



League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER



April, 2016

<http://www.lwvbenicia.org>

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and action.



Keeping Our Heads Above Water

April 21, 6:30—8:30 PM

Benicia Community Center

The LWV Benicia will be hosting a panel of speakers of April 21 to learn about the effects of climate change in our region and how we can best deal with them. This is particularly timely because of Measure AA on the Solano County June Ballot, which seeks to support wetland restoration and flood protection among other

things. We will hear from three leaders in the field: Jerry Potter (one of our own members) who is a climate scientist currently working with NASA, Jerome Lowe, a senior scientist with the San Francisco Estuary Institute, working on wetlands restoration and flood management, and Alex Porteshawver, who has served as Benicia's Climate Action Plan Coordinator since 2012, and is a Senior Sustainability Planner at Michael Baker International.

Mark YOUR Calendar! Save the Date!!!!

May 19 is our Annual Membership Meeting. This is where we elect our officers for the next year, approve the annual budget, learn about our voter services events and help select which educational programs we will offer. We can't do it without you there, as we need a quorum. Not only will you get to be "in the know", you'll also receive a VOTE! yard sign for the June Primary, AND hear an interesting presentation by John Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters. Join us and support your League, at 7 p.m. at the Camellia Tea Room.



LWV BENICIA 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 21: 6:30 PM Benicia Community Center

Keeping Our Heads Above Water: Dealing with Climate change

May 7, **Bay Area League Convention**, San Mateo County.

May 12: 6:30 PM Vallejo Campus, Solano Community College

Social Media 101: Learning how to Use Social Media (AAUW with LWV B cosponsoring)

May 19: 7 PM Camellia Tea Room

Annual Membership Meeting

June 18, **Juneteenth Celebration**, Vallejo: Voter Registration Opportunity

June 25: **Annual Gigantic Garage Sale**



Our 3rd Annual Greatest Garage Sale is on the horizon. It will be at its usual place, the Benicia Clocktower, on **Saturday, June 25th** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This is our only fundraiser and since most of your annual dues go to the national and state organizations, the Garage Sale enables our program and voter services committees to offer the variety of free events throughout the year. (Yes, the board has canceled those plans for a retreat in the Bahamas.) And the Garage Sale is FUN!!

Please save the treasures you no longer need and donate them to the Garage Sale. Anything in good condition - Sorry we cannot accept furniture larger than end-tables or lamps (can't get sofas, beds, etc upstairs). We will be setting up and taking donations on Friday, June 24th between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. If you can't drop your donations off during that time contact Judy or Niles, maybe we can work something out.

We also need help on

Friday the 24th: setting up

Saturday the 25th: "Sales Associates" on the floor, "Hospitality Coordinators" at the refreshment area, "Sanitation Engineers" you know what that means, "Lift specialists" in the elevator and "Travel Consultants" at the entrance.

Tell your friend and neighbors too! You don't have to be a member to donate, and it is tax deductible.

Call Niles 707-205-9137 or Judy Potter 707-746-1478

THANK YOU!



WE WANT YOU!

Voter Education/ Registration Outreach Opportunities

Our small but mighty Voter Services committee has lots of ideas about community venues for Voter Registration and Voter Education outreach events. We hope to be at Vallejo's Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 18th and Benicia Farmer's market around election time. We are exploring other venues such as community and civic events, Vallejo's Art Walk, Vallejo Ferry station and perhaps the Fairfield Farmer's market. In the past we have co-sponsored candidate forums and pro/con sessions on ballot measures. If you would like to be part of this exciting election year we need your help. If you have a couple of hours to help at an event we would love to have you. Contact Susan Neuhaus - svmcgee@sbcglobal.net or Gayle Vaughan -vonwindgayle@gmail.com

Get your Vote sign, here. Proudly encourage and remind your neighbors to get out to Vote. The league has purchased enough Vote! yard signs for each member to be able to put one on a lawn or other visible place. Peggy Lipper has graciously agreed to record to whom the signs have been distributed. When you come to the Annual Membership Meeting on May 19th you can get yours then. If you need to arrange an alternate time to pick your sign up contact Peggy at peggylipper@aol.com

Voter's Edge



Voter's Edge California (VEC) is the next generation of the League's Smart Voter website.

The number one connection that people make about the League is as the source that provides accurate informed voter information and now, with Voter's Edge, that reputation just went up a notch.

