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From League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Subject Subject: Happy Birthday to us



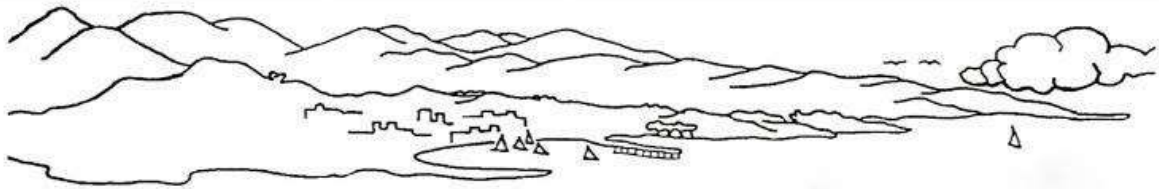
Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.



CHANNEL VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SANTA BARBARA

Serving South Santa Barbara County



February 1, 2023



On Feb. 14, the League of Women Voters is turning 103! And our Santa Barbara League is getting ready for our 85th birthday. We plan to have a big celebration in June (stay tuned for the date and details) following

a short annual meeting for members.

You can join LWVUS, and Leagues from across the country with a virtual pep rally to celebrate the 103-year legacy. This event, including featured speakers, will be livestreamed on LWV's Facebook page at 8am PT.

On social media, look for: #PeoplePoweredLeague.

[RSVP here](#)

Events

Housing and Sustainable Communities Committees Back to Regular Dates

On Friday, Feb. 3 the LWVSB Sustainable Communities and Housing Committees return to their first Friday date with a new regular time for SusComm (10:30 to 11:45am) and noon to 1pm for Housing.

Zoom links are in the [Calendar](#)

The Housing Committee will share status reports from our new weekly work groups who are interviewing staff from the City of Santa Barbara about the proposed La Cumbre housing project building height, planning challenges and affordable housing concerns. Other likely topics will be fundraising options through ballot measures and issues related to the County's Housing Element Update which is posted at [this link](#) The conflict between agricultural land preservation and affordable housing on the South County sites will be outlined along with the process for public comment.

There is no planned speaker for the SusComm meeting to allow time for reports and discussion. Committee members are asked to think about their areas of interest and suggest a report they would like to share to put on the agenda. One topic of interest is how creek issues affect housing developments. Possible resources to follow up on: City of Santa Barbara Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division or the Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council.

[This site](#) includes a list of other resources to check on.

Linda Honikman, Housing Committee Chair

Sandy Grasso Boyd, Sustainable Communities Committee Chair

Come to a Meet and Greet Party

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara is hosting a Meet and Greet party on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 5:30pm. The gathering will be an opportunity for board members and new and potential members to socialize, learn more about the League, and for the League to learn more about what interests you.

We hope that you can join us for light beverages, hors d'oeuvres and good conversation. Although this is an informal affair, an rsvp would help us plan. For location and more information, contact: Janice Rorick, membership volunteer, 805-886-1629 or membership@lwvsantabarbara.org

In collaboration with the County of Santa Barbara, we are excited to announce our comprehensive plan to solve the county's interim housing crisis:

DIGNITYNOW SANTA BARBARA COUNTY



League Members Tour DignityMoves Tiny Homes

League board members Gail Osherenko and Pam Flynt Tambo, together with Maureen Earls from CLUE-SB, recently toured DignityMoves tiny homes in downtown Santa Barbara. The center opened last summer as a temporary home for people who are unsheltered. They focused first on housing people who were living on State Street and especially helped women move off the street into safe housing. Now there are plans to add 300 more tiny homes at other sites throughout the county.

From the just-released update on a County project addressing homelessness:

“On January 24th, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously supported the updated Community Action Plan which calls for the development of approximately 437 beds, more than closing the existing shelter gap of 432 beds county-wide. Spurred by the resounding success of our 35-unit interim supportive housing community in Downtown Santa Barbara, the County is partnering with DignityMoves to accelerate progress towards that goal.

