



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

July 2017

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

JULY IS LEAGUE RENEWAL MONTH

Your dues pay not only for our work locally, but for every level of the League -

County, Bay Area, State and National.

Look for your letter in the mail, return it promptly, and help us in our efforts to

Make Democracy Work!

“The key to democracy is not necessarily that we agree, but that we participate.” (Source unknown)

JULY GENERAL MEETING

Assembly Member Marc Berman

Legislative Update and Q&A

Tuesday, July 25, 6-8 pm

Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street

Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320, or safouche@comcast.net



**Meet your new
representative.
Bring your questions,
concerns and ideas!**

Marc Berman was elected to the California Assembly in November 2016 to represent the 24th District. A lawyer by training, he previously served on the Palo Alto City Council and as Development Director at the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Marc was a leader on the City Council on issues such as financial transparency (providing the public with an easy-to-understand summary of hundreds of pages of budget documents) and infrastructure improvements (committee for Measure B to help fund public safety, street and park improvements). Marc graduated from Georgetown University with a Political Science degree, and from law school at the University of Southern California.

Voter Turnout Demographics

Using Maps with State and County Data to Focus Voting Rights Actions

Saturday July 8, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Don McLaughlin of **National Voter Corps** will present the interactive maps at www.nationalvoter corps.org, relating voter turnout to demographics at state and county levels. He created these maps to show how demographic attributes such as poverty, race, urbanicity, and age **influenced voter turnout in the 2016 election**. Come learn how these maps can shape strategies for promoting voter participation!

Embarcadero Room at Rinconada Library, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As our headline says, **July is League Renewal Month**. Please return your check promptly, and consider adding an extra donation. Remember that less than 24% of your dues remains with our local League. The rest goes to the great work being done at our Bay Area, State and National levels. And don't forget to complete the survey on the back of your form. It will help us develop programs for the coming year and beyond. Thanks to **Dues Secretary Sharon Sherden** and to our membership committee for developing our new survey.

Our local League is currently looking at the possibility of merging our League with our Ed Fund. We hope that if we can work it out, it will help us to simplify our finances in the long run. The North & Central League and the Bay Area Inter-League Organization have already completed the process and report a positive outcome. Linda Craig guided the Bay Area League through their change and is helping us with our effort. Stay tuned.

Beside the two summer programs already mentioned elsewhere in this publication, we are busy planning for the fall. Ann Draper is organizing an update from Safer Bay with their plans for Sea Level Rise as it relates to Menlo Park and Palo Alto. And together with the North & Central San Mateo County League, we are organizing a panel to speak to us on immigration issues. We'll let you know dates and venues when we get more information.

Finally, be sure to save the morning of September 23 for our **Fall Kickoff**. Lida Urbanek has once again agreed to host us at her lovely home. Suzanne Fouché, our extremely busy Program Director is working on our speaker for the event. And, by the way, she could use an assistant. **If helping to plan future programs sounds interesting to you, please contact Suzanne or me.**

Shirley Des Marais
President

Next month we will have a report on **Pamela Karlan's** June 27 presentation on voting and the political process. Meanwhile, you can download a publication she co-authored, [Keeping Faith with the Constitution](https://www.acslaw.org/pdf/ACS_KeepFaith_FNL.pdf):
https://www.acslaw.org/pdf/ACS_KeepFaith_FNL.pdf

STATE CONVENTION REPORT from Shirley Des Marais

Four members of our League, Tracy Clark, Diana Post, Corrie Potter and I had the good fortune to represent our League at the State League Convention in Sacramento June 2-4. Not only were we able to discuss and vote on State League procedures and positions, we also attended workshops offering information and suggestions to help local Leagues with important issues, which we will be sharing with board members, chairs and committees in the upcoming months.

Delegates adopted the following LWVC Program for 2017-2019:

Retain current positions

Issues for Education and Advocacy:

- Making Democracy Work in California
- Natural Resources, including climate change, water, and land use/CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act)
- Response to changing federal policies and budget actions that have an impact on California in areas such as healthcare, immigration, the environment, and tax reform

These automatically become issues that we can use in our own local program.

We also adopted new State League Bylaws. They have been completely rewritten to remove details, making the Bylaws easier to understand and requiring fewer changes. The thought is that the details of running the League belong in the Board Policy and Procedures, where it is easier to make changes by the Board, and not wait for two years to be changed at Convention. Local Leagues are welcome, but not obligated, to follow the State League model.

Finally, we had the opportunity to attend caucuses. Some were aimed at lobbying attendees to support a local League's motion for adoption at the convention. At others, Leagues shared programs that they've implemented at their local level. The Los Angeles League shared their progress on Community Relationships with the LA Police Department. Their experience could be a great help to us as we begin to consider our own issue of community policing.

Looking ahead to next year, the National League will hold their biannual convention in Chicago, June 28 – July 1, 2018.

