



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 60 No. 2 Political Responsibility through informed and Active Participation

Feb. 2017

MEET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

**March 10 (Friday)
5:00 – 7:00 pm**

**Hayward City Hall, 2nd Floor
777 B Street, Hayward**



Elected officials representing the local communities of Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo have been invited to “report to the residents” at a Meet Your Elected Officials forum and reception on Friday, March 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Hayward City Hall.

Elected officials from all levels of government have been invited: congressional, state senate and assembly districts, county supervisors, city councils, school boards, community college, county school board and a multitude of special districts.

A representative from each board has been asked to present their jurisdiction’s vision and major goals for 2017. The public is welcome to meet their elected representatives during an informal reception which begins at 5 p.m., followed by the program at 5:30 pm. RSVPs are appreciated to: lwvea@aol.com.

This forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters Eden Area and hosted by the City of Hayward.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT



“WHAT’S NEXT?”

This is THE QUESTION echoing across our country, around the world, and, indeed,

here at home in the Eden Area. The good news is that together we are making things happen and we are responding to the call for action to defend our democracy! Plans, ideas, suggestions are coming in from every corner, we are talking about them and sharing, we are taking action. We are witnessing what we have always known - together we can do anything when we are united and determined to be part of the solution to the challenges and problems we face. Chris Carson, LWVUS president, called upon all of us to take actions to continue to make democracy work. The following are the critical actions that we should take now:

- . Join the League of Women Voters. Attend local League events. Learn about issues.
- . Become acquainted with elected officials
- . Call Congress – often!
- . Register to vote
- . Defend our Democracy—protecting voters, engaging voters, defending the environment

Add to these, we – here at LWVEA – continue to do what we are committed to do -

- . Educate and advocate
- . Register voters
- . Meet with our local legislators
- . Sponsor events – **Please attend the Meet Your Electeds event 3/10/2017
- . Sponsor and co-sponsor issue forums and candidate forums
- . Respond to action alerts; i.e., health care, voter suppression
- . Continue to publish VOTER to keep members and community informed on

important local, state and national issues

- . Encourage informed and active participation in government
- . Influence public policy through education and advocacy

The League is almost 100 years old and today we stand stronger and more determined than ever. LWVEA members are vibrant and flexible. We knew when the year began we had a lot of work to do. Now we are full steam ahead! Please join us when and where you can. And, please, let us know your thoughts and ideas.

In League,
Aiwa and Joanne

P.S. ...if the phone is busy at your legislator’s office (busy is good!) keep hitting the redial button! And - keep your marching shoes handy!

Remember the gifts we bring...energy, intelligence, love of homeland, passion, commitment, tenacity, and dedication...

BOARD BRIEFS January 9, 2017

- [Holiday Party](#) - Final report indicates we raised \$1500 during our auction and had positive feedback from many who attended.
- [VOTER Editor Replacement](#) - Discussed the need for a replacement for the VOTER Editor who is moving in March.
- [Local Position Team](#) – The team is working on the Unincorporated position and the Boards and Commissions position—three others have been completed.
- [Nominating Team](#) - Evelyn Cormier will be contacting all board members to

determine who wishes to continue on the board. Her team will then recruit replacements needed for the board.

- [Storage for League Equipment and Supplies](#) – Discussed different way to transfer equipment and supplies for future storage. Sonya Howes volunteered space in a spare room next to her garage.

- [Legislative Interviews](#) – Our League has received the LWVC Legislative Interview Kit and will contact Assemblymember Bill Quirk to set up a time for an interview. Norm volunteered to be on a three-person team to do the interview. Aiwa will contact neighboring Leagues to see if we can join them in interviewing legislators who overlap into the Eden Area.

- [Bay Area League Day](#) - Board approved sending four board members to the Bay Area League Day on Jan. 28 on Affordable Housing.

- [Resignation](#) - The Board accepted, with regret, the resignation of Cossette Sun from the Board effective January 1, 2017. Cossette has faithfully served on the Board for over five years and was a valuable contributor to the many “teams” on which she participated.

- [Eleanor Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund](#) - Suzanne and Nancy reported that we have collected over \$3,000 so far for a scholarship for an Oakland Technical High Student seeking a future career in government policy or leadership fields. Sample scholarship application forms will be sent to Nancy.

- Next Meeting - Next meeting will be February 27 at the HAHS.

LWVEA Board meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the 4th Monday at 5:45 pm. Contact lwvea@aol.com for agenda.

LWVEA PROGRAM PLANNING 2017

League members met on January 14 for the annual Program Planning meeting to review State League issue positions and select two out of 24 position that our League recommends for significant education of the public and advocacy for 2017-2019.

All members received a survey of all the positions and the final tally indicated these three as their highest priority: (1) Education, (2) Campaign Financing and (3) Water Resources.

