



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol.60 #11 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation December 2017



HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, Dec. 8, 2017 -
5:30 p.m.

St. Rose Hospital, Balch Pavilion,
27200 Calaroga Ave.,
Hayward

Join us for a combination, fun and fund-raiser with good food, live music by Joel Wong, camaraderie and "must have" auction prizes including:

- Warrior Game Box Seat tickets (and this year Raiders!)
- Lunches with local elected officials
- Holiday Tree Ornaments from Congress
- and lots more interesting and exciting prizes to bid on!

Also, we are having a Mystery Gift Exchange. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift (not to exceed value \$15..gift cards work too) to exchange. We also will be accepting monetary donations for a charitable organization to be announced.

QUESTIONS? 510-889-5816 - jewellspalding@mac.com or Penny Peck at Pikly@aol.com

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young, Co-Presidents



REFLECTION WITH APPRECIATION

As the holiday season and the end of the year 2017 approach, it is with our sincere appreciation we thank you, our wonderful League members, families, and friends who have contributed to the success of the League in countless ways with dedication and commitment to the mission and principles of the League of Women Voters. As we reflect on the closing year and turn our thoughts toward the coming year, we remember our Guiding Principles:

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that good democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

The League of Women Voters believes that the right to vote must be protected for every citizen; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that government should be responsive to the will of the people. Government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect domestic policies and which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to the world's problems and the development of international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

With these guiding principles, we're looking forward to continuing to work hard with pride and determination to make democracy work.

Again, thank you all for the best year yet, and here's to an even better 2018. From us to you – Happy Holidays and the best of New Years to you and yours.



PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

Mark your calendars for our Programming Planning meeting, originally scheduled for January but the final date is now **Saturday, February 10, 2018**, 9:30am-1:00pm. The meeting was changed to this new date so as not to conflict with the Women's March to be held in Oakland on Jan. 20th.

The meeting place is tentatively planned for the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley.

Program Planning is open to all our members, where we will decide our priorities of focus for 2018, based on suggestions from the United States League (LWVUS). Be sure to see our January 2018 issue of THE VOTER for more details.

SIPS AND CIVILITY



On Nov. 16th, April Anderson facilitated a robust discussion on education at our most recent “Sips and Civility”

event, held at the Dirty Bird Lounge on B St. in Hayward. At least a dozen of our League members attended and enjoyed libations, snacks, and an open dialogue on education issues.

Funding for schools was a major focus, since California is 46th out of the 50 states and Washington D.C. in money spent per student. This funding inadequacy has a major impact on student achievement, along with other issues students face including poverty, English language challenges, and lack of preschool education and preparation for school.

Attendees were asked what their area of focus would be on the issue and if they planned to work on that area. Many talked about volunteering for schools, helping children and families at libraries, a need for more information on charter schools and special education demands, and other critical challenges facing our local schools. The Sips and Civility team is planning for another event in early 2018, and has several issues up for discussion. The date, venue, and topic will be announced in the next issue of the VOTER.

New LWVEA Website Debuted

Many California leagues are beginning to use a new website platform called MyLO, and the League of Women Voters Eden Area is no exception. Our league has moved to the new platform, but users can still access our site from our regular web address of www.lwvea.com.

The new platform allows for more sharing between leagues, and for more inclusion of multimedia such as videos on our site. Some local leagues are still migrating to the new MyLO platform, but Eden Area joins Fremont, Berkeley,

and the California leagues in completing the move. If members have anything they would like posted to our website, email our webmaster Penny Peck at Pikly@aol.com.

BOARD BRIEFS

Election Education: Janice Friesen described the schedule of 2018 elections involving Eden Area voters, and will be planning candidate forums for the four school board elections. Many other elections involve offices that share jurisdiction with other leagues, such as county office holders. For those offices, forums are often held in Oakland and are videotaped. As candidate filing closes, Janice will finalize which local elections will need forums.