Timely Topics Conversation Series: China & the US with Dr. Nicholas Hope— Summary by Linda Liebes

Dr. Hope, aka Nick, Ellen Hope's husband, graciously met with us at Susan and William Grindley's historic home to follow up on his talk to us at our Annual Meeting. He said that when he spoke at our Annual Meeting on May 16 he had just gotten home from China and might be called an expert. This evening, five weeks later, he claimed he was not.

Of course, that is not true. Dr. Hope is truly an expert, not only on China, but on all of Southeast Asia, and more importantly, he thinks outside the box. As one who wants a win-win for every nation, he comes up with solutions such as making the islands near Taiwan international heritage zones, which could defuse dangerous political situations. Such rational thinking, however, is rarely accepted by politicians, and unfortunately, this suggestion was not taken up.

Dr. Hope said that he views the major topics in U.S. relations with China as: 1) trade and investment issues; 2) climate change; 3) nuclear war, especially in regard to North Korea; and 4) the South China Sea. He thinks that the current U.S. administration has yielded leadership to China on items 1 and 2, which is regrettable. He had high praise for China's development, which, while it has benefited China's wealthy class the most, has also been a tide that has lifted all boats. For example, in 1994 annual GDP was \$600 billion, or \$500 per capita. By 2016, annual GDP had risen to \$11.2 trillion, or \$8,110 per capita.

Recommended reading: The executive summary of the Asia Society Report, which can be found at

<http://asiasociety.org/center-us-china-relations/us-policy-toward-china-recommendations-new-administration>

For recent trade developments, see this piece by Joshua P. Meltzer:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/05/15/the-u-s-china-trade-agreement-a-huge-deal-for-china/>

Also, Nick will send those who are interested a deck of slides. His email is: nhope@stanford.edu.

AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

Assembly Member Kevin Mullin

Legislative Update and Q&A

Wednesday, August 2, 6:30-8:30 pm

Independence Hall,

2955 Woodside Road (next to Town Hall), Woodside

Contact: Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320, or safouche@comcast.net

Kevin Mullin is now in his 3rd term representing the 22nd District in the California State Assembly. As Speaker pro Tem for the 2016-17 legislative session, he presides regularly over Assembly floor sessions, where he makes rulings on parliamentary inquiries and helps ensure bi-partisan cooperation and civility during Assembly floor sessions.

Elections reform and strengthening our democracy is Kevin's top legislative priority. He is also focused on creating economic opportunity for all, transportation infrastructure and congestion relief, affordable housing, maintaining a balanced budget with a rainy-day fund, as well as clean tech and nurturing our innovation economy.

Kevin graduated with a B.A. in Communications from the University of San Francisco, and a Master's degree in Public Administration (M.P.A.) from San Francisco State University.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES from the May 16th meeting:

Attendance

- 39 Voting Members present for the business meeting, and 10 guests
- Ellen Hope acknowledged LWVSSMC past Presidents in attendance: Linda Craig, Geri Felix, Ellen Kitamura, Lucile Spurlock, Kathleen Weisenberg, Lida Urbanek, Lisa Conrad, Mary Kneip, Linda Liebes and Debby Maio.
- Guests were introduced including Kathee Tyson, VP from North-Central.
- Rules, order of business, etc. adopted

President's Report

Ellen Hope recapped the highlights of her term including the following:

- The national and state election had many reasons for the league to be involved.
- In the state, we had 17 propositions to consider and our LWVSSMC held more than 20 Pros and Cons discussions in the community.
- Held 4 candidate forums in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto
- Our December meeting featured a discussion of the ongoing housing crisis in our area
- In January, we had an information booth at the Community Action Rally in Redwood City. Our general meeting covered energy choice issues. Also in January, we attended Bay Area League day also focusing on housing crisis issues.
- At County League day in February we heard lively discussion about energizing youth in civics and democracy.
- March meetings focused on Fake News
- In April, we hosted a speaker from the ACLU discussing how to defend ours and our neighbors' rights as citizens.
- This coming summer we anticipate meetings with our local representatives and hearing a discussion led by a Stanford Law Professor on Voting Rights.
- Kathleen Weisenberg and Ellen Kitamura discussed local programs we are involved in: New Voices for Youth and consulting with the Alumni Consulting team from Stanford.

Presentation of Proposed Budget

Wanda Ginner presented the Proposed Budget as distributed in the Annual Meeting packet. Approved. Budget committee is requesting LWV Board review a plan for electronic backup for all financial information (as well as for all Board business)

Presentation of Recommended Programs

Discussion and Adoption of Local Program Positions: Retain all positions. Issues for emphasis: Communities and Law Enforcement in South San Mateo County

Discussion and Adoption of County Program:

Retain all positions.

Issues for emphasis: Housing, Transportation and Climate Change/Sea Level Rise

Discussion and Adoption of joint position with Palo Alto League:

Approved

Consideration and Adoption of action priorities:

Local communities and law enforcement in South San Mateo County

Voter Outreach/education /registration in our under-served communities

Election of officers and directors

Elected as presented.

Remarks by President-Elect

Shirley Des Marais thanked the membership for electing her President and for their confidence in her. She made a request for volunteers to help us reach our goals. She especially asked for help with Communities and Law Enforcement, Voter Outreach, Housing and Transportation, and for our Observer Corps.