Voter's Edge marries the League's powerful coverage of election contests, candidates, and ballot measures with MapLight's deep expertise in campaign finance, public data, and technology. Starting with the 2016 election, Solano county voters will, for the first time, now be able to access key information at this league site, providing them the information they need to make an informed decision at the polls for our local races.

Peggy Lipper and Susan Neuhaus will be our coordinators working with the Registrar of Voters and candidates to post their profiles and information about ballot measures. Beginning in late March, data will start to be migrated and the site will become robust as candidates respond, finance contribution data gets reported and LWV - Benicia can add notices about our own voter education events

Voters will be able to log into Voters Edge, put in their address and find out everything they need to know, from where is their local polling place, what is on their ballot and upcoming League voter events.

Check it out over the next couple months at www.votersedge.org and spread the word about this great new resource.



Schools

“Primary season is in full swing, and a bright spot is popping up in state after state: young people are paying attention, and they’re excited to vote this year!

Early data from [CIRCLE](#) (the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement) show that young people are [voting in primaries](#) at levels we have not seen for some time”, states Maggie Bush In the LWVUS newsletter.

Recently, the Vallejo Times Herald ran an article about our league: “Members of the League of Women Voters Benicia (LWVB) can be seen throughout our community during the next several months doing their most important work: Registering people to vote. ...

The LWVB believes that helping youth to vote is the best investment in our future, so in early March the LWV Benicia kicked off their community civic engagement program by visiting classes at Liberty High School in Benicia. Members Carin Coleridge, a naturalized citizen from Sweden, and Gayle Vaughan met with three groups of students last week, explaining who can vote, why people should vote, which issues are on the June ballot, and how to fill out registration forms. Both the students and the presenters came away excited about the process. ...”

Susan Neuhaus, Chair of the League’s Voter Services committee, stresses the importance of voting, saying: “My mantra about voting is that bad politicians are elected by good people who do not vote.”

Since the article’s publication, Harvey Rifkin, Peggy Lipper and Gayle Vaughan have been to St. Pat’s /St Vincent’s where they registered about 70 students, collected many Pledge to Vote Cards , so they can follow up with students as the election draws near and even have some students who want to volunteer with us at other events.

Upcoming on our community civic engagement program are Benicia High, Fairfield High, Matt Garcia College and Career Center and Angelo Rodriguez High School in Fairfield. We hope to be able to partner with the other high schools in Vallejo as well. We also will be working with the student legislative advocate and the leadership council at Solano Community College voter education sessions in political science classes in partnership with the student leaders.



Youth Partnerships

The Voter Services committee has been very busy this spring on their top priority for this election cycle, reaching out to youth and underrepresented populations.

LWV Benicia has an exciting opportunity to collaborate with Club Stride, Inc, a faith-based, youth organization based in Vallejo. Club Stride is founded on a "vision to build a strong moral fiber within youth culture that counteracts negative stereotypes and creates a framework for personal achievement." According to Peggy Lipper, a League member who has met some of the kids, "Club Stride is succeeding in their efforts to build youth leadership. The kids I've met are thoughtful, articulate people who are ready to make a positive impact on their communities." Voter registration is a major initiative of Club Stride this year. We are scheduled to meet with them in early April to provide voter registration training and to talk about up-coming elections. We'll be talking with them about jointly conducting voter registration events and some "get-out-the-vote" efforts.

Additionally, at our school voter education events we are inviting students to participate in our voter registration events at Farmers Markets and other community venues. So if you see some young people working side by side with the League at an event come and meet them.

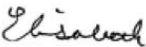


The League Update

Super Tuesday is behind us but this week equally important states weighed in to the Presidential primary vote. [Young voters are making their mark](#). They are closely following candidate debates with 58 percent of voters under the age of 30 reporting having watched one and an incredible 75 percent of millennials reporting that they believe that voting is a way to have an impact on the issues they care about. This spring, League volunteer teams are working with hundreds of communities to get young people registered and ready to vote. Leagues are registering voters on high school and community college campuses and hosting educational events to help voters understand the primary process.

The 2016 Youth Voter Registration Program which is underway in 25 communities across 15 states is not the only way in which the League of Women Voters is reaching out through exciting partners to expand access to the vote. The League is proud to be joining forces with celebrated recording artists Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins and Anais Mitchell on a [39-stop "Use Your Voice Tour."](#) At each show, the artists have invited local League volunteers to warm up the crowd by talking about the importance of their votes and the various elections occurring this and every year. They have also arranged space for the League to register voters and hand out educational materials at each show.