High School Voter Registration: Marian Handa, leader of the Youth Voter Registration Team, met with several members to plan a strategy for partnering with local high schools to offer our Youth Voter Education presentations, where we also register high school students who will be able to vote in the next election. Once schools are scheduled, she will contact volunteers to help at the presentations. Corrine Hansen attended a training for high school education presenters held in Pleasanton on Nov. 11, along with many others who were inspired, and will be approaching Pleasanton and Livermore schools to do the presentation and register teens.

Law Libraries: Jewell Spalding requested, and our board agreed, that our league should send a letter to State Senator Bob Wieckowski, supporting efforts to contact the State Attorney General to address the question as to the statutory requirement that counties provide law libraries. The law library in Hayward has been closed and a reduction in hours at the Oakland law library has already taken place.

Nancy Van Huffel Appointed Acting Treasurer: Our league’s treasurer Norm Fobert has resigned for personal reasons, so the board appointed Nancy Van Huffel to serve as Acting Treasurer and board member until June 2018 when a new treasurer will be elected. Thanks to both Nancy and Norm for their service to our league.

Penny Peck, LWVEA Secretary

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



We have new members: Patricia Mann and Victoria Joyce from Livermore, Ward and LeAnn Kanowsky from Pleasanton and James Aguilar from San Leandro. We welcome you and hope to see you soon at one of our

League events.

LeAnn and Ward Kanowsky were introduced to the league by Corrine Hansen. Ward is semi-retired from the Federal Reserve Bank and LeAnn is the office manager at Marzel's Inc. They have lived in Pleasanton since 1994 and have three grown children.

The Membership Team will be holding a New Member Orientation in January. If you are interested in learning more about the League, keep an eye out for the date and feel free to join us.

Carolyn Darcey, Membership Chair

SORTING OUT AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS AFTER CAP-AND-TRADE'S RENEWAL

By Leslie Stewart

LWV BAY AREA MONITOR – a publication by the LWV Bay Area Education Fund

Now that the dust is settling from the legislative tumult surrounding renewal of [California's cap-and-trade program](#), participants are taking stock of the changed landscape for air quality regulation, both statewide and regionally. Legislation passed this summer sets a more ambitious goal for greenhouse gas reductions through cap-and-trade, while also shifting some duties for regional air districts. Under the new laws, these local agencies will see a reduced role in greenhouse gas regulation, but an added responsibility for implementing a statewide community-focused air quality monitoring and enforcement program.

The cap-and-trade program is a complicated balancing act between protecting the environment — specifically by reducing greenhouse gas emissions — and retaining industries that contribute to the state's economic base. As the limit on permitted greenhouse gas emissions decreases (the “cap”), businesses which exceed the limit must obtain allowances (the “trade”), either through state auctions or from other businesses which are under the cap and therefore have extra allowances. The state opted to give some allowances away for free, initially to ease adoption by industries and utilities, and now to reduce the financial burden on companies which may otherwise decide to relocate.

Passed in July, Assembly Bill 398 (E. Garcia) extended cap-and-trade to 2030 from the program's original sunset year of 2020. This created more certainty for industry, which was increasingly reluctant to pay for allowances, fearing these might lose value if the program ended soon. The bill also raised the bar for the state's [Air Resources Board](#). The agency's goal for 2020 has been to decrease greenhouse gas emissions down to 1990 levels; AB 398 adds a target for 2030, requiring a 40 percent reduction below 1990 levels. Stanley Young, ARB's director of communications, noted that “the cap has decreased by two to three percent over the previous years of the program, and will drop by four percent by 2020, but then will need to drop exponentially to achieve this goal.” To read more go to [www.http:bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS PRESIDENT CHRIS CARSON SPEAKS OUT ON TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES

CLEAN POWER PLAN

“By repealing the Clean Power Plan, the White House is putting the interests of corporate polluters ahead of the health and safety of the American public. This decision will have a devastating impact on the planet at a time when we are seeing the powerful climate change effects with rising temperatures, deadly hurricanes and destructive wildfires. The League is appalled at this irresponsible decision that will have a long-term devastating impact on our planet and health of the American people.”

