



# THE VOTER

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

*Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities*

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December 2016

Editor: Bernadette Burns, [bernadetteburns362@gmail.com](mailto:bernadetteburns362@gmail.com), 408-757-1250

### HOLIDAY PARTY!

The Annual **Holiday Party** Potluck and **Program Planning** Meeting will be at 6 pm on Thursday, December 8, at Kathleen and Dave Weisenberg's home, 167 Heather Drive, Atherton. A potluck dinner will be provided by your Board.

At the meeting, Duane Bay will speak to us about the housing crisis. Duane is now Assistant Director of Planning and Research at the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), and was previously a member of the LWVSSMC Housing Committee.



Duane joined ABAG in September 2013 with a focus on affordable housing, the Regional Housing Need Allocation, and overall housing policy. Duane came to ABAG with an extensive background in housing planning that includes serving as the Director of the San Mateo County Department of Housing from 2005 to 2013. He was also a Councilmember and Mayor for the city of East Palo Alto.

Contact: Suzanne Fouché, [safouche@comcast.net](mailto:safouche@comcast.net), 650-306-9096



**Program Planning** is a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission. It is composed of study on issues, consensus on what action to take, and advocating with one voice for that action.

This process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money. It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. You'd never skip voting in an election; you shouldn't skip the League's equivalent. **The program planning process is your voice!**

After our discussions, we will prioritize and propose our League's **Issues for Emphasis**, and send them to Sacramento by February 24, 2017. The overall process culminates in the delegates' adoption of the statewide program at our June 2-4, 2017 convention in Sacramento, which all members are encouraged to attend.

The national **Campaign for Making Democracy Work** adopted at the LWVUS convention in June 2016 will be part of the LWVC's and local Leagues' focus in the coming year. How might we participate in these efforts?

**For more information go to:**

<http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/docs/Notes-on-Ongoing-Work-and-Opportunities.pdf>

Join the Yahoo discussion group by emailing **lwvc-program-planning-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

Sign up for a webinar on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 7 pm.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1642753214244584195>

## **FROM THE BOARD**

### **Where do we go from here?**

This election presented us with a new, unfamiliar and for some of us frightening political landscape. What do we do now? As I see it, the three greatest challenges emerging are to:

- (1) our world. Earth – the only home we have. We must continue our efforts to preserve and improve our planet for the benefit of future generations.
- (2) our system of government. We must continue to stand up for the rights of all Americans, of each and every eligible voter, to fully participate in our democracy.
- (3) our friends and neighbors and in some cases (including my own) family members who are members of vulnerable minorities – Latino, African American, Moslem, LGBT.

These are large issues. We will need every resource we can muster over the next four years to protect the gains that have been made and to push back against potential threats. The League can be a strong partner in that effort. The National League will need our full support, both personally and financially, so please give some consideration as to how you might be able to contribute to this important effort.

We are fortunate to live where we do, and I expect that our diverse state will stand against prejudice. But California, or the west coast, or the two coasts, are not the entirety of our country. We must work with other Leagues in other states to combat the ills of racism, sexism, thoughtless hatred, and political illiteracy wherever they arise.

Finally, we must remember the people who we sometimes dismiss too readily – those who have believed that if they just continue as their parents and grandparents did before them, with the same jobs and educational levels, everything will work out for them. It isn't working, and it won't. They are frustrated, bewildered, frightened, angry – and in need of our help. Let us remember them too. They are not limited to the so called Rust Belt – there are a great many in our own Central Valley.

The League of Women Voters has a history of civility, of respect for facts, and of interest in a broad range of topics that is not matched by any other organization in the country. We can take that and build on it. Over the next few months we hope to look more closely at these issues, and at what we can do here locally to address them. Your input will be invaluable, and much appreciated.

***Ellen Hope, President***

**LWVSSMC video presentation:**

In order to have a volunteer League member film our Candidate Forums, rather than paying someone from MidPeninsula Media to do so, I attended their Zoom In training. In the interest of promoting community media, each student was required to make and publish a 2-minute video, based on an interview, with some photographic overlay.

My topic was the Pros & Cons, and I interviewed our Voter Service chair Sue Alvarez on that subject. Sue gave a tremendously detailed and articulate interview, about 35 minutes, discussing both the Pros & Cons, and, to a lesser extent, the Candidate Forums. My biggest challenge was selecting only 2 minutes of the interview for the presentation!

Nonetheless, we have all the rest of that footage available for potential future use, and I am also obligated (as a result of this training) to make another video in the next 6 months which will be posted to the same website. HOWEVER, I am not limited to one video, and I can borrow their high-quality equipment as much as I want when it is available, so that we can do much more if we desire. This is an opportunity for us at the LWVSSMC to try some different things for recording our history, and/or advertising ourselves—at a very low cost.

So please think how we can use this opportunity to go forward! Speak or write to me or to any Board member with your suggestions.

