



# VOTER

**June 2023**

## **San Juan County Teens in Need of Stable Homes**

**Monthly Meeting – June 12th, 2023 – 12 Noon**

**Friday Harbor Library & via Zoom**

It's an invisible problem because we don't see them camping in the streets, but dozens of teens in San Juan County don't have a safe stable place to live. There are no programs or shelters in the county that can provide a safe place to live. They are vulnerable to sexual exploitation and struggle to stay in school. The San Juan County Five-Year Homelessness plan has a goal of starting a host home program, a solution used in some rural counties. LWV SJ member Necia Quast will present her report on this problem in our county. LWV SJ member Necia Quast will present her report on this problem in our county. Featured speakers will be Melanie Kaegi from SJC Superior Court Juvenile Services, as well as Melissa Hope and Ashley Strutz from the Joyce Sobel Family Resource Center. They will talk about their direct experience with our kids and how we can step forward as a community to support them.

**This will be a hybrid meeting. To join via Zoom:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83364651803?pwd=OUhtWHJJKOFQQUduYU5aS3BUTONwUT09>

**Meeting ID: 833 6465 1803**

**Passcode: 498480**

***This event is not sponsored by the San Juan Island Library***

## **Meeting Dates 2023**

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>Monthly Meetings</b>
June 5	June 12 <i>Teen Homelessness</i>
July 3	July 22 <i>Summer Picnic</i>

August 28 <sup>th</sup> <i>Board Retreat</i>	<i>Summer Break</i>
<i>No Board Meeting</i>	September 11
October 2	October 9 <i>Forums</i>
November 6	November 13
December 4	December 11 <b>Holiday Luncheon</b>

*All members are welcome to attend our board meetings – please send any board member an email and we will send you the zoom link.*

## League of Women Voters Convention May 2023



This past May, four of your League of Women Voters of the San Juan Islands had the privilege of representing our league at the Washington State Convention in Pasco/Tri-cities. Attending were LWVSJI Vice President Barbara Sharp, board members Necia Quast and Stephanie Butler, and member Leanne Brunette.

The SJI league attendees participated in workshops and presentations ranging from *Redistricting in Washington State* to

*Understanding Public Hospital Districts to Engaging Youth and Putting DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Into Practice.* Delegates additionally were able to see samples of handouts, newsletters, and voter support materials produced by other leagues around the state, as well as hear an extraordinary presentation from Dr. Kimberly Hamlin, “Women Have Always Powered Democracy: A Brief History Before We Look Forward.”

Perhaps most important, your SJI delegates brought two new issues to the state league, in the form of caucuses requesting action from the state league. The first was immigration, and LWVSJI President Susan Martin interrupted her vacation in Switzerland to join us via Zoom as we asked the state league to consider a study to examine the integration of immigrants into our state. The state league agreed unanimously that understanding what happens to immigrants once they arrive in Washington, and how we can support their integration into our communities and their associated economic success and ability to contribute to our larger state economy, is a matter the league should study.

The second caucus issue was that of reproductive rights of Washington state residents who live in communities served by hospitals with religious affiliations that do not allow provision

of birth control and other reproductive rights. The matter was considered, but our request for action was ultimately not approved by the convention delegates. While there was clear support for the issue among state delegates, it was not determined to be a priority at this time.

In total, the LWV Washington State convention was a wonderful learning and growing experience. The Convention noted members lost including LWVSJ members Louisa Nishitani and Robin Jacobson. The Convention elected new officers including a new state League President Mary Coltrane.

Your SJI delegates came home with many new ideas and new excitement about the importance of our work to empower voters and defend democracy. The atmosphere was welcoming, and it was easy to become part of the larger group. Your SJI Board strongly encourages all members to consider attending in the future.

*Stephanie Butler*

## Recap of our Annual Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### Reflections from the President of LWVSJ:

On May 15, the League of Women Voters of the San Juans ended our fiscal year with our Annual Meeting. As with most of our gatherings, the Annual Meeting was in person and accessible via Zoom. We had a very good turnout at Brickworks and enthusiastic participation online. I thank all of you who participated.



My special thanks to Barbara Sharp, our Vice President, for stepping in at the last minute to preside over the meeting as I had a bad case of laryngitis. Thanks also to our two stellar speakers: Sheriff Eric Peter & San Juan County Prosecutor Amy Vira. They provided excellent updates on the work of their respective departments.