“We’re calling this new initiative DignityNOW, an innovative strategy for ending unsheltered homelessness in a community with one bold, comprehensive campaign. Building one shelter at a time is progress, but merely chips away at the problem. DignityNOW expands that progress in a rapid and scalable way.”

Click on [this link](#) to learn more.



On the tour, from left, are: Gail Osherenko, Maureen Earls, Jack Lorenz, and Pam Flynt Tambo. (Lorenz is Regional Advancement Director, SBCounty Dignitymoves.org)

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK®

What are the Important Issues For State League Action Plan?

About 15 LWVSB members met in mid-January to discuss the Program Planning task requested by LWVC to create the state League's Plan of Action for the next two years. The goal is to propose three "Issues for Emphasis." We acknowledged that we must continue to work toward "Making Democracy Work" and use a DEI equality lens (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) with all of our plans. And, we noted that LWVC has joined a national campaign—National Popular Vote—to abolish the Electoral College in our national elections. It will then be up to our local Leagues to propose additional topics for action by our state League through Program Planning.

Climate Emergency

Locally we have active topical committees addressing housing issues and criminal justice reform. Our Sustainable Communities committee addresses many issues relating to climate change or climate emergency, but is not concentrating on any one particular issue. We agreed that we will suggest that LWVC change their term "Climate Change" to "Climate Emergency."

Housing

Our Housing Committee is laser focused on monitoring the plans required of local municipalities—county and cities in South SB County—to update their building plans as required by the state. This work is ongoing—beyond this year. Our Housing Committee considers both access to housing and the creation of new housing. Frequent topics for discussion include building housing and creating affordable, low

income, very low income, and workforce housing. The challenges for our communities indicate that housing is a topic that our League should continue to work on. So, it's on our list to send to the state.

Criminal Justice

LWVSB Criminal Justice Reform Task Force led by Gail Osherenko continues to work with the CLUE-SB as a WorkGroup interfacing with county officials and learning more every month about how Public Safety works in our county. This group's overall goal is to reduce recidivism for people involved with the jail and includes a focus on the required jail remodel, better services for people in our jails through the Public Defender and Probation, and better social services and behavioral wellness care for people affected by our Public Safety system. This Task Force is part of the Social Policy Committee and is continuing its work with our League.

Health Care

The topic of Health Care for All was introduced at our meeting. We recognize that this is an important issue and it is on the national League agenda, but not the state's. We have not had additional support brought to our attention thus far and have not planned to move it forward unless we hear from members by February 10.

The final decision as to the topics we will send to LWVC will be made by our local League Board of Directors on Feb. 11, our board meeting date. Members should contact a board member if there are additional issues that should be considered for inclusion in our Program Planning response to LWVC. Or you may contact Pam Flynt Tambo at 805-451-4340 or program@lwvsantabarbara.org

For Your Information

An ERA Art Exhibit

An art exhibit supporting the Equal Rights Amendment, the potential 28th Amendment for our US Constitution, is on display at the Goleta Valley Library through Feb. 9.

The exhibit was arranged by the Artists for the ERA organization and displayed by the Ad Hoc ERA Committee of the Santa Barbara Women's Political Committee. The exhibit is of 14 posters by different artists celebrating various aspects of women and their quest for equal rights.

The library is open Tuesday through Thursdays from 10am to 7pm, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am to 5:30pm, and Sundays 1-5pm and is located at 500 North Fairview Avenue in Goleta.

Inside the League

Join an Interest Group

League of Women Voters of California Interest Groups include members across the state who are interested in a specific topic, such as water, housing and homelessness, criminal justice, and climate change. Interest groups provide a forum for California League members to support each other in exploring advocacy and educational work around their specific topic of interest, always in line with California League advocacy positions and the One Voice policy. Members of an interest group can find and share resources, share successes and best practices, and provide support to local Leagues.

