



League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER

December 2016

<http://www.lwvbenicia.org>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties. We encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and action.

Upcoming Calendar

Dec. 8, Program Event Committee, 1-3pm

Dec. 9, Friday: Membership Holiday Social, 7-9pm

Jan. 12, Program Event Committee 1-3pm

Jan. 18, Board Meeting 7-9 pm

Jan. 19, Annual Program Planning Meeting 6:30-8:30pm

January 23, 2017, consecutive Monday evenings at 7:00PM in the Dona Benicia Meeting Room. Eight meetings, through March 27th. No meetings Monday February 13th and Monday February 20th.

Feb. 10, Meet Your Local Officials – time and place TBD



Holiday Social

So many have worked so hard this election season and throughout the year, that we need to take a little break and just enjoy being around each other. Come join us for a holiday social on December 9, while we listen to John Gardner from the Solano County Registrar of Voter's Office tell about how the election process went this year. Please bring a snack or treat to share. See you from 7-9 pm at Gayle Vaughan's house, 123 Banbury Way, Benicia. Please RSVP to her at vonwindgayle.com by December 7.

President's Message:

Gayle Vaughan



Our local League of Women Voters Benicia is comprised of 47 members who have a passion for doing what's best for our community. While the most visible efforts are of those registering voters and making public presentations, the League could not function without the "behind the scenes" people who balance the books, pay the bills, record membership payments, keep up mail lists, update the website, edit and distribute the newsletter, send out eblasts and evites, meet in committees to develop programs and schedules, and bring refreshments.

It is time to celebrate during these darkest days, and I don't mean the ones after the election. I refer to the shortest days of the year approaching the December solstice. This is the time of year when so many cultures gather friends and family together to string lights and light candles to chase away the darkness. This is the time to rest from all your hard work for the League (and other things) and sing of our successes. I hope you will take a moment to breathe, and join us on Dec. 9th for our Holiday Social. We don't all get together often and it will be good to see one another before year's end. Come eat and talk and be joyful. We'll get back to work in January.

Annual Program Planning

Plan to join us January 19, at the Benicia Community Center from 6:30-8:30 to review and consider the LWV California positions, the LWV US proposals for Making Democracy Work, and to determine any local action we may want to take during the next year. Come share your thoughts for the League. Want to do a study on Orcem in Vallejo or the new housing development off Second Street in Benicia? Want to work to get the Voter Rights Act reinstated? Want to advocate or educate on any of a dozen state, local, and national issues? Want to just focus on building the local League? Come vote on what you would like the League to do. Or just come for the food!



This is probably the most important meeting of the year especially if you are interested in affecting the actions and future educational sessions of the League. Now is the time to work together! See you there!

Great Decisions 2017

The Great Decisions 2017 program is on the horizon. Local meetings are sponsored by the League of Women Voters Benicia and the Benicia Public Library. The public is welcome and encouraged to participate in this **discussion program which focuses on international affairs**. The group uses materials prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. We view a video presentation on the topic of the week. Participants are encouraged to read a chapter in the Great Decisions Briefing Book that covers material related to the video presentation and we discuss the issues presented.

Briefing Books may be purchased directly from the Foreign Policy Association or you may send an email to judy.potter@gmail.com by December 15th and I will order books. We have already made a pre-order for returning participants from our Great Decisions email list who responded to an offer to order books by Oct. 24th at a discount. We have 18 books, representing 20 participants, ordered. There will again be several books available through the library on the reserve shelf.



Meetings this year will be on Monday evenings at 7:00PM beginning January 23, 2017 in the Dona Benicia Meeting Room. The library will be closed for Presidents' holidays on Monday February 13th and Monday February 20th. With those two exceptions our meetings will run on consecutive Monday nights, eight meetings, through March 27th.

The topics for this year are: The Future of Europe, Trade and Politics, Conflict in the South China Sea, Saudi Arabia in Transition, US Foreign Policy and Petroleum, Latin America's Political Pendulum, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Nuclear Security.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the New Year! Lots to talk about!!

Judy Potter



We need your help. For months, we've witnessed growing anti-government rhetoric in the media and in our public discourse. Accusations of "rigged elections" and "inherent corruption in our political process" have become commonplace. For many, memes have replaced journalism and threats and insults have replaced political debate.

The challenges ahead of us are not for the faint of heart, but we are ready. We hope you will **STAND WITH THE LEAGUE** to support and defend all Californians regardless of their gender or race, regardless of how they worship or whom they love.

Become a MEMBER and help magnify our voice in Sacramento!
Make a DONATION to defend our neighbors, and protect our environment.