**Bernadette Burns**, *VOTER editor and semi-official videographer*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uysjzlB9LeY>

Or search by going to MidPeninsula Media's Zoom In workshop student video site: <https://www.youtube.com/mczoomin> and look for November 2016 ZI Workshop

## **BOARD NOTES from the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

- Ann Draper is now a public member of LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission).
- LWV Bay Area meeting is planned for Saturday January 28, 2017 in San Jose; the topic will be local housing issues.
- Discussed details regarding settling into our new office space including our new letterhead logo for stationary.
- Our roster is being updated; we hope to distribute it at the December general meeting.
- Discussed need for LWV members to wear an identifying pin when attending public events. Motion made and approved to order pins.
- November general meeting was a well-attended “office warming” held on Saturday Nov 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The December general meeting will be our holiday party at Kathleen Weisenberg’s house on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>; board members will each bring a dish to share.
- Discussed possible topics for general meetings in 2017—sea level rise; electoral college re-do; increased funding needs noted by local courts.
- Approved letters to be signed by Ellen Hope for presentation to the Menlo Park City Council, regarding the city’s risk from climate change/sea level rise.

### ***New Voices for Youth December Update from Kathleen Weisenberg***

Jose ‘Lalo’ Saavedra, our new project director, is rapidly learning the NV4Y program while leading the middle-school students in our ongoing classes at the Siena Youth Center. Most of the students are new to New Voices and Lalo reports that he has given them freedom to develop individual pieces but that all of them are talking about the gentrification of Redwood City in some way.

At the same time, our team is actively exploring opportunities to reach East Palo Alto and Belle Haven middle-school students with “M-A Speaks Out: The Truth About College,” a video created by our M-A students last spring.

This short film expresses “what we wished we’d known before going to high school” and was designed for students, teachers and parents in this middle school community.

Recently, Dr. Anna Waring, Executive Director of a *Foundation for a College Education*, and our NV team explored ways our two programs might work together to reach our target audience while enhancing their students’ experience. Going forward, Lalo and FCE’s Associate Director of Programs, Asra Hussain, will meet in January to further plan their strategy. We are cautiously hopeful that this will lead to a fruitful collaboration for more students.

NV is very pleased to welcome Tracy Clark, Ashley Wagstaff, and Patty Page to our NV4Y team. Tracy and Ashley are new members of our League and are already helping to make a difference.

**The Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council** presents

**CHINA: What Should Interest Us, What Should Worry Us?**

China is regarded as a serious competitor on the international stage. In our increasingly globalized world, China’s economy and its foreign affairs are of strategic interest to foreign policy makers. Additionally, new initiatives such as the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and One Belt One Road (OBOR), and its engagement in the region and beyond make China a country to watch. **Dr. Nicholas Hope**, Director of the Stanford Center for International Development (SCID), joins us to discuss these important issues and what relations with China will look like moving forward.

Wednesday, December 7, 7pm, Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Free; no registration required.

And yes, that **Dr. Hope** is indeed **our esteemed president’s husband**, so if you haven’t yet made it to a World Affairs Council event, this might be the time to find out just how interesting they are!



League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area



The Dec/Jan edition of the Bay Area Monitor is now available online.  
Click on a specific article link, or download the complete pdf:

[Turning Stormwater from Gray to Green](#)

[Screened out of Cap-and-Trade Funding?](#)

[The Super Pollutant Gang](#)

[Nature on the Edge](#)

<http://bayareamonitor.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/dec16.pdf>

Find more information at **bayareamonitor.org** and their Facebook  
page **facebook.com/bayareamonitor**

**BAY AREA  
MONITOR**



League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area Education Fund

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund publishes the *Bay Area Monitor* six times a year.

The publication covers policies, plans, programs, and legislation that affect quality of life in the Bay Area and beyond.

The *Monitor* is provided to readers for free, both in print and online ([www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)).

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<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>		
<b>DECEMBER</b>		
6 Tues	7 pm	Menlo Park City Council Meeting, with presentation on Sea Level Rise.
7 Weds	7 pm	<b>World Affairs Council</b> at Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Road, Los Altos. <b>Nick Hope</b> will address <b>CHINA: What Should Interest Us, What Should Worry Us?</b> . <a href="http://www.worldaffairs.org/events">www.worldaffairs.org/events</a> 415-293-4600. Contact: Ralph Kuiper, <a href="mailto:rkuiper@earthlink.net">rkuiper@earthlink.net</a>
8 Thurs	6 pm	Program planning and <b>holiday potluck</b> , Kathleen Weisenberg's house, 167 Heather Drive, Atherton. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, <a href="mailto:safouche@comcast.net">safouche@comcast.net</a>
12 Mon	7-9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at our new office, 3723 Haven Avenue, Suite 112, Menlo Park. (likely in conference room) Contact: Ellen Hope, <a href="mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com">ellenjhope@aol.com</a>
<b>JANUARY</b>		
7 Mon	7-9 pm	<b>LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> Contact: Ellen Hope, <a href="mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com">ellenjhope@aol.com</a>
26 Thurs	12	Book Group Meeting to discuss <b>Hillbilly Elegy by J. D. Vance</b> . At Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Drive, Menlo Park. Contact: Judy Orttung, <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a>
28 Sat		<b>Bay Area League Day</b> , San Jose.