

IMPORTANT DATES
(regular meetings page 8)

Saturday, June 6
LWV Bay Area
Convention
lwvbayarea.org

Thursday, June 18
Pre-Annual Meeting
Zoom trainings
(see page 2)

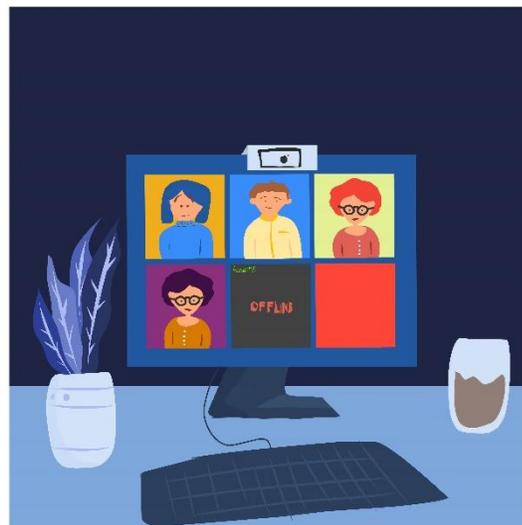
Thursday, June 25 –
Saturday, June 27
LWVUS Convention
Online
(see page 3)

Saturday, June 27
Member Orientation
via Zoom
cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net
(925) 283-2235

For information on how
to access virtual
government meetings,
check our [webpage](#) for
information.

Stay safe and well!

2020 Annual Meeting



Our Annual Meeting will be held remotely on
Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 10:00 am. Sign-in will
start at 9:30 am.

A quorum is needed for this meeting.

Join us to make decisions for the coming year and to
learn how you can help to keep up our Voter Service in
this challenging election year!

Learn how to access Zoom with two trainings, then
watch your email for the Annual Meeting information kit!
(see page 2)

info@lwvdv.org **(925) 283-2235**

image credit: vecteezy.com



President's Letter from Suzan

Dear League Leaders and Members:

All members are invited and encouraged to attend our LWVDV Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 20th AT 9:30 AM.

We need a quorum of members to vote to continue services for the next year and we hope to see you there!

This will be an online Zoom conference meeting with video and voice service. (NO carpooling required! NO travel time needed!) You will be able to use your computer, laptop or iPad and/or your phone of any variety. Watch for an invitation to the Annual Meeting which will include the Zoom meeting details as well as instructions and how to vote using Zoom. **Please be sure to RSVP!**

If Zoom online is not possible for you for any reason, don't miss out! Please let us know in your RSVP and we will provide a phone number so you can call in and participate.

Also watch for an invitation to an online training on the use of Zoom before the Annual Meeting. Two sessions will be offered on Thursday, June 18 at 9:30 am or 7:00 pm.

Join us at this important and fun day to:

- Celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the 19th Amendment!
- Vote for our elected Officers and our Budget.
- Consider and vote to approve our LWVDV Program Priorities. *Please note that the Board has changed our Program Priorities since January to reflect the impact of the pandemic on government services.* The new recommendations will be in the Annual Meeting Kit.
- Meet our Voter Services leaders and learn of all the services we will provide for the critical November election with your volunteer help.
 - The leaders of the Voter Services team include: Martha Goralka, organizing online CCTV Candidate Forums; Marian Shostrom, online Voter's Edge service; Shawn Gilbert, online Schools Activities; Kay James and Janet Thomas, online Pros and Cons preparation and delivery; and Suzan Requa, online Voter Registration, VE CA-Get Out the Vote activities
- Help us build and support community involvement as we complete an amazing transition to Voter Services online delivery.
 - All Voter Services are being designed for online delivery this year, including Voter Registration, Voter's Edge, Get Out the Vote, Candidate Forums, Pros and Cons, and Schools Voter Information.
 - Learn how to sign up to volunteer in whatever service is of interest to you.
 - Learn how to help with outreach to our Central and East County non-profit network of partners.

Please call our office at 925-283-2235 or email info@lwvdv.org if you have questions about the Annual Meeting.

Action/Advocacy Committee

The Action/Advocacy Committee will meet on Saturday, June 6, 2020, from 10 am – noon. This will be a **Zoom Only Meeting**. It is best if you join with your computer, camera, and sound, so that everyone can see and hear each other. The other option is to call in on a phone. NOTE: If you use an iPad, you can only view nine participants on a screen; if you use a phone, you can view four participants on a screen.