Bylaws

Accepted with an amendment: change to Article IV, Section 13 to add “Decisions must be ratified at the next Board meeting.”

Directions to the Board

- 1 Have a good time!
- 2 Monitor local governments; become an observer for the League

BOARD NOTES from the June 19th meeting:

- CA League has completely changed all the state bylaws, which are posted on their website. We may adopt their model if we want, but are not obligated to.
- Committee chairs and off board directors approved as written.
- Reaffirmed board policies and procedures; revised June 2017.
We hope to have a joint meeting on Sea Level Rise with Palo Alto LWV some time this fall.
- County league needs to present to SM Board of Supervisors recommending a citizens group oversight for Safer Bay.
- Ann Draper reported Kathy Tyson of North & Central LWV would like to connect all Bay Area leagues on common topics. Need to have short articles in Bay Area Voter to review the topics. Perhaps need to have elections to have representative to the Bay Area Council.
- Patti Fry discussed National Voter Corps would like to come under the wing of a League. They are presenting July 8 at Rinconada Library in Palo Alto.
- Common Cause wants to build coalitions with other organizations. They are working on protecting our democracy.

- Possible speaker on transportation from Stanford for our Fall Kickoff in September.
- International Rescue committee available to talk about international refugees. Suzanne will follow up.
- Kleman Institute (gender research) Caroline Simard neighbor of Lisa, is willing to talk to us about gender in workplace.
- Important to relate all of our speakers to our LWV positions; perhaps work the connection into our intro of each speaker.
- Board members are requesting a defined date for monthly publication of *THE VOTER*. We determined a deadline of the 23rd of every month to get articles to Bernadette, *VOTER* Editor, to enable publishing on the 1st of the following month.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have experience using **an on-line survey tool**, such as Survey Monkey? We could use your advice. Please contact Shirley Des Marais, 650-322-0778, or sdesmarais@pacbell.net.

Our **Program Director** needs volunteers to help with refreshments and set-up at our upcoming meetings:

July 25, Marc Berman, Menlo Park City Council Chambers

August 2, Kevin Mullin, Woodside's Independence Hall

September 23, League Kickoff, Lida Urbanek's house in Atherton

Contact Suzanne Fouché, 650-868-0320, or safouche@comcast.net.

**OFFICERS AND CONTACTS FOR OUR LEAGUE
(LWV OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY, 2017-18)**

President: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net
 Vice-President Administration: Lucile Spurlock, caspurlock@aol.com
 Vice-President Program: Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net
 Secretary: Joyce Shefren, jshefren@gmail.com
 Treasurer & Database Manager: Jack Morris, jhmsvcs@sbcglobal.net
 Director (Climate Change and Local Issues), Ann Draper, adtp@comcast.net
 Director (Ed Fund Rep): Patti Fry, pattifry@stanfordalumni.org
 Director (Housing): Lisa Conrad, darnoc@earthlink.net
 Director (Membership & Fundraising): Ellen Hope, ellenjhope@aol.com
 Director (Speakers Bureau): Sue Alvarez, sbrock1944@aol.com
 Director (VOTER Editor): Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com
 Candidate Forums: Diana Post, dsuepost@comcast.net
 Media Relations: Rita Comes Whitney, [ravrita@aol.com](mailto:ravrta@aol.com)
 Member Notices: Anne DeCarli, anne.decarli@sbcglobal.net
 Voter Registration: Joanne Bruggemann, joannebrugg@att.net
 Webmaster: Sanneke Jang, sannekejm@gmail.com
 Chair of the Education Fund: Sue Gould, susanbgould@gmail.com

**League Office: LWVSSMC, 3723 Haven Avenue, Suite 112, Menlo Park, CA
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2244, Menlo Park, CA 94026-2244**

650-325-5780

info@LWVSSMC.org

UPCOMING EVENTS		
JULY		
8 Sat	10:30 am	Voter Turnout Demographics , Rinconada Library, Embarcadero Room, 1213 Newell Road, Palo Alto.
10 Mon	7-9 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING at Shirley’s house, 1015 Woodland Avenue, Menlo Park. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net
25 Tues	6-8 pm	Town Hall Meeting: Assembly Member Marc Berman. Our JULY GENERAL MEETING. Menlo Park City Council Chambers, 701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net
AUGUST		
2 Weds	6:30-8:30 pm	Legislative Update and Q&A: Assembly Member Kevin Mullin. Our AUGUST GENERAL MEETING. Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Road (next to Town Hall), Woodside. Contact: Suzanne Fouché, safouche@comcast.net
11 Fri	10 am to 3 pm	LWVSSMC BOARD MEETING AND RETREAT; at Bernadette’s house, 146 Atherwood Avenue, Redwood City. Contact: Shirley Des Marais, sdesmarais@pacbell.net or Bernadette Burns, bernadetteburns362@gmail.com
SEPTEMBER		
23 Sat	TBD	FALL KICKOFF! 75 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton. Start time and speaker TBD.