

May Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 1
11:30am-1:00pm on ZOOM

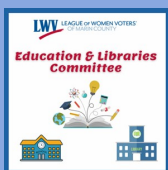


Speaker
John Carroll, Marin
County Superinten-
dent of Schools

“The Marin County Office of Educa-
tion’s Top Three Priorities in 2023”

John Carroll was elected Marin
County Superintendent of Schools in
2022, succeeding Mary Jane Burke
who held this post for seven terms.
Superintendent Carroll has served in
public education for 35 years and is
the longest-serving district Superin-
tendent in Marin County.

Join us to get to know our new Super-
intendent and to learn about his pri-
orities for Marin schools in 2023.



**Hosted by the Education and
Libraries Committee**

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Annual Meeting
Monday, June 5
10:30am - 1:30pm

**The Club Restaurant at
McInnis Park**

10:30 AM - Registration, coffee and
conversation

11:00 AM - Business meeting

11:45 AM - Champagne reception

12:00 PM - Luncheon (cost \$35)

12:30 – 1:30 PM Program and
Presentations

Speaker: Katy Mann McKnight –
Director of Community Engagement,
San Francisco-Marin Food Bank

**You will receive your Annual Meeting
Kit in May with registration link.**

SAVE THE DATE!

Meet John Carroll - May Monthly Meeting Speaker

In June 2022 John Carroll was elected as Marin County Superintendent of Schools to replace one of his mentors, Mary Jane Burke, who served seven terms in office.

Carroll has served in public education for 35 years and is the longest-serving district Superintendent in Marin County. He has worked as a teacher or administrator at every grade level from preschool through grade 12.

John Carroll attended Marin schools from preschool through the second year of college. He holds a bachelor's degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (Speech/Rhetoric), three education credentials and a master's degree in educational leadership from Sonoma State University.

For the past several years, Mr. Carroll's professional development work has focused on improving educational experiences and outcomes for all students, especially those from historically underserved communities. He has substantial training in racial equity and equity-informed practices such as standards-based reporting (rather than compliance-based grading), data-informed assessment and intervention especially in elementary math and reading and the expansion and strengthening of early childhood education programs.

John Carroll puts students first in his professional life and considers their needs in every decision no matter how far removed from the classroom. He cares about all children but has a special place in his heart for students who struggle in school, who face extra challenges or have trouble fitting in or behaving appropriately.

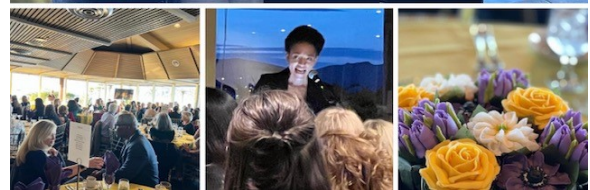


**AN EXCITING NEW
OPPORTUNITY
Are You Social?**

We're looking for someone who is comfortable with social media to post on our 3 social media accounts – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Or maybe just one of these. Check us out @LWVMarin and see what you think. Please follow us if you don't already!

If you're interested or have questions, please send an email to Robin Diederich at info@marinlwv.org

A GLORIOUS EVENING! 2023 GALA



Our help is needed to keep College of Marin students in school!

None of us had any idea of the tidal wave of need that was to come from students at College of Marin (COM) due to COVID-19 impacts. The Education Foundation decided to do what it could to help.



In 2020, 2021, and 2022, the Education Foundation -- along with donations from many League members and friends -- was able to send a total of \$31,000 to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund (SEAF) for COM students.

As we come out of the pandemic, those with the greatest need continue to be students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities.

Our work is not done.

Once again, the Education Foundation will match your donations with an equal grant of up to \$6,000.

- ◆ Our assistance has helped keep students in school by providing technology, book purchases, and short-term support for personal needs.
- ◆ In addition to laptops, the emergency fund has already spent \$4,800 in the campus bookstore for students' textbooks.
- ◆ The fund has been invaluable to COM's ability to meet students' needs swiftly with a minimum of red tape. That could mean replacing a flat tire, paying for unexpected medical expenses, providing short-term childcare, or any other challenge that jeopardizes a student's ability to get to class.

Please mail your check made out to LWV Education Foundation, 4340 Redwood Highway, Suite F-133, San Rafael, CA 94903, or go to the League's website www.marinlww.org to donate to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund for COM Students.

