



League of Women Voters Benicia

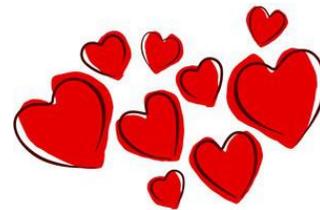
VOTER

February 2017

<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 Events



February 6: Great Decisions, 7 pm., Benicia Library

February 9: Programs/Events Committee, 1-3 pm

February 14, 1920: LWV was founded. Happy Birthday!

February 15: LWV Benicia Board Meeting, 7 pm

February 17: Meet Your Local Officials, 5-7:30 pm, Commandant's Residence

February 22: Women in Leadership, 6:30-8:30 pm, with AAUW, at Cal Maritime Academy

February 27: Great Decisions, 7 pm, Benicia Library

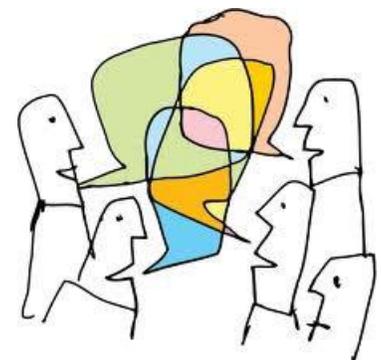
12th Annual Meet Your Local Officials

Friday eve, February 17th from 5:00-7:30 at the Commandant's House where there will be food, libations, good company and a **warm** welcome to all.

This is our opportunity to provide public access to our local officials who will be there to converse and answer questions that the public may have. We need your help hosting, making name tags, greeting, set up, flowers, general schmoozing. Please let me know if you plan to attend and how you can help.

Thank you!

Susan Street 707-319-1136



From LWV US:

Happy League of Women Voter's Day!

By Renee Davidson

February 14th isn't just Valentine's Day – it's also League of Women Voters' Day! The League was founded by suffragist [Carrie Chapman Catt](#) on February 14, 1920. Catt was instrumental in helping pass the 19th Amendment, which secured women the right to vote. Ever since, the [League has been at the forefront of efforts to strengthen our democracy](#), including registering and educating voters.

Prior to passage of the 19th Amendment, suffragists used holidays like Valentine's Day to promote the cause of "Votes for Women." The [National Woman Suffrage Association \(NAWSA\)](#), the League's predecessor, even created its own suffrage postcards!



President's Message:

Gayle Vaughan



As I write this, on the eve of the 45th President's Inauguration, millions of women across the country are preparing to march in support of women's rights. It seems that in the 97 years since the LWV was formed and started protesting for voting rights for women, we have come a long way. However, recent research by one of our local members has revealed how far we have yet to go.

In the entire history of Congress, only 307 women have served in Congress. A woman wasn't elected to the US House of Representatives until 1917, 128 years after Congress started meeting. A woman was not elected to the US Senate until 1978! We have made progress since then. Last year, women made up 19.6% of the US Congress. In 2017, there will be a whopping 21 women serving in the US Senate, the highest number in history.

It's even worse for women of color. Only 54 women of color have served in US Congress, with the first being elected in 1964. In 2016, 34 of the 105 women in Congress were women of color, and in 2017 the US will hold a record number of women of color, including California's Senator, Kamala Harris.

Women are moving forward to take a stronger position in our government and we need to continue that fight. We need to preserve and help lead the way to maintain voting rights for all citizens, act to mobilize voters, and stand strong as active members of our nation.

The League of Women Voters Benicia in cooperation with the Benicia-Vallejo chapter of AAUW and the Cal Maritime Academy will be hosting a forum on Women in Leadership, February 22. Come join us!



Volunteer Opportunities

Our LWV Benicia is ramping up for 2017. We need active volunteers to fill positions on the Voter Services Committee, the Program Committee, and the newly forming Activist Committee which will take on advocacy and activist activities (with board approval) suggested by the State and National Leagues Action Alerts. We are also looking for two more board members and members for a nominating committee. Step up and offer an hour a month to keep the League strong and vital. Contact vonwindgayle@gmail.com for more information. You can do this!

*Benicia-Vallejo American Association of University Women,
League of Women Voters of Benicia and
California State University Maritime Academy
Present:*

Women and Leadership

Opportunities and Obstacles



6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017

Rizza Auditorium

**California State University Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Drive, Vallejo**

Panelists:

- *Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor of Benicia*
- *Debbie Raymond, Chief Operating Officer, Vallejo Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente*
- *Maria Guevara, Director, Vallejo Together*

FREE

For more information, call: 707-748-7832

Register at: https://women_and_leadership_solano.eventbrite.com
More Information: <http://beniciavallejo-ca.aauw.net/> and <http://www.lwvbenicia.org/>

The program will offer a panel of experts discussing women as leaders for elected office, within corporate and small business and within non-profit arenas. The program will have an additional focus to look at leadership within Solano County. Men and women in the audience will consider where they might make a difference locally and beyond.



This panel will share the expertise of three local women leaders. Maria Guevara, director of Vallejo Together, a collaborative movement of organizations addressing social justice issues, will discuss the call to leadership for women in the non-profit arena. Providing a perspective on leadership within the corporate and small business arena will be Deborah "Debbie" Raymond, chief operating officer of Vallejo Medical Center of Kaiser Permanente, the county's largest private employer. Mayor Elizabeth Patterson, re-elected to a third term in November, 2016, will speak analyze the role of women and leadership in the political arena.

The program will review what policy changes are needed to improve opportunities for women to demonstrate their leadership. Suggestions of additional efforts needed to reduce gender bias will be offered. Participants will be engaged to consider opportunities within Solano County where they can use their leadership skills and empower others to do the same.



Program Planning Meeting Results

On January 19, eleven members of the LWV Benicia met to determine the focus areas for the State League as well as areas of concern for our local League. We were asked to identify three areas of concern and suggest actions to be taken. After reviewing materials and positions from the LWVC, we chose the following issues for the next two years.:



Affordable Health Care Availability

Educate, advocate, work on legislation

Voting Rights (both the importance and the protection of rights)

Educate, advocate

Housing and Homelessness

Educate, legislate for low income housing and homeless shelters

For our unit of the League we chose to work on the following local concerns:

Land Use: provide education and possible advocacy about several land use and planning issues in Benicia and Vallejo.

Women and Minority in Politics: provide general education on the issue to the public, and specifics for potential candidates on the procedures for running for office.

Citizen's Right to Know: provide education on open, transparent government processes and citizen's rights to have access to information.

Thanks to those who volunteered to head up these actions. Watch the calendar and volunteer opportunities for you to get involved.

Current Board Members

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

Vice President, 2016-2017: Nile Medders: nilesmedders@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

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).

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Contact us for more information:

(510) 839-1608 • editor@bayareamonitor.org

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



“Like” the League on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Benicia).

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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