



The Voter



League of Women Voters of North & Central San Mateo County, California

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

January 2018



General Meeting

Tuesday January 16, 2018

1 – 3 p.m.

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo, California 94402

Climate Crisis 2018

The news is full of stories about Climate Change these days. There was the recent gathering of global leaders in Paris, where California governors past and present attended along with business and banking leaders. And then there are the recent fires in California – is this a sign of what’s to come? It is said that a single wild fire can release more CO2 than the state has gained from a reduction in emissions from fossil fuels.

Join the League for a timely and riveting discussion on Climate Change by climate reality leader Gary White. Mr. White, who was trained by former Vice President Al Gore, incorporates material from the award winning film, “The Inconvenient Truth,” to discuss three questions about climate change. Do we have to change? Can we change? Do we have the will to change? This presentation will include current data on climate change, visuals of extreme climate events and materials on renewable energy, what is available today and what is coming next.

Gary White is a climate activist who informs organizations on the perils and solutions to climate change. He holds a M.S.W. from UC Berkeley and an Executive Education Certificate in Corporate Social Responsibility from Harvard University.

This meeting is open to the public.

Contact Susie Raye, Program Director, for more information: program@lwnvncsmc.org or leave a message at the League office 650-342-5853.

Directions: From Hwy 92, exit at El Camino Real, go North for .6 mile; Silicon Valley Community Foundation is on the left (west) side, parking is available in the lot and on the street.

Contents: President’s Message, p. 2 — Board Highlights, p. 2 — Civil Discourse Training: Focused Discussion Method, p. 3 — Get Us Moving San Mateo County, p. 3 — Welcome to Our New Members! p. 4 — Big News on Make it Fair! p. 4 — Meeting Sites Needed! p. 4 — January Calendar, p. 4

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Ann Kuchins, President • Marie Baldisseri, Membership Chair • Ann Kuchins, Editor

Office: 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo CA 94401 • Phone: 650-342-5853 Email: LWVNCSMC@sbcglobal.net • Web site: www.lwnvncsmc.org.

President's Message



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

"A New Year is like a blank book, and the pen is in your hands. It is your chance to write a beautiful story for yourself."

The success of the League's mission statement, Making Democracy Work, rests on the involvement of each American citizen in our political process. As League members, we are in a position to promote education and advocacy on a wide range of issues. As you ponder your resolutions for the new year, I urge you to take some time and consider how you might assist the League in its efforts. We have a wide range of jobs from serving as a board member to helping as a greeter at one of our events. How you choose to get involved will provide you with an opportunity to interact with League members and with the public.

A primary focus of our League this winter and spring will be to educate voters in San Mateo County on the new voting system that will be implemented through the Voters Choice Act (VCA). The VCA committee is targeting groups with which to partner and to provide education. We are using a version of the presentation that was presented at our September meeting on the VCA. If you are interested in being a presenter, please contact Gayle Hardt at hardtlaw1@aol.com. The presentation is completely scripted. We are working with the San Mateo County Elections office and we hope to have a representative at each of our meetings to help answer audience questions.

The Election Administrative Plan (EAP) draft for San Mateo is coming out on January 4. This plan will provide details on how the VCA is to be implemented. Among other things, it will include the location of voting centers and drop-off boxes. There is a public hearing on the EAP draft on January 18. If you are interested, see the January calendar on p. 4. For information on the VCA, see <https://www.shapethefuture.org/voterschoiceact>.

Our League will continue to have a presence at the CSM Farmer's Market from 9:30 – 11:00 on the second Saturday of every month. In addition to registering voters, this is an opportunity to inform voters on the new voting model in San Mateo (VCA), provide information on issues in the upcoming primary, informing the public about our meetings, handing out bookmarks publicizing the League's Voter's Edge website where voters can get the facts on candidates and ballot propositions and measures, and whatever else comes up. If you have any questions, please send me an email at president@lwvnscmc.org. You can find our booth near the CSM buildings. Join me on January 13! If it is raining, the event will be cancelled.