**With your generosity, we can do this together
and continue to build a better community for everyone.**

Launching the Restoration of Voting Rights Initiative of the Education and Outreach Team and the Justice Committee

Background

- According to the Sentencing Project’s **Locked Out 2022: Estimates of People Denied Voting Rights**, an estimated 4.6 million Americans are barred from voting due to a felony conviction.
- One out of 50 adult citizens — 2 percent of the total eligible U.S. voting population — is disenfranchised due to a current or previous felony conviction.
- Three out of four people disenfranchised are living in their communities, having fully completed their sentences or remaining supervised while on probation or parole.
- One in 19 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised. Approximately 1 million women are disenfranchised, comprising over one-fifth of the total disenfranchised population.

In California, Proposition 17 was approved in 2020, restoring voting rights to people on parole.

Clean Slate

The League hosted a table at the County’s **Clean Slate Program** initiated by the Public Defender’s Office under the leadership of David Joseph Sutton, Public Defender.

The purpose of the annual event is to provide wraparound services to community members and for those who qualify for dismissal of a conviction or an expungement of their record. Sutton says, “Clean Slate increases accessibility to our underserved communities. The purpose of the program is to break down access barriers. Traveling to the Civic Center and going to multiple organizations’ offices during normal business hours is taxing and difficult for community members with limited means. Often this requires taking a day off of work, finding childcare, and navigating limited options on public transportation. Government benefits and programs must be accessible to everyone, especially those most in need. We take our services directly to the communities where our clients reside and centralize the services offered in one location.”

The groups also provide general services. Among services provided are Dismissal of Conviction, Expungement of Record, Certificate of Rehabilitation, DMV and ID support, tenant rights, adult education programs, and voter registration.

Going forward, our plan is to confer with the Public Defender, the Probation Office and the District Attorney’s Office to provide a smooth path for any eligible voter to re-register to vote. We will create printed and electronic material to inform and instruct persons who want to restore their right to vote. We also hope to distribute this information to families in Marin County, to support communities who are unaware of the law.

We were grateful to have two **Student Elections Ambassadors** from Tamalpais High School in attendance: Jordan Harrosh, sophomore, and Ella Clark, senior. Ella, who is heading off to Georgetown in the fall, said, “Participating in democracy is so important, and to help people who have been disenfranchised renew their participation was a very meaningful experience.” Daniel Straub of the Marin County Elections Department was on hand to provide information on the March 7 special elections. If you are interested in joining the Education & Outreach team as we build this program, please contact outreach@marinlwv.org.

Pat Beaupre Becker and Nancy Weber

VOTER EDUCATION & OUTREACH



When the March 7 Special Election results were certified on March 24, our time and attention turned to community outreach and work on various voter education projects.

Participating in the Clean Slate* event in February inspired us to start a Restoration of Voter Rights campaign in Marin County. We are working with several groups including our own Justice Committee. Look for the detailed article about Clean Slate and the campaign in this issue!

We assisted the SEAP (Student Elections Ambassador Program) with their presentation at the April 3 Member Meeting. The SEAP is growing steadily and making a big impact on youth voting in Marin County. If you missed the program or want to share it with someone, then watch the recording on our YouTube Channel [HERE](#)

The next election in Marin County will be the August 29 Special Election – vote by mail only. There will be no Vote Centers for this election although the Elections Department will provide in-person assistance. So far, the only contest on the ballot will be a short-term councilmember seat on the Tiburon Town Council. More information about that election is at MarinVotes.org and the Tiburon Town website [HERE](#). If you live in Tiburon, then considering running for this office or encourage someone else to run!

Follow our Outreach Events – photos posted [HERE](#) – contact us to get involved!

Youth Town Hall: Meet Your Mayors – Hosted by SEAP on April 23, 2:00-4:00pm

Bon Air Community Spring Fair -- May 20 -- 11-2pm Please stop by our table!

We continue to post voter education information, resources, and updates on our VEO Team work on Marinlwv.org and social media (@LWVMarin on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter). Please contact us any time with questions and be sure to pencil in time this fall as well as plenty of time in 2024 (Presidential Primary & General Elections!) to add your energy and enthusiasm to our League’s work to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy! Voter Education & Outreach Team Leaders,

Robin Diederich, votereducation@marinlwv.org

Pat Beaupre Becker, outreach@marinlwv.org

Why is voter education important?

Voter education is an essential component of the voter journey, filling the gap between registration and casting a ballot while helping voters (especially new voters) navigate the democratic process with confidence.

NationalVoterEducationWeek.org

Building Native Voting Power — Who are the caretakers of the land and why we acknowledge them

At our January 2023 Member Meeting, our chapter read its Native Land and Nation Acknowledgment, developed in 2022. We were also celebrating with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR), the Marin County federally recognized tribe, as well as the California Native Vote Project. We were embarrassed to hear an attendee, who didn't know their mic was on, express impatience at hearing the Native Land and Nation Acknowledgment. It was a disturbing moment and a challenging opening.