Sign up for ACTION ALERTS and help us advocate on critical policy issues!

The League is not an end in itself. We are a training ground for democracy. That is what we have always been and that is what we will always be.

You can change the rules! This year alone, 25 of the bills we supported made it to the Governor's desk and 19 of those—from climate change to voting rights—were signed and will become California law.

Sincerely,



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

P.S. We're in this for the long haul. If you can, please consider **becoming a monthly donor**—your ongoing support makes a world of difference.



To: league@lwvbenicia.org

Subject: **FW: ACTION ALERT: President Obama Must Stop Offshore Drilling Before He Leaves Office**

Reply-To: Advocacy@lwv.org

Friend:

Today, President Obama finalized a five year drilling plan which takes drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans off the table for the next five years! Your voice and the voice of League supporters from around the country have had a huge impact on protecting our waters, but we still need **PERMANENT** protections for our oceans.

[Tell President Obama to use his existing authority to permanently protect the Arctic and Atlantic oceans from oil drilling.](#)

The commitments the U.S. has made to fight climate change, protect public health and safeguard our environment have been historic. At a time when these historic achievements are at risk of being erased, President Obama can take one more step in the right direction by using his existing authority to protect our oceans. Permanently preserving and protecting the Arctic and Atlantic is important to fulfilling America's commitments to stopping climate change.

The fight is not over. Big polluters stand to make big gains if further action is not taken. **[Tell President Obama that time is running out to put people before polluters by permanently protecting the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans from offshore drilling.](#)**

Sincerely,

Jessica Jones

Grassroots Advocacy Manager, League of Women Voters

The Bay Area League will host our annual Bay Area League Day. This year our topic will be **Housing**.

Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017 (8:30 am - 3:00 pm)

Topic: "FOCUS ON HOUSING"

Keynote Speaker: Tony Thurmond, Assemblymember, District 15

Four Panel discussions on the current housing situation in the Bay Area:

PANEL ONE: Measuring the Affordability Gap & Its Impact

PANEL TWO: The Relationship Between Housing Production & Affordability, & Displacement in the San Francisco Bay Area

PANEL THREE: State, Regional & Local Roles in Addressing Affordability

PANEL FOUR: The Agenda Moving Forward

Location: Camden Community Center



Tickets:

Pre-registration: \$35. includes lunch

Pre-registration: \$20 without lunch

Day of the Event: \$40 with lunch

Day of the Event: \$25 without lunch

Please Note: PayPal options will be available in December.

You do not need a PayPal account to process your credit card

This promises to be a very informative day discussing one of the Bay Area's hottest topics. Please share this information with your members and plan to attend.

In addition, the Bay Area Board has learned that we need to conduct a special meeting to address a technical issue we overlooked at our Council meeting last May to conclude the merger of the Ed Fund and our League. This will be a short - one-item - agenda with a vote on this technical language which would allow us to go forward with the merger. We will need to have a quorum of our leagues present for the meeting to be valid. Therefore, please confirm if you - or someone you can officially designate - plan to attend League Day on January 28, 2017. The special meeting will be held briefly at the lunch hour. If we are unable to conduct the special meeting at League Day, we will have to call a Special Meeting later in the year to finalize the merger.

Finally, I am attaching a list of the Regional Agencies that the Bay Area League monitors. As you can see, several of the agencies have no monitor at all. So, I am also requesting that you share this information with your members to see if anyone is interested in attending (in person or on line) these meetings and reporting back to us with a short report on the actions these agencies are taking. The reports can be very brief - simply reporting out on meeting outcomes. We know many of your leagues may already have members who are tracking these agencies and we would appreciate their insights (we would appreciate having more than one monitor assigned to each agency).

Warmest wishes,

Madeline Kronenberg, LWV Bay Area - President

510-334-9646

Current Board Members

President, 2016-2018: Gayle Vaughan: vonwindgayle@gmail.com

Vice President, 2016-2017: Nile Medders: nilsmedders@gmail.com

Secretary, 2016-2017: Alice Labay: labayalice@gmail.com

Treasurer, 2016-2018: Judy Potter: judy.potter@gmail.com

WebMaster, 2016-2018: Malin Coleridge: Mcoleridge@comcast.net

Membership, 2016-2017: Sharon Tucker: stucker2@wested.org



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Benicia>



“Like” the League on *Facebook*.

Newsletter submissions:
due by 20th of the month
Susan Street, sustreet@pacbell.net

League business only
What where, when why in first paragraph
200 words or less
Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt is preferred.
No colored backgrounds or fancy font

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