Shameful Effort by Congress to Sneak Health Care Repeal in Tax Bill

"After repeatedly failing to move forward with a misguided attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Congress is once again attempting to undermine a law that provides quality, affordable health care to millions of Americans.

"Under the guise of cutting taxes for everyday Americans, this newest attack on the ACA would cut health care coverage for 13 million people and increase premiums by double digits. It would also trigger \$25 billion in cuts to Medicare and raise costs for middle class families and seniors with high medical expenses.

"It's time for Congress to start listening to the American people, who have rejected attempts to roll back provisions of the ACA multiple times this year. We need to fix the Affordable Care Act so that it works for the millions of Americans who need quality affordable care, not cut coverage and raise costs for those that really need it.

"It's time to stop playing political games with people's lives."

Chris Carson, President, LWVUS

MAKE IT FAIR—WHAT IS IT?

Local governments have had difficulty providing the services residents need ever since Proposition 13's passage.

Make It Fair is a coalition of community organizations that is working to reform Proposition 13 by requiring that non-residential, non-agricultural property be regularly reassessed at fair market value. Estimates are that this would raise more than \$9B in additional revenue for schools and local governments and make the tax fairer.

The League of Women Voters of California is a member of the Make it Fair steering committee. The basis for the League's endorsement of the Make It Fair campaign is the LWVC's position on state and local finance. The position advocates ensuring property tax equity by:

"7a. the requirement that all types of property subject to the property tax bear a fair share of the property tax burden;

7b. separation of residential from commercial/industrial properties for taxing or assessment purposes in order to achieve fair sharing of the tax burden;

7c. provision for property tax relief for those on low or fixed incomes, especially the elderly."

"With respect to property tax assessment, the SLF position supports:

10b. regular, frequent reappraisals;

10c. the use of market value as the standard for assessments with effective alternatives to preserve agricultural land and open space."

Any change in Proposition 13 would have to be approved by the voters. There is general agreement that the Legislature will never muster the 2/3 vote required to put this reform on the ballot, so that eventually a voter initiative will be necessary. However, in 2015 Senators Holly Mitchell and Loni Hancock introduced SCA 5, a constitutional amendment embodying the Make It Fair goals.

The purpose of starting in the Legislature was to subject the proposal to a thorough public vetting and discussion—something that is lacking for most voter-sponsored initiatives. In addition, starting in the Legislature means that the extensive resources of state government can be used to get a sound financial analysis before final language for the initiative is decided upon.

SCA 5 did not get out of committee in 2015. Reintroduction of SCA 5 or similar legislation this year was postponed after the Legislature agreed to raise the gasoline tax. However, the Make It Fair coalition remains active in trying to raise public awareness of the issue and in working to get endorsements from local governments, elected officials, civic leaders, and business owners.



League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and
 unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland,
 Fairview, and San Lorenzo

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:

League of Women Voters of Eden Area Treasurer

P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Dues: Regular \$60

2nd member same household \$30,

Student \$25

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne Young, Co-President jysunrunner@gmail.com	April Anderson, Outreach aprilmarieanderson@yahoo.com	Lynda Foster, Programs lynda.foster.goyr@statefarm.com
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CALENDAR

Fri., Dec. 8, 2017 5:30-8:30pm	LWVEA Holiday Party	Balch Pavilion, St. Rose Hospital 27200 Calaroga Ave., Hayward
Mon., Jan. 22, 2018 5:45-7:30pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Area Historical Society 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward
Sat., Feb. 3, 2018 9:30-3:00	Bay Area League Day http://lwvbayarea.org/	Laney College 900 Fallon St., Oakland
Sat., Feb. 10, 2018 9:30-1:00	Program Planning Meeting	Castro Valley Adult School 4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley

For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out www.lwvea.org