Vice Chairwoman Lorelle Ross took the challenge and graciously and with generosity gave an engaging and educational talk about her tribe.

Here are some highlights:

- Land acknowledgment is a first step in relationship building by giving recognition and visibility to a group of tribal Nations that have been marginalized and made to be invisible within the fabric of all community and society; and that suppression has also sequestered the voting power that we all value so much as Americans in a world needing more democracy and more vision.
- Environmental stewardship is the main mission of FIGR. FIGR has local agreements for co-management with Sonoma County regional parks for Tolay Lake as well as with the Point Reyes National Seashore. These agreements represent the first time in decades that FIGR ancestors have had any decision-making over the stewardship of these lands.
- Like all California Indians, the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo Indians experienced brutal treatment by European explorers, the Spanish mission system, and the California settlers.
- The U.S Senate failed to ratify the treaties negotiated and signed with California tribes and as a result, the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo Indians were left landless.

- One of the first laws passed in California by the first session of the state legislature and signed into law by the first governor of California legalized enslavement of Native American Californians.
- Militias were formally legalized and supported and funded to kill Native Americans.

Ross reminded us that past legal atrocities must be kept in mind as building voter power in 2023 is discussed and considered. Ross said, "We are looking at a long lens of how laws and decisions are made and that people participate in or don't participate in because it doesn't directly affect you." She emphasized, "But I would argue that my history is your history and therefore, laws that affect Native Americans, California Indians are as important as any law that affects any other group of people."

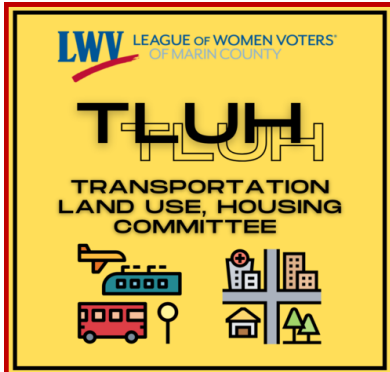
Ross informed us that today, the tribe has created a model for Economic Development addressing the needs for FIGR's community as well as those of neighboring tribes and non-Native people. Ross said, "We are and have been a part of this community since time immemorial and we continue to use our resources in a way that supports opportunity to create models of social justice and environmental stewardship."

Vice Chair Ross asks us to become more engaged and aware of the various tribes in our area. She reminded us that at one point in time we will travel or will have come from somewhere and to recognize that we are in Indian land wherever we go. There is a tribe, a community of Native people, and they have a history, they have a story, and if we listen, there is an opportunity to share with us from their voices what issues matter most to them. **Pat Beaupre Becker**

To listen to both Vice Chair Ross and Calvin Hedrick of the California Native Vote Project, please watch the edited recording of the presentation "Building Native Voting Power in CA" at [Marin LWV YouTube](#). To learn more about our Land and Nation Acknowledgment, [click here](#). Recommended books mentioned at the meeting are: [An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](#) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. Provides a true history of the United States and challenges many myths. [An American Genocide. The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873](#) by Benjamin Madley. The first full account of the government-sanctioned genocide of California Indians under United States rule.

REPORTS FROM LWVMC COMMITTEES

What you need to know about what our committees are doing.



Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Meeting

Housing Issues

Presentation on Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA)

Guest Speaker: Kate Hartley, Director of Regional Housing Finance Authority

Ms. Hartley provided an overview of BAHFA, which was created by state legislation in 2019 to work in collaboration with Bay Area cities and counties, to address systemic challenges in affordable housing and housing stability. It is the first regional housing finance authority in CA and hopes to raise billions of dollars through ballot measures such as general obligation bonds, to address affordable housing and housing stability in the Bay Area. In addition to a potential 2024 measure to raise these bond funds, BAHFA supports an advocate-led statewide constitutional amendment to enable these bonds to be approved by a majority of voters, instead of the current two thirds requirement.

There was a discussion related to the potential issue of putting both a Housing and a Transportation statewide ballot measure in front of voters in the same year.

Action: *The Committee will continue to advocate for affordable housing in Marin, and work with Bay Area regional housing colleagues, as appropriate.*

Update on Status of State Mandated Housing Elements of Marin County Jurisdictions

Discussion leader: Bob Pendoley

Committee member Pendoley noted that the County,

cities and towns submitted their Housing Elements, and several have received responses from the State. The County is furthest along and has sent its Housing Element to the State for certification. Novato and Belvedere adopted their Housing Elements before certification, so they are outside of what regulations say they can do.

Action: *The Committee will continue to monitor this process and agrees that it is important for League members to encourage their jurisdictions to continue to work with the State to get their housing elements approved, and once approved, implemented.*

Oak Hill Apartments Affordable Housing, near San Quentin. The Draft EIR is under review, and a Public Meeting will be held this week at San Rafael High School. Committee member Linda Jackson will speak at the meeting, and the League has previously written a letter in support of the project.

