



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities

www.LWVSSMC.org

650-325-5780

info@LWVSSMC.org

February 2017

Editor: Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com, 408-757-1250

County League Day

Sponsored by LWV of North & Central San Mateo County

This will also be our February General Meeting

Saturday, February 25, 2017

9:30 – Noon CSM Board Room

3401 CSM Drive, San Mateo CA 94402

9:30 am Registration and light breakfast buffet

10 am Energizing Youth in Civics and Democracy

by Generation Citizen

Business meeting to follow

Generation Citizen's mission statement is: "We empower young people to become engaged and effective citizens," which resonates with the philosophy of the League of Women Voters. Generation Citizen uses an action civics curriculum using coach-led and teacher-led models. Beyond enjoying successful action projects, Generation Citizen wants students to end their semesters with an understanding of how they can effect real, lasting change in their communities. For example, instead of thinking about solving hunger by serving at soup kitchens, students are taught to think about it by broaching structural issues that enable hunger, such as lack of funding for adequate school breakfast programs.

Speaker: Caitlin Paul

Bay Area Program Manager, Generation Citizen

See the Generation Citizen website (<http://generationcitizen.org/>) for more information.

The business meeting will set our Leagues' priorities for 2017-18. Please bring your handbook with our county positions in it. We will review, discuss, and adopt our county-wide positions and priorities.

Please contact Susie Raye, Program Director, for more information:
program@lwnvncsmc.org.

Directions to the CSM Board Room:

Exit Hwy 92 at W. Hillsdale Blvd., turn right and head up the hill towards CSM. At CSM Dr., turn left and then left into the parking lot at 3401 CSM Dr. The meeting will be in the Board Room on the 2nd floor.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We Are Growing!

Over the past few months our membership—like the membership of Leagues around California, and probably across the country—has increased by almost 20%. I expect this growth to continue. The challenge facing us now is to harness the energy and enthusiasm brought by our new members, and the continuing involvement of our long-time members to work toward positive changes in our towns and cities, our state, and our nation, and to resist those changes which we see as harmful to our national ideals.

Locally, our new webmaster, Sanneke Jang, will be using her skills to build on the firm basis created by Jamie Conrad. Our Media Relations Chair and Facebook manager, Rita Comes, will be expanding and revitalizing our online presence. If you have any photos or other League-related material that you would like added to our Facebook page, please send them to Rita at [ravrita@aol.com](mailto:ravrta@aol.com). (Currently there is a great picture of our group at the Rally in Redwood City on January 21. Check it out—and Like us!) <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSSMC/>

We plan to re-activate our currently dormant Housing Committee, to help us understand how to better help those in our community—nurses, teachers, EMTs, firefighters, and police, among others—who are having difficulty finding affordable housing. We will also establish a new committee on Law Enforcement/Community Relations, to help us progress toward our goals in that area of emphasis.

If you would be interested in working on either of these issues, please contact me—no experience required! (Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com 650-839-8647)

Additionally, we are expanding our Membership Committee, to welcome and involve new members so that the League can be as fulfilling an experience for them as it has been for so many of us. (And no, being a new member does not preclude you from being on the Membership Committee! We would love your perspective.)

We will continue to support the National and California Leagues in their work in protecting voting rights, civil rights, women’s rights, and the environment. We will forward selected emails from both entities. Currently, direct emails from National and State are on an opt-in basis. We will get more information to you on how to opt in. In the meantime, you can learn more on their websites:

www.lwv.org

www.lwvc.org

In addition, an encouraging article on recent nationwide membership increases:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2017/02/09/league-of-women-voters-seeing-sudden-surge-in-membership/>

We have a busy spring ahead!
Ellen Hope, President, LWSSMC

NV4Y Update from Sheila Botein

New Voices for Youth (NV4Y) is beginning 2017 with programs at Siena Youth Center in North Fair Oaks and at the Boys and Girls Club in East Palo Alto.

At Siena, they will document the work of the youth advocacy team to stop displacements and increase renter protection in North Fair Oaks. In the photo, Luis, a long-time NV4Y participant is filming the fourth march since October to originate at Siena.



The Boys and Girls Club has not had a video program for several years, so they were enthusiastic about sponsoring one twice a week. Jose Saavedra (aka "Lalo") who teaches in both EPA and NFO says the B&G club kids are enthusiastic and engaged.

We are also looking for venues to screen last year's video from M-A about college prep. Next month, we have been invited to attend two evening meetings of the Foundation for a College Education in EPA.

Finally, in the background, the Steering Committee is writing proposals and getting ready for a Spring fundraising mailer. Thanks in advance for your support!

YOU'RE INVITED! Join North/Central San Mateo for *Lunch with the League*
**Guest Speaker – The Honorable Jackie Speier,
United States Congresswoman**

Discussion Topics:

- Congresswoman's Speier's 2017 legislative priorities
- How can more women be encouraged to seek elected office?



