



**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

See calendar, back page

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

Saturday, July 19  
"Climate Change"  
LWVDV Boardroom  
*(see page 3)*

Saturday, Aug. 16  
"Court System"  
Concord Library  
*(see page 3)*

Saturday, Sept 20  
"Inequality for All"  
LWVDV Boardroom  
*(see page 3)*

Tuesday, Sept 23 –  
National Voter  
Registration Day

Friday, Oct 17  
Field Trip, Cal State East  
Bay  
*(see page 3)*

Monday, Oct 20  
Last Chance Voter  
Registration



**Don't Miss  
Our First "Third Saturday" League  
Meeting!**

Beginning June 21<sup>st</sup> our League will host monthly meetings on the third Saturday, from 3 – 4:30, alternating between Concord and Lafayette. (*See page 3 for more information on the proposed schedule.*)

**Saturday, June 21, 2014  
3:00 – 4:30 pm  
Concord Library Meeting Room  
2900 Salvio Street, Concord**

**"Health Care System Changes - ACA and Beyond"**

We will show a short film on the Canadian Health Care system. Pat Snyder, member of LWVDV, HCA-CC and All Care Alliance will lead a discussion Free, non-members welcome. Bring a friend!





## LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

*By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President*

### Report from LWV California Council

Leadership Council in San Jose was two fully packed days – the first session started at 8:30 am (!) on Saturday, and we finished with our final activity mid-afternoon on Sunday – but it was also packed with ideas which I will share with all of you over the coming weeks and months.

Here are some glimpses of what I learned, experienced and worked on during Council:

Local Leagues are as different as the communities around the state . . . “you can’t change a closed mind with facts, but you may open that mind with a story” . . . something very exciting is happening to SmartVoter! (*see page 4*) . . . you can have a group conversation about a controversial topic without saying a single word . . . a five minute presentation with slides can be fun and punchy, not PowerPoint dull . . . “League members are always interesting, because they’re interested” . . . League leadership is changing at the state level (*see page 6*) . . . some League members don’t understand why we do studies . . . everybody has an opinion on what we should change (or not) about the League . . . we’re still not there on diversity (at least looking around the room in San Jose) . . . we have some great ideas about observing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the League in 2020.

It wasn’t all hard work – we had some time to network, explore nearby eateries and meet old and new friends. Lunch by the pool on Sunday netted the name of a prospective LWVDV member – her mother was a delegate from Beach Cities LWV, but she lives in Pleasant Hill. We mixed SmartVoter updates with lunch and fundraising ideas with dinner. We chatted a lot (you can always tell the room with the League members by the buzz!) and I particularly appreciated the chance to meet and talk with many of the state League board members as well as the budget chair.

Council is always a smaller group of delegates, so it’s more relaxed than Convention, but don’t pass up your opportunities to go to Convention. I didn’t win the raffle for a fully paid trip to the San Diego Convention in 2015, but put the dates on your calendar because it sounds like the Westin Gaslamp Quarter Hotel will be the place to be from May 15 to May 17 next year!

**Note: The Voter will be on vacation in July** – look for it again on August 1<sup>st</sup>. And watch your e-mail for updates from League in the meantime if there is anything time-sensitive.

# THIRD SATURDAY PROGRAM MEETINGS

*(This is a repeat from May but the information is still timely – mark your calendars!)*

Beginning June 21<sup>st</sup> our League will host monthly third Saturday meetings from 3 – 4:30. The purpose of the meetings is both to learn about and discuss important issues and get to know one another. Non-member guests are welcome and the events will be free. Snacks and drinks will be available.

On even numbered months, the meetings will be held in the meeting room at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord. On odd numbered months they will be held in Lafayette at the League Office, 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette or in the Cedar Room at the same street address, depending on audience size.

The next meeting of the planning group will be at 1:00 on June 12<sup>th</sup>, at the LWV office. Please come to the meeting or call the office, 925-283-2235, if you are not able to attend the next meeting but are interested in helping plan.

Among other issues we hope to address the 2014-15 focus topics which the League has chosen. These are: Economic Justice, Climate Change and Higher Education.



