

"Making Democracy Work" Award Application Form

Response ID:2 Data

1. Award winner in this category will be selected for educating and/or engaging historically marginalized communities with the skills and knowledge needed for civic engagement.

1. Your Name

Alice Fried

2. Your Email

alicefried89@gmail.com

3. Your League Name

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SOLANO COUNTY

4. What was the name of your project?

DEMOCRACY MATTERS: A LWVSC Civics Education Program

5. What were the beginning and end dates of your project?

4/2021-Ongoing

6. What was the primary goal of your project?

Hands-on Education in Practical Ways to Practice Good Citizenship in Local Government

DM provides Solano students and citizens hands-on civics learning activities that inform how democracy works by providing basic information on how government works and demonstrating what they must do to make it work using three League tools: Observer Corps training; Voter Registration training; and How to Conduct a Forum.

7. Did you have collaborative partners in the project? Briefly name them and their role in the project.

LWVSC partnered with:

- Solano Youth Coalition (SYC) – provided DM access to middle, high-school and college students throughout Solano County.
- Local elected officials – attended classes and workshops, provided personal and practical experiences and insights on the role they play as well as information on procedures and processes required to instigate issue-solutions and policies that impact individual and collective day-to-day life experiences in our communities and how constituents can communicate with them.
- Office of the Solano County Registrar of Voters –Assistant Registrar of Voters and his staff provided students/citizens hands-on training on how to register voters, how to vote, how to access official voting information and services and poll worker tasks. Training includes how to use voter technology and equipment; viewing of how votes are counted; as well as training and opportunity to be a poll worker in an election.
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority – adopts a poll and engages DM youth trainees as poll workers during elections.

8. Briefly describe the results of your work, including whether it was effective in strengthening a democratic process in your community.

Results/Outcomes

- Students, along with elected officials participated in a mock city council meeting as part of Observer Corps training giving students firsthand knowledge of how to engage and participate with elected officials in a government or board meeting with focus on civility, procedural protocols and effective communication.
- SYC students organized an Observer Corps as dictated by Brown Act regulations and using League structural rules of engagement on how to attend and participate in government and board meetings including how to report back to their fellow students on agenda issues and solution policies of interest and follow-up actions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya9KiKa4Stw&list=PLKHd07RicKeP-zliGvA97fYQrImENI9Sk&index=3>

- c. Students who are eligible registered to vote; all students learned how to register voters and participated in peer-on-peer voter registration at school and other events; worked as poll workers in last two elections.
- d. SYC students organized and conducted a student-led State of Education in Solano Forum on April 26, 2023, using league forum practices and procedures. The forum panel included members of the Solano Board of Education, Solano school superintendents, Solano Community College Board.

Effectiveness and ongoing efforts to strengthen democratic processes:

- a. Invited by SYC and Golden Hills Alternative School to return 2023-2024 school year;
- b. Invited to present DM trainings to Vallejo's MIT High School government and justice classes;
- c. Invited to present Observer Corps training and mock city council meeting in the Vacaville PAL's (Police Activities League) June 2023 Summer at City Hall program;
- d. DM training and activities to be included in Solano Community Health Hub's developing overall Wellness Program. (Partnership Kick off event April 22 from 11-3)
- e. Invited by Suisun City Mayor Alma Hernandez to develop DM civics learning curriculum for Suisun City adult citizens.
- f. In talks with other Solano County school districts and senior programs to include DM in their civics learning programs.

9. Do you believe that this project has potential to be a model for use by other Leagues? If yes, tell us the critical elements for success.

Yes, I believe this project has the potential to be a model for use by other Leagues.

Critical Elements:

- a. Gives practical insight and knowledge of how local government works and its impact on issues and common-good solutions that affect the quality of our daily existence in our communities.
- b. Demonstrates how citizens can access and communicate with government officials by developing civil communication and critical thinking skills.
- c. Re-introduces Civics Education to students to encourage good citizenship based on respect for humanity coupled with an understanding of government process and citizen responsibility.
- d. Teaches appreciation for and the value of the role an informed, engaged citizen must play in a government of, by and for the people if it is to work and be sustained.
- e. Showcases the League of Women Voters, its mission and its tools created to educate and engage citizen participation to future voters and leaders.
- f. Invites local government agencies and officials, school districts, youth groups, and programs for seniors to collaborate in advancing voter rights and voter participation.
- g. Can be applied to any US voting jurisdiction, so League chapters can adapt it to their particular local education programs and requirements.

10. If you have any photos or flyers from your project you'd like to share, please upload them here. (Limited to images and PDFs only; maximum of 5 files)

- [Democracy_Matters1.jpg](#)
- [Democracy_Matters_2.jpg](#)
- [Democracy_Matters_3.jpg](#)
- [Democracy_Matters_4.jpg](#)

2. Thank You!

Confirmation Email

Apr 12, 2023 16:35:14 Success: Email Sent to: sstone@lwvc.org

Thank you for submitting an award nomination

Apr 12, 2023 16:35:14 Success: Email Sent to: alicefried89@gmail.com