Friday, April 7, 2017 in the Poplar Golf Course Banquet Room

1700 Coyote Point Drive, San Mateo CA 94401

11:30 a.m. – registration 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. - Lunch and Program

Menu

Mixed Green Salad

With baby field greens, cherry tomatoes, cucumber, and croutons in champagne vinaigrette

Entree Choices:

Pan Roasted Salmon - \$52

With lemon coriander beurre blanc, wild rice pilaf, and sautéed broccolini

Orecchiette Pasta Puttanesca - \$47

With capers, Kalamata olives, garlic, and seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Chocolate Supreme

Make your reservations by March 30, 2017! Don't wait, seats are limited.

Complete the reservation form below and return it, along with your payment to:

The League of Women Voters of North and Central San Mateo County c/o Marie Baldisseri,
852 Alta Loma Drive, South San Francisco, CA 94080 Make
check payable to: LWVNCSMC

Or, pay using PAYPAL via our website www.lwvnscsmc.org

If you have questions, contact Marie Baldisseri at mbaldisseri@att.net or 650-992-2233.

Lunch with the League Reservation Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Entrée Choice	Qty.		Amt.		
Pan Roasted Salmon		x	\$52.00	=	\$
Orecchiette Pasta Puttanesca		x	\$47.00	=	\$
Contribution (optional) Tax-deductible, 501(c)(3) Organization					\$
Total Amount Enclosed					\$
Tell us if you have any dietary issues:					

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS! By Lida Urbanek

The LWVSSMC raises funds for its important work in a variety of ways, including an end of the year solicitation letter to all its members. The response to this letter this year has been tremendous and our League Board wishes to thank all those who gave so generously to support us. While most of the donors were League members, there were also a number of donors who are not members, but who are eager to contribute to our work.

The LWV does not publish the names of donors, but it is interesting to note that recent gifts came from some 50 individuals, in amounts from \$25 to several \$500 donations. Donors gave to the League or to the League’s Education Fund, sometimes to both. (Donations to the Ed Fund are tax deductible). One donor wished her donation to be used SOLELY for voting and election material and the League will assure that this money will be used as the donor specified. Another very generous donation was given as a Christmas present to the donor’s sister—an active League member elsewhere. What a beautiful and creative way to honor someone you love and admire! Our League also received a donation from a group that had benefitted from our Pros and Cons presentation before the election. In addition, we received a year end check from Kepler’s Books, representing Kepler’s Community Partner program. Please don’t forget that when buying at Kepler’s, 6% of the purchase price goes back to the LWV—but you must mention the LWV!

The LWVSSMC again wishes to thank all those who have supported their League so generously.

There are two upcoming **special elections** in our area; both are all mail-in elections, which sometimes do not garner widespread attention. Both are school-district-related parcel taxes requiring needs 2/3 approval to pass. Information about them is available on Voter's Edge, www.votersedge.org

Measure X - Menlo Park Elementary School District, March 7th.

Measure Z - Woodside Elementary School District, April 4th.

Updates for your Membership Handbook/Roster

Government Representatives, pp 5-6

US Senator

Kamala Harris

112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 29510

(202) 224-3553 San Francisco Office 213-894-5000

www.harris.senate.gov

California Assembly Member for District 24

Marc Berman

P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0024

(916) 319-2024 Local: 650-691-2121

assembly.ca.gov

National League Priorities, p 22

Voting Rights

Money in Politics

Health Care

Environment

At the Community Action Rally January 21

Volunteers at our table, where 46 people signed up for our email list!

Act San Mateo County is the new Facebook page for continuing action after the Community Action Rally (San Mateo County).



**OFFICERS AND CONTACTS FOR OUR LEAGUE
(LWV OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY, 2016-17)**

President: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com
 Vice-President Administration: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net
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 Director (Candidates Forums): Diana Post, dsuepost@comcast.net
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 Director (at large): Patti Fry, pattifry@stanfordalumni.org
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 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2244, Menlo Park, CA 94026-2244**

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UPCOMING EVENTS		
FEBRUARY		
13 Mon	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING in the new office conference room. Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com
23 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting to discuss <i>Thank You for Being Late</i> by Thomas Friedman. At Mary Kneip's, the Vi, 620 Sand Hill Road, #109E, Palo Alto. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net
25 Sat	9:30 am – 12 noon	County League Day, College of San Mateo, CSM Board Room, 3401 CSM Drive, San Mateo. (See pages 1-2). THIS IS OUR GENERAL MEETING FOR FEBRUARY.
MARCH		
13 Mon	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING Contact: Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com
23 Thurs	12 noon	Book Group Meeting. Contact: Judy Orttung, jorttung@comcast.net