Using survey results, a group of 22 League members heard a presentation from Linda Tangren (Water resources), Penny Peck (Campaign Financing) and Janice Friesen (Education). After each presentation there was a Q&A session and comments on each to forward to the State League for consideration:

Water Resources:

- Infrastructure needed to move water where we need it – where people live, farming, and so forth, using aqueducts, Twin Tunnels, and other methods – is this addressed in the position?
- Environmental concerns regarding coal, fracking, or oil pipeline impact on water – is the importance of this issue prominent in the position?
- Groundwater issue should be mentioned.
- Water conservation, how water is used (not growing water-guzzling crops) should be addressed.
- Need to update the state league’s water policy, last updated in the 1970’s.

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Campaign Financing

- How does our state position relate to the national position? If our state position is revised to address Citizens United (for example), would that then be forwarded to the national league?
- Last revised in 1976 – is it time to revise it again? Or more important to focus on the national position? Issue is fresh in everyone’s mind due to recent election.
- Major issues to include: Citizens United, drawn-out election cycle, influence of foreign governments on our election system, impact of “soft money” or “dark money,” because that money can come from foreign entities, SB 1107.
- We recommend the state study the national position on Campaign Financing, since many of the issues (such as Citizens United) are national, not state, issues concerning campaign financing. Then, it may be determined that California revises the position and seek concurrence from the national league.
- Aspects we could include in the revised position might be:
 - How much and from where the money comes since that seems to be out of control at the national level

Education:

- Universal preschool discussed – this is currently in the position.
- Should the state add something about parent responsibility?
- Should the state league’s position address homeschooling or charter schools – or adds something about all students, no matter the type of school they attend (charter, private, or homeschool), be held to a standard and be offered a quality education?
- Should the LWVC look at the LCFF and LCAP process as part of this position?

The Bay Area positions were presented and no changes were made. The ongoing revision/update of the local LWVEA positions

are now being reviewed by a committee consisting of: Jewell Spalding, Rene’ Besold, Nancy Van Huffel, Penny Peck and Linda Tangren.

Conclusion: The following are a restatement of the actions decided upon at the meeting:

- We recommend the state study the national position on Campaign Financing, since many of the issues (such as Citizens United) are national, not state, issues concerning campaign financing. Then, it may be determined that California revises the position and seek concurrence from the national league.
- We responded to the LWV Alameda league’s request by recommending that the LWVC wait until there are a few more elections under this new system before we propose a study on the “Top Two” system.
- Behavioral Health Care Services was revised and approved by the Board in Fall 2016. It will be submitted at the June 2017 Membership meeting for adoption. There was a suggestion to add a section on policies to promote, including monitoring the Mental Health Advisory Board. René Besold will do that and resubmit the policy to the board for approval with this new section.
- We need to submit our Library position as one of our recommended issues for state program planning to adopt by concurrence.
- Final recommendation: The audience was surveyed, and their top two areas of interest that LWVEA would like the League of Women Voters California to focus on are Water Resources and Education.

The report above taken from notes by Penny Peck and Rene’ Besold.

BAY AREA HOUSING CRISES FORUM

Three LWVEA board members attended the Bay Area Housing Crises Forum on January 28. It was well attended with Leagues represented from surrounding counties in the Bay Area. There were four panels of 12 speakers plus Assemblyman Tony Thurmond from District 15. Each panel addressed different aspects of the Housing Crisis in the Bay Area: (1) Measuring the Affordability Gap and its Impacts; (2) The Relationship between Housing Production and Affordability and the Effects of Displacement; (3) State, Regional and Local Roles in Addressing Affordability; and (4) The Agenda Moving Forward.

Each of the speakers were either from the public, private or non-profit areas concerned with housing—planners, engineers, analysts, builders and county and local board members.

A statement by the McKinsey Global Institute opined that 3.5 million homes need to be built in California by 2025 in order to close the housing gap. The report also stated that California ranks 49th among the 50 US states for housing units per capita.

“To unlock these units, California needs both public and private sector innovations. Shortening the land use approval process could reduce the cost of housing by more than \$12 billion through 2025 and accelerate project approval times by four months on average.”

The report also states, “Reducing construction permitting times could cut another \$1.6 billion, and deploying modular construction techniques up to another \$100 billion.”

In addition, “California’s housing gap can only be solved at the local level, and communities can follow a five-step process to close the local housing gap: create a housing delivery unit; define the local problem; identify local solutions and map housing hot spots; align stakeholders

behind a local strategy and execute the strategy and measure performance.

The Bay Area Housing Forum was videotaped and we were told it would be up on their website or YouTube soon. When we are notified the video is up, we will try to put it on our local website, too. It will be worth your time to hear what “the experts” have to say about this crisis and its impact on each of our communities.

The Bay Area Monitor for February/March 2017 has an interesting article on Housing called “Finding a Way Home.” To read this and other important articles, go to www.bayareamonitor.org.

NEW MEMBER MEETING January 26, 2017

Several members of our Board recently met with four of our new members: **Joel Wong, MaryAnn Frates, Josie Diaz and Richard Maurer**. It was a very enjoyable evening with light refreshments and an opportunity to hear from our new members as to the reasons they joined the League.