Agenda Highlights

- Covid19 in Contra Costa: Status, Impact, Board of Supervisors Action
- Oil Drilling near Brentwood
- Census 2020 Update

Please join us while you are sheltering in place. To add an issue to the agenda, email Marian.

If you want a Zoom link to join the meeting, email Marian Shostrom, msmarian49@gmail.com, using subject line: Action Zoom Link

New Member Orientation

Our next LWVDV orientation for new members and guests will be **Saturday, June 27th** from **10:30 a.m. to noon**. This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom. You can join the meeting online or on the phone. *See below.*

We hold orientations for members and guests quarterly, to give an overview of the League's history, mission, procedures, current priorities and how you can get involved.

If you have joined LWVDV recently, would like to attend as a guest, or are a member who wants to know how to get more involved, please email Cathleen Kirk at cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net



Please RSVP by **emailing Cathleen by Monday, June 22nd**.

On Wednesday, June 24th, Cathleen will send the link, meeting ID number, password and phone numbers (if you need to attend by phone) for the Zoom meeting.

If you're not familiar with Zoom, the following link will take you to a brief tutorial.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E&authuser=0>

You'll want to log on to Zoom about 10 to 15 minutes before the meeting to give yourself time to logon and join the meeting. More details about Zoom will be provided by Cathleen in her email that will be sent on Wednesday, June 24th to those who have RSVP'd by June 22nd.

Online LWV National Convention. Plan to Attend!

Convention sessions will be held on **June 25-27** and LWVUS is planning the agenda with consideration towards all time zones. Check out this link to learn the current details:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/update-convention-2020>.

RSVP to info@lwvdv.org if you would like to learn more and would like to attend the sessions.

Join the Voter Services Team!

Martha Goralka, Voter Services Co-Chair

For the past 244 years our country has been working towards being a “more perfect Union.” If you watch some of the historical programs on PBS, you may be a bit discouraged with our government as you learn about our history – such as the Trail of Tears, Slavery, Reconstruction, Chinese Exclusion, Manzanar, Vietnam War, Civil Rights, Women’s Rights and so much more. The United States has come a long way since 1776, but remains imperfect.

You can help the U.S. reach our highest ideals, including a future where ALL age-qualified citizens are registered and able to cast an informed vote - join our Voter Services team!

We have already started work in this strange new normal of sheltering in place. Early in May, former Voter Service Chair and long-time League member Sharon Burke recently presented a Moderator’s Training for Candidates Forums via Zoom. Twenty-three participants learned the secrets of holding fair, nonpartisan, inclusive forums for candidates for public office.

On May 26, the Diablo Valley League sponsored a presenter’s training session for all aspects of achieving Voter Service goals using Zoom. (*Links to recordings of both Zoom trainings are available on request; email info@lwvdv.org.)* The League’s Communications gurus are working with us to prepare for next fall’s General Election.

Stay tuned to be involved in the next “100 Years of the League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work”, as we continue to strive for a more perfect Union.

This Month’s Exercise in Exploring Our Own Unconscious Biases

Sue Brandy, LWVDV Administrative Vice President

This month the LWVDV Board will be reading and discussing chapter 4 of *Waking Up White*. In this chapter, author Debby Irving explores the culture of optimism as “a privilege of the dominant class – a white privilege”. She writes: “In considering the cultural influences that shaped me, I’ve thought a lot about how optimism infused itself into my very being...



was part of a larger pattern.” *[bold type added]*

“Ads and television shows promoted goods while projecting images of the suburban ideal onto the popular psyche, promising a world of happy nuclear families, clear gender roles, manicured lawns, throngs of children on shiny new bikes, and neat driveways harboring stylish new cars. Suburban life and all it entailed became a norm for millions of American families. By the time I was born, the newly defined American dream had become an attainable reality for millions of **white** families. It turns out that the culture of achievement, security and optimism I so thoroughly internalized

At the end of this chapter the question asked of the reader, and to be discussed by the LWVDV Board during the month of June is: “*What were some of the major economic, political, demographic and pop culture trends from ten years before your birth until age twenty? How did they show up in your life? How do you think they influenced your beliefs?*”

We invite you again to join us in exploring these questions for yourself. Reading *Waking Up White* is an opportunity to identify the beliefs we hold, sometimes unknowingly, that impact our perception of others.

[photo courtesy of Leslie Stewart: The Stosik cousins, New Jersey, 1950s]

Latest Census 2020 Update

Mary Schreiber, LWVDV Census 2020 Co-Chair

The deadline for self-reporting is now October 31, 2020. Census Field Office operations are scheduled to be at peak on June 1, 2020. Census takers will begin in-person followup on non-response households on August 11, 2020.