You will continue to hear more about the Make It Fair coalition discussed in the letter from Helen Hutchinson on p. 4. We may need a contact person for this coalition so stay tuned if you are interested in reforming Proposition 13.

I would like to extend a big thank you to **Mary Nobriga** and **Betty Fleming** who completed this year's financial review with **Don Jacobberger's** assistance!

Through the *Voter* and email blasts, we are continually looking for volunteers. Please do not hesitate to ask questions if you are interested. Let's work together in 2018!

Ann Kuchins, President

Board Highlights

At the December board meeting:

- Heard that Ann Draper of LWV South will represent the League on the San Mateo County Charter review committee
- Heard a summary of the financial review conducted by Mary Nobriga and Betty Fleming
- Heard an update of the plans of the Observer Corps to look at the meetings and web site of a local city
- Saw a slide presentation of the report that Stanford Alumni Consulting Team gave to LWV South on attracting and holding new members

Jean Johnson, Secretary

Civil Discourse Training: Focused Discussion Method

Join us for training in the Focused Discussion Method on Saturday, January 20 from 10:30 – 12:30 at the League office. This workshop will be conducted by the LWV Santa Clara County Council Civil Discourse Committee.

The Focused Discussion Method is a progression of questions that takes a group on a journey of consciousness. It is useful for reflecting on experiences such as a movie, a project site visit, a planning session, a work day, a story, or any common or extraordinary life event.

The method works with a series of questions that

- Directs the thinking of the group involved toward making a decision
- Uses a specific sequence of questions every time
- Is adaptable to any situation and group
- Takes participants on a four level journey of awareness:
 - Objective – Getting the facts
 - Reflective – Illuminate emotions, feelings, and associations
 - Interpretative – Highlights values, meaning, and purpose
 - Decisional – Decisions regarding future resolves allowing individuals to decide their relationship and response to the topic and the discussion
- Ordered very carefully so that a progression in consciousness takes place

The Focused Discussion Method is the first tool developed by the Technology of Participation Methodology (ToP) which “provides structured facilitation methods to help groups think, talk and work together.” For more information, go to <http://strategicfacilitation.com>.

Focused Discussion Method Handout



County League Day Meeting

Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:00 – Noon.

This year, County League Day will be hosted by LWV South San Mateo County. There will be a speaker and a discussion on our joint program plan for 2018-2019. Details forthcoming.

Get Us Moving San Mateo County



As reported in past *Voters*, a coalition of regional leaders, transportation experts, employers, nonprofit groups, and others has been brought together to find a solution to San Mateo County’s transportation issues. While the League does not have a position on any solution, including a possible sales tax measure in 2018, the League is represented on the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Barbara Wallis (LWV South SMC) and Jackie Jacobberger (LWV No & Central SMC) are the League representatives to this group.

The group agreed that the community is an important part of the process. Recently you may have received a brochure with a survey seeking input from residents on their top priorities for improving transportation in San Mateo County. We hope you will take time to fill it out and return it promptly. (It is postage paid so no need to look for a stamp!)

If you can’t find the brochure or prefer to do it online, take the survey at www.GetUsMovingSMC.com. A plus for taking the survey online: it allows everyone in your household to express an opinion in case you have different opinions. It is important to do it now. The Stakeholder Advisory Group will review the responses as well as potential project proposals in February and we want your voice to be heard.

Jackie Jacobberger

Welcome to Our New Members!

Laura and Kathy Parmer-Lohan
Chelsea Bonini

Big News on Make it Fair!



After almost 40 years, the LWVC is seizing the moment to close the corporate loophole in Proposition 13 that keeps too many companies from paying their fair share.

Since 2015, the League has been a part of the **Make It Fair** coalition—which today filed an initiative to do just that. The League campaigned against Prop 13 in 1978, and we’re excited to continue our leadership and help pass this critical reform.