You can register [here](#) for an All-Hands Interest Group Training on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7pm. At this training you'll learn more about the purpose of interest groups and important new guidelines for participation. For more information about the variety of groups available contact Julissa Rodriguez at jrodriguez@lwvc.org.

Do your New Year's Resolutions Include Getting More Involved in the League?

If so, consider contacting the new 2023 Nominating Committee to let them know you are interested! The Committee is gearing up its work in January to develop the slate of candidates for next year's Board and would really appreciate your suggestions, ideas, and possible interest.

Contact anyone on the Committee to let them know you are interested - and any specific topics you are interested in working on!

The members of the Committee are:

- Revae Moran, Chair
- Dianne Meester Black, Member
- Jane Honikman, Member, and
- Suzanne Cohen, Member

Send an email message to nominating@lwvsantabarbara.org and one of the Committee members will contact you right away to discuss what you would like to help with in FY 2023!

For Your Calendar





For more information, registration and contact information, click on the event in the website calendar [here](#). Most meetings are via Zoom.

Community Forums are livestreamed on Facebook (@LWVSB) and on our YouTube Channel (link at bottom of this newsletter). Some events are featured in separate articles.

Friday, Feb. 3 - 10:30-11:45am - **Sustainable Communities Committee**

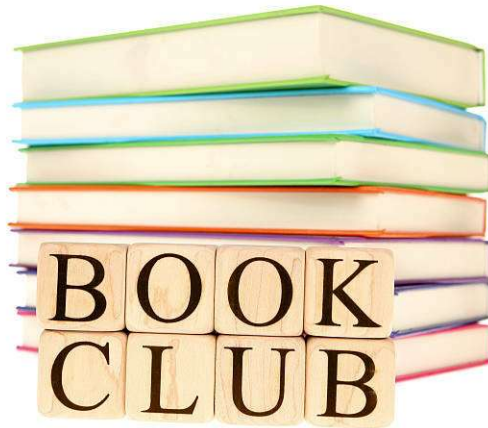
Friday, Feb. 3 - noon-1:15pm - **Housing Committee**

Tuesday, Feb. 7 - 1-2pm- **Communications Committee**

Saturday, Feb. 10- 10-noon - **Board Meeting**

Thursday, Feb. 23- 1:30-2:30pm - **Book Club**

Thursday, Feb. 23 - 5:30pm - **Meet and Greet**



TITLE: *Corrections in Ink (a memoir)*

AUTHOR: Keri Blakinger

DATE: Thursday, Feb. 23 at 1:30pm (new time) via Zoom

An electric and unforgettable memoir about a young woman's journey from the ice rink, to addiction and a prison sentence, to the newsroom, and how she emerged with a fierce determination to expose the broken system she experienced.

Contact Elaine Rudin, bookclub@lwvsantabarbara.org for Zoom links.

**Keep Up to Date on Action Alerts
From the State and National League**

For LWV, [click here](#).

For LWVC, [click here](#).

Videos



You can watch recordings of forums about candidates, ballot measures and district elections, as well as many past community forums. All videos are in both English and Spanish For these and other Forums, [watch here](#). Subscribe to the channel to be notified of future videos.

LWVSB Videos are on TVSB

Tune in: TVSB Channels League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show.
LWVSB Show - Weekly Spots

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show - English version:
Channel 17, "Voice": on Tuesdays 9:00 p.m. and on Fridays 2:00 a.m.

Channel 71, "Culture": on Wednesdays 9:00 p.m., on Thursdays 7:00 p.m., on Fridays 5:00 a.m., and on Saturdays 10:00 a.m.

League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Show - Spanish version:

Channel 17, "Voice": on Wednesdays 9:00 p.m. and on Saturdays 3:00 a.m.

Channel 71, "Culture": on Mondays 7:30 p.m., on Thursdays 3:30 a.m., on Fridays 3:30 p.m., and on Saturdays 2:00 a.m.

Donate

Join



Done