Currently, volunteers are doing **phone banking** to follow up with households that have not responded. This would be an opportunity to help since the library branches are closed. Please let me know if you are interested in phone banking. You can contact me at Maryschreiber77@yahoo.com.

Census 2020 has been underway for two months, and 69.3% of our county has responded so far. Remember, the census is a social-distancing-approved activity and it has never been easier to respond in the comfort and safety of your own home. You can fill out the census online, by phone, or by mail. When you've completed your census, post a picture on your social media with your receipt and tag #CountMeIn and #CoCoCounts.



In talking with some members of the community, Contra Costa Census 2020 outreach staff have heard your questions and concerns about exactly what the census asks and how your census data will be protected, especially given this is the first time the census will be conducted mostly online. The census asks basic questions, like age, name, race, and ethnicity, about each person living in your household. **The 2020 census will**

not ask about immigration or citizenship, social security numbers, bank or credit card accounts, or political affiliation.

Your census responses are confidential.

- Extremely strong laws protect the confidentiality of your census response.
- The Census Bureau is not allowed to share your personal information with anyone, including ICE, police, your landlord, or any other government agencies.
- The penalty for wrongful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.
- The Census Bureau can only use your response to create general information about the population, like how many people live in your city, and statistics about age, gender, and race. The Census Bureau cannot share information about you as an individual.
- The Census Bureau has robust cybersecurity, incorporating industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

The law requires everyone to respond to the census completely and answer all questions truthfully. Your form will still be counted if you skip a question or two, if you provide your name and address. If you skip questions or don't answer the census at all, the Census Bureau might follow up to ask for the missing information, either by phone or by sending a Census Bureau worker to your home.

Remind friends and family to fill out the Census!

GOVERNMENT AND THE PANDEMIC:

Inequitable Coronavirus Relief Funding for Hospitals

Marian Shostrom and Pat Snyder, Health Care Issue Co-Chairs

The Kaiser Family Foundation ([KFF](#)) is a non-profit organization focusing on national health issues. It is a non-partisan source of facts, analysis and journalism (not affiliated with Kaiser Permanente). Read the [full report here](#).

In a May 13, 2020, report, KFF analyzed relief fund grants to hospitals under the CARES act and the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, providing relief during the Coronavirus pandemic. These grants were determined by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Hospitals with the greatest share of revenue from private insurance received more than twice as much as hospitals with the lowest share of private insurance. Private insurance (such as Medicare Advantage plans) typically reimburses hospitals at twice the rate of Medicare. Hospitals, such as the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, that get most of their revenue treating people who are on Medicare and Medicaid, are typically reimbursed at much lower rates.



The formula that HHS used gave an average of \$44,321 per bed to high-income hospitals, and an average of \$20,710 per bed to low-income hospitals. HHS could have used a different formula to distribute these public funds more evenly. These grants provide less relief to hospitals serving the most vulnerable populations, and more relief to hospitals serving more privileged populations.

The LWVUS joined other organizations in asking Congress to formulate [a COVID response plan](#) that ensures access to quality health care for all, and provides targeted relief for those most impacted.

Pandemic Recovery Needs Schools and Communities First

Carol Murota, SCF Campaign Coordinator

As we continue to stay safe at home, the [Schools and Communities First campaign](#) (SCF) continues to work to ensure we get this important proposition passed. With the pandemic shutdown of economic activity, supporting SCF is one of the most important things LWV can do in addition to registering and educating voters.

Breaking news! SCF qualified for the November 2020 ballot! The statewide SCF campaign submitted over 1.7 million signatures, many collected with your diligence and determination. We are confident that we will be able to vote for and pass SCF in November with your help. Please stay tuned.



Passage is made more urgent by the substantial additional costs to state and local city budgets due to COVID-19. Governor Newsom's May revised [budget](#) predicts a \$54 billion shortfall necessitating a \$19 billion cut to [school budgets](#). For example, Lafayette anticipates a \$1 million shortfall in property tax/sales tax revenue. SCF will help cover these unanticipated costs and be a reliable revenue stream in the future. (*Read more on our [website](#)*).

SCF is offering a template for writing supporting letters to newspaper editors, your legislators, and especially the Governor. Click [here](#) to find the resources to write with confidence.

