Sue Becker, Joan Hebert, Eric Thomassen, and Dottie Speidel held forth from 3 until 7 p.m. Six people reregistered due to an address change.



In Boulder Creek, in front of Johnnie's Super Market, another team of four worked: Dorrie Kennedy, Connie Leas, Wendy Harris, and Karen Smith. This turned out to be a good site, with several new voters registering, and five people taking forms home to fill out and mail in.

In Watsonville, at the Cabrillo College extension, Dottie Fry, Jan Karwin, Kathy Donovan, and Laura Grossman registered students. Altogether we registered nineteen people that day, from all three sites.

Then, on October 8 and 9, three of us talked to three different senior history classes at Harbor High School, registering seven new voters and a student teacher whose address had changed. We were asked to talk about why it is important to vote, and we each made presentations of 20-30 minutes. We three "teachers," Dorrie Kennedy, Joan Hebert, and Sue Becker, enjoyed talking to these young ones and inspiring them to be informed and to vote as soon as they turned 18. After our talks we went about registering the students who would be 18 by November 4.

Overall, our team of volunteers registered 27 voters. Thank you again to all of those who gave of their time and energy to promote the cause of responsible voting.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The League co-sponsored two candidate forums for the November 4th election on September 30: the San Lorenzo Valley Water District and the 29th State Assembly District forums, co-sponsored with the Valley Women's Club. The SLV Water District had six candidates for three seats and the Assembly seat had two candidates. Ashley Wheelock moderated, with Jan Karwin as prompter, Dee Takemoto as time-keeper, and Dottie Fry, Sue Becker and Eve Roberson as question sorters.

On October 8 the Lompico Community Center and the Lompico-Zayante Women's Social Club co-sponsored the Lompico Water District forum with five candidates vying for two seats. Celia Scott moderated, Jan Karwin prompted, Dee Takemoto kept time, and Dottie Fry and Sue Becker sorted questions.

Thank you to all the League members who volunteered as part of this excellent team to make these three forums happen. They were successful and informative due to your efforts.

PROS AND CONS PRESENTATIONS

The League made four presentations of the pros and cons of the November 4th ballot measures. Sue Becker and Dottie Fry presented to the Methodist Women's Group at the United Methodist Church in Santa Cruz on October 14; the LWVSCC monthly meeting at the Scotts Valley Library on October 15, the AAUW luncheon at Mei Gardens Restaurant in Santa Cruz on October 25; and finally, the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Santa Cruz on October 27. Both presenters enjoyed the lively discussions during and after the presentations. The Voter Service team is proud to have provided information to help so many voters make informed decisions on the ballot measures for the November 4th election.

—Sue Becker and Dottie Fry, Voter Service Co-Chairs

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 _____

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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.



LWVC Convention 2015 in San Diego

Make your plans now to be in San Diego May 15-17, 2015 for an exciting LWV of California Convention. San Diego is a great city with lots to offer! Look for updates on the convention at <http://lwvc.wordpress.com/>

LWVC is also seeking donations of sought-after items for their silent auction fundraiser at the California League convention. Do you own time at a vacation home, fine art, or a really special piece of jewelry? Are you a member of a wine club? Help the League gather silent auction items that would cause bidders to keep checking back until the winner is announced. Remember, proceeds go to support all the important work the state League does. Please contact Lottie Fox (LottieFox@verizon.net) of the state League to discuss your valuable donation.



President's Message

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Program Chair Jan Beautz has contacted speakers and venue coordinators for the League's informational meetings for you and the community, all with her experienced supervisory background and ease in dealing with planning and preparations.

As president, I want to thank my other expert board cohorts, without whose knowledge I would flounder: Secretary Jan Karwin, with the most detailed and thorough minutes I've ever seen (and also our website master), and Barbara Lewis, our VP/Membership Chair with her careful attention to each member's information, have both been crucial in keeping me informed with their League expertise and experiences as past presidents themselves. They graciously stay dedicated to the cause and helpful to this novice.

And last to mention, but not least in importance, is Treasurer Marcia Minnihan, without whose financial knowledge I would die on the vine. She keeps us fiscally solvent, up-to-date, and legal, all with a smile for my many questions.

A big thank you to this board and our volunteering members for keeping the Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters a viably strong, relevant, and exemplary organization. You are all so admirable!

—Peggy Marketello, President.