**THE 2014-15 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE** is as follows.  
(Unless otherwise indicated, programs will be from 3:00 – 4:30. C=Concord, L=Lafayette)

**June 21 - C – “Health Care System Changes - ACA and Beyond”** We will show a short film on the Canadian Health Care system. Pat Snyder, member of LWVDV, HCA-CC and All Care Alliance will lead a discussion

**July 19 - L - “ Climate Change - Beyond Inconvenient Truth”** - Marti Roach, member of LWVDV and Citizens Climate Lobby, will lead a discussion

**Aug 16 -C- “Changes in the California Court System and Local Developments”** - Lura Dymond, member of LWVDV, will lead the discussion

**Sept. 20 - L- We will show Robert Reich's film, “Inequality for All”,** and have a group discussion

**Oct 17 (Note this is a Friday. Campus is closed on Saturdays) Field Trip to CSU East Bay** and hear from administrators about challenges facing the CSU system.

## TOPICS TO BE DECIDED:

L- Nov. 15; skip Dec.; L- Jan. 17; C-Feb. 21 ; L- March 21 ; C - April 18; L- May 16

## THE LEAGUE IN ACTION

### LWVC Supports Measures 41 and 42

The LWVC supports both measures on the June ballot. Our support for Prop 41 is based on our [position on housing](#), and the need for more affordable housing in California. Prop 42 will guarantee the [public's right to know](#) and make it clear that adherence to both the Brown Act and California Public Records Act is a basic cost of doing business for governments.



### LWVDV Supports Two Ballot Measures on June 3 Ballot

At its April board meeting, the LWV Diablo Valley voted to support two measures on the June 3 ballot: Bond Measure E, Contra Costa Community College District, and Bond Measure J, Orinda Road and Storm Drain Repair Measure.

**Please share this information with friends, and “Vote With the League”!**

## VOTERS SERVICE

### ***(COMING SOON)* FOLLOW THE MONEY – ON SMARTVOTER**

LWV California’s SmartVoter website will be acquiring new power through a partnership with VotersEdge, which is a voter information site from MapLight. MapLight is a leading source of nonpartisan information about money in politics.

The co-branded SmartVoter/VotersEdge website, which will be hosted on VotersEdge, will add MapLight’s information about candidates and campaign finances to the already substantial voter information available through SmartVoter. For ballot measures, funding data and a list of contributors will be added to current SmartVoter information.

MapLight, and VotersEdge, will provide information on state and national campaigns. Local League coordinators for SmartVoter will still need to provide information on local candidates and ballot measures.

The blended site is being tested internally through the June primary period. A publicly available pilot site is expected to be up and running for the November election.

The goal is to have a seamless transition, with an automatic re-direct from the SmartVoter site to VotersEdge, and the existing SmartVoter features retained and augmented by VotersEdge data. Both the LWV California and MapLight believe this partnership will add value and impact to their existing voter information efforts.

## New LWVUS Agriculture Position!

*After that long and intense consensus process, we've all been waiting to see the final results. And here is the position as approved by the LWVUS Board on May 15, subject to discussion and final adoption at Convention in June.*



The League believes that government should provide financial support for agriculture that includes disaster assistance, crop insurance, need-based loans and incentives to adopt best management practices. Support should be extended to specialty crops, such as fruits, vegetables and nuts, to new production methods, such as organic, hydroponic, and urban practices, and to farms that supply local and regional markets.

Subsidized crop yield insurance should be linked to implementation of best management practices with the subsidy denied for marginal or environmentally sensitive land. The premium subsidy for crop insurance should be available for a wide range of crops, such as fruits, vegetables and specialty crops. Government should limit the amount of the premium subsidy received by larger farms.

The League supports policies that increase competition in agricultural markets. Antitrust laws should be enforced to ensure competitive agricultural markets. Alternative marketing systems such as regional hub markets, farmers' markets and farmer cooperatives should be promoted.

Clean air and water regulations should apply to all animal and aquaculture production and processing facilities, and not just to the very large confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Such regulations should be designed in a manner that takes into account environmentally sound technologies and the scale of the operation being regulated. Small size operations should not be granted automatic exemption from regulation.

The League believes that government regulatory agencies dealing with animal and aquaculture production should have adequate authority and funding to 1) enforce regulations and 2) gather information that supports monitoring the impacts of all animal feeding and aquaculture operations on human and animal health and the environment.

Government should fund basic research related to agriculture. Government funded research should also address the impact of new technologies on human health and the environment prior to widespread adoption of products developed with such technologies. Assessment of products developed with new technologies should be conducted as transparently as possible, while respecting intellectual property rights. Research should be funded to support the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems, such as seed banking and promoting and preserving genetic diversity.