COVID-19 and the Brown Act in Lafayette

Carol Murota, LWVDV Lafayette Observer

The Brown Act protects the public's right to attend and engage in meetings of their legislative bodies. It requires timely posting of agendas. Adopted over 50 years ago, it has become the norm, and we have taken for granted our ability to engage in meetings of our city councils and commissions. Then COVID-19 arrived.

Pre-COVID-19, residents were given time during meetings to bring their concerns and appreciations to their officials. The process was transparent and public. Now, faced with health and safety concerns, physical distancing/shelter-in-place orders were issued, and in-person attendance at meetings was suspended for everyone – both officials and the public participate in meetings remotely. This is new territory. There is no time-tested alternative to public meetings. At the most recent Lafayette City Council meeting, conducted remotely, city staff reported on a variety of systems being tried and their efficacy at screening out inappropriate behaviors. It is surprising what people do and say when they are not standing in front of a podium!

To be clear, the City Council of Lafayette has been rigorous in making sure all comments submitted are part of the public record, and they have a staff member present at their meetings to handle the technical pieces. As reported earlier, their reflexes were tested by the obscene comments made during the first meeting. No other incidents have made it to the public recording since safety protocols were put in place. The city clerk has read comments into the public record, and almost all have been within the 3-minute limit. For many residents, the current method has been a success despite not exactly replicating in person participation.

Some Lafayette residents, however, feel strongly that there is no substitute for an in-person presentation. To address this while balancing the reality of COVID-19 requirements, the City Council engaged in a thorough discussion with council members asking follow-up questions to public comments. Recognizing the urgency to find a solution, the City Council, despite facing a significant reduction in revenues, opted to contract with a virtual meeting management company called PrimeGov to give the public a way to make comments, to screen input to prevent inappropriate comments, and, as closely as possible, to replicate the openness and transparency of pre-COVID-19 meetings.

Board of Supervisors Ad-Hoc Committee on Covid-19 Economic Impact and Recovery - May 21, 2020

Marian Shostrom, Contra Costa BOS Observer Team

Co-Chairs: Candace Andersen and Karen Mitchoff, with Dr. Chris Farnitano

There were 162 participants on the Zoom call. Supervisor Andersen said they had increased Zoom capacity to 300, from the 100 it had been for the May 14, 2020, meeting. Supervisor Andersen announced three more deaths in the County as of May 21, for a total of 36. Full Phase 2 opening will be based on six indicators. Testing needs to be at 2300 people per day. The State has developed guidelines for different industries. The county is creating separate guidelines.

There was much public comment, especially from small business owners, who want the Shelter-in-Place order to be lifted and businesses to begin to operate. San Mateo County has gotten ahead of the state order, which causes problems for other Bay Area counties. To influence state action, it was suggested that people call their state Senator and Assembly member.

Suffragists You Need to Meet: Anna Roqué (Geigel) Duprey (1853 – 1933)

Shawn Gilbert, LWVDV Vice President



Anna Roqué Geigel de Duprey was born in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. After the loss of her mother when she was four, Duprey was raised by her father, grandmother and aunt, all of whom were educators. As a child, she loved books and had learned to write by the age of three. By the time Duprey was thirteen, she had founded her own school in her house. She wrote the geography textbook that her students used, and it was later adopted by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico.

In 1872, Anna married Luis Duprey, who was a well-to-do landowner with political aspirations. They had five children together; three of them survived to adulthood. After the family moved to San Juan, she spent time composing music and became the first woman to be permitted in the Puerto Rican Athenaeum and to become a member of the San Juan Public Library. She was widowed in 1880. In 1884 she accepted a teaching position in Arecibo and enrolled in the Provincial Institute, where she studied science and philosophy and earned her bachelor's degree.

As Puerto Rico was becoming a territory of the U.S. in 1898, Duprey founded *La Mujer*, the first of numerous women's magazines that she established. In addition to serving as director of the Normal School of San Juan, Duprey wrote for a variety of newspaper publications like *El Mundo*. She also wrote several fiction and non-fiction books.

Duprey's love of botany earned her acclaim and an award for her book *Puerto Rican Flora*. She became known as "Flor del Valle" (Flower of the Valley). Today, there is new energy around getting her unpublished work, *Botánica Antillana*, digitized. The product of thirty years of research, it is a collection of over 6000 trees and plants of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean with her own color illustrations. According to scientist Eliván Martínez Mercado, these long-overlooked manuscripts may contribute to a more sustainable agriculture in Puerto Rico.