We started the meeting with the President's review of the year's accomplishments. To summarize, we had a banner year. We hosted monthly

meetings on an array of subjects of current concern: the State of Friday Harbor, Reproductive Health Post Roe v Wade, The Intersection of Art and Women's Rights, The Decline of Local News & Its Impact on Democracy and Saving the Salish Sea. We also hosted a well-attended Voters Forum on the San Juan County Sheriff's Race that had about 100 in-person participants and another 100 on Zoom. In November and January, we held members only sessions. The November retreat provided feedback on what activities LWVSJ should pursue in the future to reach as many county residents as possible. In January, we engaged in more specific program planning for our own League and provided input into the LWVWA program of action for 2023-2025.

These activities led to concrete action. First, LWVSJ launched the new Observer Corps, under the leadership of Necia Quast, former President of LWVSJ. Observers are individuals who

attend a governmental meeting, note what happens at the meeting, and report back to the League and the community. The LWVSJ Observer Corp members attend city and county government meetings. Their observations are published by the principal news outlets in the county and are also available on our Facebook page.

Second, we participated actively in the process of consensus-building around two reports that LWVWA issued in this past year: Shoreline Management Act at 56+ Years (Shorelines Study 2022) and The Decline of Local News & Its Impact on Democracy. Following publication of studies, local Leagues typically hold meetings at which members of the study team answer questions about the study and members register their opinions on key issues. The responses are consolidated to frame a League position that allows the League to take action for or against specific legislation. LWVWA has taken a position on both issues based on our and other League input.

Third, LWVSJ applied for funding from the state Education Fund to help us improve our service to people throughout the county. The grant covers two major activities: Obtaining the technology and expertise needed to run hybrid meetings more effectively and developing a strategy for improving our website and social media presence to reach more people with better content. LWVSJ received \$2,000 from LWVWA Ed Fund to be matched by \$1,050 to be drawn from our reserves to undertake this initiative.

Fourth, LWVSJ has had a significant impact on the State League. In June 2022, LWVSJ drafted a resolution on reproductive rights that LWVWA submitted at the national convention. It was adopted by almost unanimous consent the day the Supreme Court decision was released. LWVSJ's Treasurer has been named LWVWA Treasurer for its 501c3 Education Fund. We also helped scope the State League's program of work for this coming year. Following the January program planning meeting, LWVSJ submitted a proposal to LWVWA that a study on immigration and immigrant integration be part of the program of work. Its purpose is to delve deeply into legislative options at the state level for enhancing the lives of immigrants and the role the League could be playing in ensuring immigrants have pathways to economic, social, and civic opportunities. The study was approved at the May 2023 LWVWA convention. I will be chairing the process.

We expect another active year as we begin our work with new and returning board members. I hope you will attend our speakers and members meetings. We are always looking for volunteers to help the Board put on our programs. If you have ideas of how we can be more supportive and effective in our outreach, please let me know. I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead. Have a peaceful, happy and productive summer.

## **Around the League – State & National Issues**

May and June are graduation season—congratulate the grads in your life and help them make sure they're registered to vote wherever they go next. Visit [Vote411.org](https://Vote411.org) for comprehensive voter information anywhere in the country.

### **6.21 WED | LWVWA Redistricting Reform Taskforce Meeting**

LWVWA is working to reimagine and reform the Washington State redistricting process. All individuals and organizational representatives are invited to join every third Wednesday of the month. [Click here](#) to register or learn more.



## Save the Date Summer Picnic

July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
SJI Sculpture Garden  
Details to follow

Check out our website at [WWW.LWVWA.ORG/SAN-JUAN/INDEX.HTML](http://WWW.LWVWA.ORG/SAN-JUAN/INDEX.HTML)  
We are working on a new website address, updating the design, and expanding the content and hope you will visit the site to stay up to date on all of our local activities.

## Observer Corps Update

Everyone who signs up to attend meetings and take notes will get guidance on how to do notes and Necia will prepare a monthly calendar of meetings. Please contact Necia at [collquas@netscape.net](mailto:collquas@netscape.net) or 360-370-5502, if you are interested in learning more or in taking part.