The presidential election this year is the first time that voters will go to the [polls without the critical protections of the Voting Rights Act](#) since 1965. As the premiere source of nonpartisan voter information, we've already had nearly 600,000 users on [VOTE411.org](#) looking at over 2.4 million pages of content. As the campaign continues for many more months, we encourage Leagues to [join their colleagues all across the country](#) in using this increasingly popular tool for voters' guides and other election information. The work the League does this year will be equally critical to whether or not every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls. Our Leagues are focusing their efforts on making this a reality. Keep up the good work!

In League, 

From LWVBayArea

VOTE411.org – the Other LWV Voter Information Site

The counterpart to Smart Voter in other states is the LWVUS site, VOTE411.org. While it doesn't offer the campaign finance information that Voters Edge California will have, it does provide the same ability to fill in your address and find out about the names and issues on your local ballot.



In addition, this year VOTE411.org has [a presidential voters' guide](#) to help voters learn about the candidates and their visions for America's future. The voters' guide includes thoughts from the candidates on a range of issues from the economy to foreign policy, as well as their position on the role money plays in our political process. The guide will be updated frequently. Don't forget to recommend it to your friends from other states, who probably get to vote before June.

Electing the President: Everything You Need to Know

With the battle for the White House already underway, the League has answers to voters' most frequently asked questions. LWVUS has again teamed up with the Newspapers in Education Institute to produce *Electing the President*, a handy guide outlining all you need to know about the presidential election process. Download the guide at <http://lwv.org/content/electing-president-everything-you-need-know>, and share it with your family, friends, and any potential new voters in your life!

Action: LWVBA

LWVBA Supports Bay Restoration Authority Measure AA – June, 2016 Ballot



LWV of the Bay Area has endorsed Measure AA, the \$12 per parcel tax that will be on the June, 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. This measure needs 2/3 voter approval total within the region to pass.

Our Bay Area positions support conservation and development of the SF Bay, and also enhancement and preservation of the Bay and its shorelines. LWVUS policies on climate change also support adaptation activities related to climate change, such as sea level rise.

This measure will generate funding for restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, benefitting people, wildlife, and the Bay Area economy. More wetlands will improve the bay by filtering out pollution for cleaner water; increasing habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. The measure will expand Bay trails and shoreline access; and protect low-lying communities and infrastructure from floods. We have asked the SF Bay Restoration Authority to develop improved procedures for project selection and oversight. LWVBA will be preparing Pros and Cons for LWV use as soon as ballot arguments are filed.

Saturday, March 19, 2016

**The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley and
Health Care for All - Contra Costa County**
present a panel discussion of

HEALTH CARE IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



**How are health care providers meeting current needs?
What are some systemic changes we might consider?**

Dr. William Walker, MD

Director and Health Officer, CCC Health Services

Brenda Goldstein, MPH

Psychosocial Services Director, Lifelong Medical Care

Dr. Ariane Terlet, DDS

Chief Dental Officer, La Clinica de la Raza

Dr. Pat Snyder, PhD

Leadership Team Member, All Care Alliance

3 – 4:30 pm

McHale Room

Pleasant Hill Community Center

320 Civic Drive, Pleasant Hill

League and non-League members welcome!
Light refreshments served

2015-2016 Leadership

Executive Committee

Niles Medders
 Malin Coleridge
 Gayle Vaughan
 Judy Potter

Board Members

Niles Medders, Vice President
 Alice Labay, Interim Secretary
 Judy Potter, Treasurer
 Gayle Vaughan, Corresponding Secretary
 Malin Coleridge, Director
 Susan Neuhaus, Director
 Sharon Tucker, Director
 Jackie Jacobberger, State League Advisor

Standing Committees

Membership, Niles Medders: nilesmedders@gmail.com
 Voter Services, Susan Neuhaus: svmcgee@sbcglobal
 Programs/Events, Gayle Vaughan: vonwind-gayle@gmail.com
 Budget: Judy Potter: Jerry_Potter@msn.com

Work Groups Contacts

Social Media/Webmaster: Malin Coleridge
 "Voter" Newsletter: Susan Street, Leslie Lessenger, Niles Medders
 Education Study: Pat Pepin
 Fundraising: Niles Medders
 Great Decisions: Judy Potter



<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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