Action: *Committee members are encouraged to attend via zoom or in person and voice their support for the project. The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of the project.*

Discussion of the Marin League's proposed involvement in a Community Forum on impact of State Housing Element Requirements on Local Community Housing Plans.

The League is working with Stephanie Moulton-Peters, President of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, to develop a Community Forum on the impact of State mandated Housing Elements on Marin's Community Plans. It will be education-focused, program probably a webinar-format and will involve county and local organizations.

Action: *Chairperson Hagerty will keep the Committee informed of the development of this event proceeds.*

Transportation Issues

Review of SMART General Manager Eddy Cumins March 6 presentation at the Marin League’s Monthly Membership Meeting.

The Committee discussed Mr. Cumins outline of actions SMART has taken to improve ridership and listen to community concerns. The Committee was disappointed that the proposed representative from the Joint Marin/Sonoma LWV Committee on SMART was not chosen for SMART’s newly reconstituted Citizen Oversight Committee. The TLUH Committee hopes that SMART will continue to reach out to its key stakeholders, including environmental, bicycle, business and other community groups.

Committee member Linda Jackson suggested that we organize a Ride SMART event for our League’s membership, so that members can experience riding a SMART train first-hand if they have not already done so.

Action: *The Joint Marin/ Sonoma LWV League Committee on SMART Committee will continue to meet with Mr. Cumins, make relevant suggestions and encourage him to rebuild a broad-based community coalition sooner rather than later, in support of SMART’s necessary future tax renewal measure*

Updates on San Rafael Transit Center, Northbound Highway 101-580 Connector Project. Note: We postponed the Update on the Highway 37 Projects to April meeting.

San Rafael Transit Center Project:

Committee Chair Kevin Hagerty gave an update on the project. The Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transit District (GGBHTD) Board in December formally approved the project EIR. \$30M in RM3 funds has legally cleared for the Transit Center Project, but a total of \$40-50M is needed, so the Golden Gate Transit District will need to identify more funding. Additionally, the GGBHTD is working with the City of San Rafael to create a Community Design Advisory Group. Committee Member Linda Jackson suggested

the Committee reach out to the project’s managers to ensure that the Community Design group includes input from paratransit riders, and older people. This project has several key funding, design and construction milestones with a projected completion date of 2028.

Action: *Chairperson Hagerty will share the Committees’ suggestions on the composition of the Community Advisory Design working team with GGBHTD Planning Director Ron Downing.*

Northbound Highway 101-580 Connector Project Committee members commented on TAM re-naming this project and discussed concerns about the project’s impact on San Rafael, particularly the Canal neighborhood.

Members also discussed the fact that the current plans are focused only on one direction NB US101 to EB I580, rather than the ultimate project which would include a connection from WB I580 to SB US101. Work on the project EIR is scheduled to begin late this year and depending on the preferred alternative chosen, it is likely that additional funding would need to be identified before the project can be constructed by its 2032 target date.

Action: *Committee members will continue to monitor this project and encourage TAM educate members of the public more about all phases of the project; consider the impact of the project on all users, including under-represented communities in Marin County.*

Future Meeting Topics and Speakers

Committee member Sally Pennypacker will contact Lisel Blash, Fairfax Town Council member, as a possible future speaker.

Sally will also follow-up with County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni regarding a possible presentation by West Marin Housing Advocate, Frances McDormand.

Next meeting: The next TLUH Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 10:00am.

League of Women Voters of Marin County
4340 Redwood Hwy. Suite F-133
San Rafael, CA 94903

Officers:

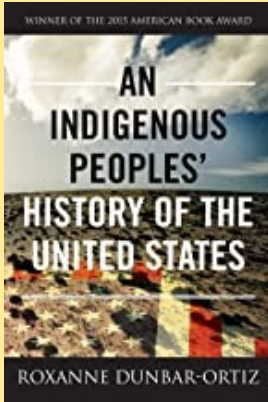
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Becky Bingea
Dee Dee Butori
Doug Cooper
Kevin Hagerty
Vida Harband
Anne Layzer
Barbara Strong
Cindy Wagner
Nancy Weber

LWVMC Book Club is Back
Saturday, July 29, 11 am - 1 pm

The book - *Indigenous People's History of the United States* by Roxanne Dunbar



About the book - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Indigenous_Peoples%27_History_of_the_United_States)

Potluck lunch - bring an appetizer, salad or dessert, enough for six people.

Please email Laurie Nardone - laurie@shiraridge.com and let her know if you would like to come.

Location to be announced.