Organization	Frequency	When	Time	Where	Virtual	Volunteer
SJI School Board	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	5pm	HS Library	No	S. Bowman
SJI Public Hospital District	Monthly	4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	5.30pm	849 Spring St	Yes	B. Sharp
Port of FH	2 x Month	2 & 4 <sup>th</sup> Weds	12pm	Yacht Club	No	J. Belcovson
SJI Fire District 3	Monthly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	3pm	Mullis Firehouse	No	M. Martin
FH Town Council	2 x Month	1 & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs	12pm	Council Chambers	Yes	
County Council	2-4 x Month	Tues/some Mon/Weds	9am	County Office	Yes	



A great way to stay current and involved is to sign up for the Legislative Newsletter from the WA League. This provides a weekly update on key issues in the legislature, including Action Alerts for upcoming votes and information on current activity on major bills. Newsletters come out every Sunday during the Legislative Session.

Click here: [sign up for the Legislative Newsletter](#)

## Join Your Local League!

Are you passionate about democracy and looking for a community of like-minded people? The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person 16 and older may become a voting member of the League. When you join a local League, you automatically become a member of the state and national Leagues, as well.

## Follow Us on Facebook!

Follow what local, state and national league are up to at our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSanJuans>. We are working on our website – stay tuned for updates and check it out at <https://www.lwvwa.org/San-Juan>

### Board Members of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan's

#### Officers

Susan Martin	President	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinsf@georgetown.edu">martinsf@georgetown.edu</a>
Barbara Sharp	Vice-President	360-472-0148	<a href="mailto:b_gsharp@hotmail.com">b_gsharp@hotmail.com</a>
Stephanie Butler	Voter Services	907-209-5885	<a href="mailto:sjbutlerak@gmail.com">sjbutlerak@gmail.com</a>
Michael Martin	Treasurer & Roster	360-370-5205	<a href="mailto:martinml@ieee.org">martinml@ieee.org</a>
Diana Sibert	Secretary	360-370-5269	<a href="mailto:dianasibert@gmail.com">dianasibert@gmail.com</a>
Jill Belcovson	The Voter	805-689-2260	<a href="mailto:jbelcovson@gmail.com">jbelcovson@gmail.com</a>

#### Members-at-Large

Audra Adelberger	Nominating Committee	360-378-6322	<a href="mailto:audraaeaba@gmail.com">audraaeaba@gmail.com</a>
Mary Campanella	Nominating Committee And Action Chair	800-364-1984	<a href="mailto:marycampanella@icloud.com">marycampanella@icloud.com</a>
Susan Eberhard		360-378-3608	<a href="mailto:eberhard@rockisland.com">eberhard@rockisland.com</a>
Farhad Ghatan		360-378-0442	<a href="mailto:farhaddahlias@gmail.com">farhaddahlias@gmail.com</a>
Chita Miller		360-378-2153	<a href="mailto:chita.miller@gmail.com">chita.miller@gmail.com</a>
Necia Quast		360-370-5502	<a href="mailto:collquas@aim.com">collquas@aim.com</a>
Kari McVeigh		310-678-1403	<a href="mailto:kmcveigh630@gmail.com">kmcveigh630@gmail.com</a>

*Nominating Committee: Audra Adelberger, Mary Campanella, Leslie Veirs and Barbara Marrett*

When you join the League, your dues go to three different places: to National League to help support voting rights advocacy efforts, to State League for voter education as well as advocacy for state issues that League supports; and then there are a few dollars left to support our local forums and programs. Below are the different levels of dues payments and the PO Box number. If you choose to give at a higher level than the “Regular” level, the extra money stays with our local League to support our important work here. Thanks for supporting LWV at all levels!

YES! I want to become a member of the League of Women Voters of the San Juan's.

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:

	<b>Regular</b>	<b>Carrie Chapman Catt</b>	<b>Susan B. Anthony</b>
<b>Individual</b>	\$60	\$100 to \$249	\$250 and up
<b>Family</b>	\$90	\$150to \$374	\$375 and up
<b>Student</b>	\$35		

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the League of Women Voters of WA Education Fund and have enclosed a separate check (to LWVWA–EF) in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

**PLEASE RETURN TO:** League of Women Voters of the San Juans  
PO Box 784  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

**Voter Editor: Jill Belcovson – 805-689-2260 – [jbeltcovson@gmail.com](mailto:jbeltcovson@gmail.com)**  
**Contributing Editor - Susan Martin**