Californians deserve world-class schools and universities, quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes. That is what our taxes should pay for. It’s past time to close this loophole and stop letting big business rob our schools and local communities, impoverish future generations, and endanger California’s economic future. The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is the responsible, fair, and long-overdue tax system to ensure California can thrive now and in the future.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will create a “split roll”; non-residential, non-agricultural commercial property will be reassessed on a regular basis. This will lead to an estimated increase in property tax of over \$11 billion per year—revenue that will go directly to schools and local governments.

We are excited about this legislation; it’s long overdue. We’ll be talking about the campaign in the coming months and reporting updates on the legislation.

Sincerely,
Helen L. Hutchison, President, League of Women Voters of California

Meeting Sites Needed!

I am always looking for better sites to hold our League meetings, especially in the evenings. It needs to have access for the disabled and parking close by. Most of our recent meetings have been held in San Mateo, so I’m particularly looking for sites in other areas. The League is a nonprofit, which means I am also looking for a room at low or no cost.

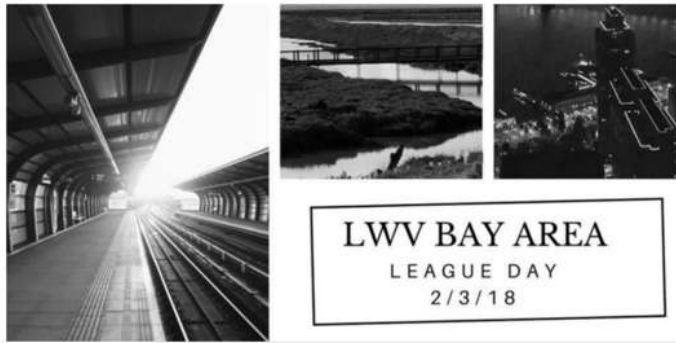
Do you know of a good site? Maybe a room at your city library or other city facility is available. Maybe a room at your church. Maybe a room where we can hold a joint meeting with another group. Please send me your suggestions and recommendations: program@lwncsmc.org.

Susie Raye, Program Director

January Calendar

Date	Time	Description	Place
Monday Jan. 2	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Members are always welcome to attend	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Wednesday Jan. 10	Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Brown Bag Lunch with the League Topic: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017/Sexual Harassment	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401
Saturday Jan. 13	9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Voter Registration at the CSM Farmer’s Market	CSM Farmer’s Market 1700 West Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo
Tuesday Jan. 16	1-3 p.m.	General Meeting Topic: Climate Crisis 2018	Silicon Valley Community Foundation 1300 South El Camino Real, San Mateo
Thursday Jan. 18	1:00 p.m.	Public Hearing on Election Administration Plan	Board of Supervisors Chambers Hall of Justice 400 County Center, Redwood City
Saturday Jan. 20	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Focused Discussion Group Workshop	444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1 San Mateo CA 94401

LWV Bay Area League Day



Saturday, February 3, 2018

9:30 a.m. Registration | Networking | Continental Breakfast

10:00 am – 3:00 pm Panels and Roundtable Discussion

Laney College, Oakland

\$35 advance (with lunch) |

\$40 at the door (with lunch)

Winds of Change

Panel I: Impact of Regional Government on Local Government and Community ~ Intersection and Interconnection

Panel II: Cross Currents of Local Government, Community, Urban, and Regional Planning

Panel III: Today's Microclimate and Head Winds: Micro-Climate of Regionalism, Regional Governance, and Today's Head Winds

Regional Roundtable

Regional Climate Forecast ~Today and Tomorrow

LWVBA: <http://lwvbayarea.org/>

For Information and Tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-bay-area-league-day-focus-on-regional-government-winds-of-change-tickets-39861204937>

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Where new members just like you are taking advantage of leadership opportunities and making an impact.

Name(s)

Address

City Zip Code

Phone Number (daytime)

E-mail address

Amount enclosed \$ _____

(\$75 one member; \$115 two members, same household; \$40 each additional member, same household. *Dues are tax deductible.*)

Mail to: LWVNCSMC 444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

League of Women Voters
OF North & Central
San Mateo County
444 Peninsula Avenue, Suite 1
San Mateo, CA 94401-1679