Anna Duprey's energy and dedication to education was boundless. By 1902, she had founded a teacher's academy, a girls' high school (Liceo Ponceño), and the College of Mayagüez. The College of Mayagüez later became part of the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan; she was also a contributing founder of the University in 1903. In 1932, she received an honorary doctorate from the University.

In 1917, Duprey turned her energies to a more expansive focus. She joined with other Puerto Rican women professionals to form the first organization in Puerto Rico dedicated to women's rights, the Puerto Rican Feminist League. In 1921, the Feminist League renamed itself the Suffragist Social League.

By 1924, internal political differences led to a schism in the League. Duprey and her fellow suffragists broke away to form the Association of Women Suffragists and devoted their efforts to winning universal women's suffrage, free of restrictive barriers like literacy requirements. Unfortunately, Duprey died two years before seeing all Puerto Rican women succeed in winning the right to vote in 1935.

Photo by Juan Costa, Centro de Periodismo Investigativo: Ana Roqué de Duprey, by the painter López de Victoria, from the collection of the Corporación de las Artes Musicales.

Spotlight on Members: Sue Brandy

Carol Murota, LWVDV Observer Chair

Among the many weaknesses COVID-19 has revealed in our systems, we are most acutely aware of the fragility of our healthcare system and our social safety net. Our League members continue to step forward to address the needs. Last month you read about Catherine Newman's PPE work. Our League Vice President, Sue Brandy, is putting her therapist training back to work on a less widely publicized problem.

Recognizing that our frontline workers are forced daily to make troubling medical and ethical choices, the **Frontline Workers Counseling Project** was formed to offer free counseling support. Sue Brandy is working with the project to help workers such as Emergency Department physicians, county jail employees and homeless services providers to cope with the decisions they must make: Who gets a ventilator? How does a homeless person shelter in place? What about the fears and worries about exposure for maintenance workers cleaning the hospitals? Providers are struggling with the stress of increasing needs and limited resources, inadequate testing, no vaccine, and no reliable treatment. How do providers cope with their own feelings of inadequacy, fear, helplessness? How are police and fire servicemembers managing their risks? Is there a light at the end of the tunnel?

Sue Brandy's work is important and unsung, but she assures everyone it is extremely rewarding. If you know a frontline worker who would benefit from talking with a professional, please refer them to the [Frontline Workers Counseling Project](#) for assistance. If you have questions, you can email Sue at brandyicsw@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Welcome new members Carole Price and Izzy Martinez! If you have a summer membership anniversary, watch for your renewal reminder. We need you, so please renew!

If you have been a League member for 50 years or more, you are a Life Member. Life Members do not pay dues. Contact Membership Chair Cathleen Kirk (cathleen.kirk@sbcglobal.net) to upgrade your status!



Visit us and LIKE our **Facebook** page.

<http://tinyurl.com/of4o2pj>

Follow us on **Twitter** -- @LWVDiabloValley

See us on **Instagram**: @lwvdiablovalley

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at www.lwvdv.org.

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay.

To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact the League office: (925) 283-2235.

\$75 Individual Membership

\$110 Family Membership (2)

\$35 Additional Family Membership

\$10 Student Membership

\$10 to receive printed copies of the Voter by US Mail

(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVDV are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)

LWVDV Board Members:

Suzan Requa, *President*
 Shawn Gilbert, *First Vice President*
 Sue Brandy, *Admin. Vice President*
 Karen Dolder, *Secretary, Office Co-Mgr*
 Barbara Hill, *Treasurer*
 Marian Shostrom, *Action/Advocacy*
 Barbara Coenen, *Office Co-Mgr*
 Ann Flynn, *Program Co-Chair*
 Diane Bianchi, *Program Co-Chair*
 Ashley Coates, *Membership Co-Chair*
 Cathleen Kirk, *Membership Co-Chair*
 Martha Goralka, *Voter Service Co-Chair*
 Linda Soliven, *LWVBA Liaison, Census*
 Leslie Stewart, *At-Large Director*
 Christina Soto-Maynez, *At-Large Director*

**CALENDAR
MONTHLY MEETINGS**

June 6 Action Committee
 10-noon Zoom Meeting*

June 11 Board Meeting
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm

July 9 Board Meeting
 10:15 am - Zoom Meeting*
 12:15 pm

Action Committee – no July meeting

*To participate in a Zoom meeting, leave a message with your email address on the office phone and meeting link will be sent to you.

**The League of Women Voters
of Diablo Valley
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**Empowering Voters
Defending Democracy**