*(LWVUS Agriculture Position, continued)*

To provide adequate safety of our food supply, government should:

- Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for foods and food additives developed using any new chemical technology, such as genetic engineering or nanotechnology;
- Require developers to monitor all such new food products developed after releasing to the market;
- Require developers of such new food products to provide data and other materials to independent third parties for pre- and post-marketing safety assessment;
- Fund independent third party risk assessment examining how long term and multiple exposures to such new foods affect human health and the environment;
- Withdraw marketing approval and require recall if such products are shown to be unsafe;
- Require post-market monitoring of human health and environmental impacts for pharmaceutical applications used in animal and aquaculture production;
- Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to the treatment of disease;
- Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals; and
- Fund, employ and train sufficient personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies.

The League supports government developing and requiring more informative and standardized definitions on product labeling. Food labeling and advertising should display only approved health and safety claims and an accurate representation of the required ingredient and nutrition lists. The League supports consumer education about labeling of foods developed using any new technology.



## **CHANGES FOR LWV CALIFORNIA BOARD**

*Leslie Stewart, President (and LWVC Council delegate)*

At their May meeting, the LWVC Board accepted the resignation of Jenny Waggoner, LWVC President for the past three years. Jenny will continue on the board in a mentoring position.

Second Vice President Helen Hutchinson, LWV Oakland, has been named as the new LWVC President to fill the remainder of the term. Helen has extensive experience on local and state LWV boards. Many League members are familiar with her leadership on League projects to inform communities about the new California redistricting process.

The attendees at LWVC Leadership Council in May were stunned by Jenny's announcement but cheered to hear that she would continue on the Board. When Helen Hutchinson was named as the new President, the group erupted in a standing ovation!

We know that our state Board is in good hands with such a smooth transition and great leaders!

**DONATE**

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org).

**The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Voter**  
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Editor: Leslie Stewart  
Email delivery is free, but delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year. Current/past issues are posted on our [website](http://www.lwvdv.org).

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND DIRECTORY UPDATES**

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you!

- |                |               |                    |                 |
|----------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Karen Dolder   | Beverly Lane  | Gail Murray        | Linda Waters    |
| Lura Dymond    | Lee Lawrence  | Paul Popenoe       | Allan Woods     |
| Sheilah Fish   | Mary Lembke   | Patricia Sharaf    | Carole Woods    |
| Marianne Gagen | Shirlee Loret | Catherine Sherwood | Gabriella Zacco |

**Welcome, new members:** Carol Sebilias (Orinda), Shirley Parker (Walnut Creek) & Marian Shostrom (Pleasant Hill)!

## **LWV Diablo Valley Welcomes New Board Members**



Members who joined (or rejoined) the Board this year:

**Gwen Watson, Voters Service** - A retired high school English and Business teacher, for ten years Gwen was the Pro Bono Executive Director of the Winter Nights Family Shelter. She chairs the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and was appointed to the County Continuum of Care Board.

**Janet Thomas, Membership** - Janet is a retired math and science high school teacher. Prior to teaching, she was a public health nurse and family nurse practitioner. She is currently Director of the Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center and serves on Lafayette's Environmental Task Force.

**Audrey Albrecht, Board Member** - Audrey is a twenty-year LWV member. Prior to moving to the LWV Diablo Valley area two years ago, she held several offices and board positions (including president) on the local and state League boards in North Carolina. She is a former teacher and school principal, with experience in private industry and non-profits.

**Barbara Coenen, Board Member** – Barbara is recently retired from East Bay Municipal Utility District so is quite interested in water Issues. She is new to the League as well as new to the Board!



**LWVDV VOTER**

Published ten times per year  
**League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley**  
500 St. Mary's Road, #14  
Lafayette, CA 94549

**The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.**

**Membership: Join Us or Renew!**

*Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact Carole Woods at the League office: (925) 283-2235.*

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$95 Family Membership (2). Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Associate Membership. Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_  
(For a student or non-citizen non-voting member)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category above)

Gift Membership from: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please write recipient's information below.)

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 included to receive printed copies of the *Voter* by US Mail
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation to LWVDV (not tax deductible).
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV (not tax deductible).
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to LWV (our account at LWVC).
- Please make separate check payable to LWVC - Education Fund.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please print, complete, and mail this form along with your check to:  
LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR**

- June 10** **Action Comm.**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 12** **Program Comm.**  
1 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 12** **Board Meeting**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- June 21** **Healthcare Program**  
3-4:30 Concord Library

The **July Board retreat** to plan activities for the coming year has not yet been scheduled. All League members are invited to attend the retreat – please watch your e-mail for further information.