The Board members: Janice Friesen, Aiwa Zelinsky, Joanne Young, Nancy VanHuffel, Kimberly Eng-Tamura and René Besold and I answered questions and explained a little about our organization and opportunities to participate on the various Teams. Joel has been using our website frequently with the work he is doing with the Asian community. He complimented us on our website and encouraged us to continue to utilize it in our communication with our members and other outside organizations.

Several new members were not able to attend this meeting but expressed a desire to attend one in the future. I am looking to schedule another meeting in the March timeframe and will be soliciting members to find out the best date and time for everyone.

Carolyn Darcey, Membership Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



JOEL WONG

- National Board of Advisors,
APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander
American Public Affairs Association)

-10 years as APAPA San Francisco
Bay Area Regional President

- Current 80-20 National Board member
- 2 terms President of CAPA (Chinese American Political Association) and CAPA Community Education Fund
- Chair and President of APAC (Asian Pacific American Council)
- Board Member of AAGG PAC (Asian American for Good Government)
- Retired Engineer/Scientist from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

JOSIE DIAZ

I taught in the Oakland Unified School District for 30 years, as well as in the Dublin and Berkeley School Districts, and in a private school for the last seven years of my teaching career. At various times I participated in my schools' Leadership Teams and wrote new curriculum for their Language Arts programs. I have long seen the need for more civic involvement in political and social topics which would improve the lives and education of many school children. I am attempting to become more knowledgeable myself about the issues and persons who influence policies, as well as help others learn about these policies and how they can have a hand in changing or retaining them. The League of Women Voters is an ideal venue for accomplishing these goals, and I look forward to participating in the Eden Area chapter.



I, RICHARD MAUER, have been a resident of Castro Valley since 1985. I am married and have two grown children, and soon, five grandchildren. I have two engineering degrees and am a registered Civil Engineer. I retired from Caltrans in 2011. Currently, I weekly tutor GED students. I am also active in my church, and service to the poor as a member of our chapter of St. Vincent de Paul. I enjoy reading (mostly non-fiction), travel and photography.



I have been interested in history and public policy my entire adult life, but have only recently joined the local Democratic Club and local League of Women Voters. I am particularly concerned about voter suppression efforts in our country, and the low voter turnout, which I believe is ultimately responsible for the unrepresentative and unresponsive policies of our Congress in recent years. As a science-trained person I am also very concerned about the failure of our Congress to adequately support the switch away from fossil fuel energy generation and to adequately address global climate change. I have recently participated in my first protest marches and look forward to active civic participation.

MARY ANN FRATES was born and raised in San Leandro. She is a proud graduate of San Leandro High School, along with CSUEB and CSUF. In 2014 She earned her Doctorate of Education. MaryAnn grew up volunteering and continued this into adulthood. She is a return volunteer of AmeriCorps and Peace Corps and in recent years, has taken part in local organizations, such as PACE and Unity in the Community. Professionally, Ms. Frates has been in public education for the past 16 years, as a special education teacher and administrator. She is currently the Director of Special Education for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District. For the past 10 years, Ms. Frates has resided in San Leandro and is fortunate to come from a large family, with incredible nieces and nephews. She is looking forward to becoming involved in this organization.



League Leadership Academy: Next Level Communications

Saturday, February 18, 2017, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

**James Irvine Conference Center, Plaza A
353 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland CA 94612**

**\$35 for League members; \$65 for nonmembers (includes a year's League membership)
To register, please go to: <http://www.lwvoakland.org/leaderwkshp.html>**

Storytelling and Messaging for Impact

Learn to tell powerful stories and deliver persuasive messages to move your audiences to action. Practice new techniques and approaches to presentations and outreach. This one-day workshop will help you:

- Identify and understand your audience,
- Learn the elements of appealing stories,
- Use imagery and videos, and
- Frame messages to motivate your community.

This will be an energetic day that promises to be enlightening and fun.

Agenda

Networking and Continental Breakfast

Personality Compass: Understand Yourself; Understand Others

Your personality affects others, influences your communication style, and impacts your audience. Understand yourself and understand others to be a better communicator.

Break

Connecting with Audiences through Story

What makes an effective story? Why is story important to move your audience and trigger action? Facts alone do not change people's minds; you need story to motivate change.

Lunch

Crafting a Presentation that Inspires

Do you dread giving or receiving a Powerpoint presentation? Learn what you have been doing wrong all these years and how you can make a more effective and powerful presentation.

Break

Framing Your Message to Advocate and Educate

Learn techniques to develop a strong and persuasive message - framed for your audience - to motivate your community and move them to action.

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 _____

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Dues: Regular \$50,
 2nd member same Household \$25,
 Student \$20

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

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CALENDAR

DATE/TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Feb. 18 (Sat.) 9:30am to 4pm	LWVC Leadership Academy (see flyer)	James Irvine Conf Center, Plaza A 353 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland
Feb. 27 (Mon) 5:45pm-7:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Area Historical Society 2 nd Floor, 22380 Foothill Blvd.
March 10 (Fri) 5-7 pm	Meet Your Elected Officials	Hayward City Hall, 2 nd floor 777 B Street, Hayward
March 27 (Mon) 5:45pm-7:30pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Area Historical Society 2 nd Floor, 22380 Foothill Blvd.

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