



**League of Women Voters Eden Area**

**V O T E R**

*Vol.61 #2      Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation      February 2018*



## **PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING**

**SAT., FEBRUARY 10, 2018,  
9:30AM**

**Castro Valley Adult School  
4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley**

**Please join us for our annual Program Planning meeting, where we will re-examine the program policy positions of the national League of Women Voters (LWVUS). We will also discuss the following topics:**

**\*Natural Resources**

**\*Social Policy**

**\*International Relations**

**\*Representative Government**

## CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT



### Take Action with The League: Participation, Participation!!

As we participated in the one-year anniversary of the Women's March on January 20, 2018 in the Bay Area, we once again reflect on the importance of participation in political and social events that call for justice, equality, democracy, and right to vote. On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting American women the right to vote, a right known as women's suffrage, ending almost a century of protest. Today, ninety-eight years later, women are still protesting for their right to be treated equally and are still marching to raise public awareness of the dangers of losing the democratic process in the United State. Yes, now women have the right to vote, but we need to continue to work hard to foster greater connections between citizens and organizations dedicated to promoting civil liberties, human rights, equality, justice, and voting.



This year is the midterm election year which means we are counting on everyone's active participation in election activities including voter registration, organizing candidates' forums, presenting pros and cons of propositions at local communities, and providing educational forums to educate voters. One of our goals for this election is to help improve voter turnout. It is a well-known fact that not all eligible voters cast their votes. According to a study done by Kristen Hubby in 2016, Americans are one of the least active voting populations among developed countries, with the U.S. clocking in at 31 out of 35 countries in voter turnout:

[www.dailydot.com/layer8/voter-turnout-2016/](http://www.dailydot.com/layer8/voter-turnout-2016/).

So many Americans choose to not actively help decide the country's future leaders and public policies by not voting.

Only with your participation, can the right to vote materialize and voter turnout be increased and improved.

We're calling on all league members and friends to participate in our upcoming events, to go out to do voter registration, educate voters to vote, and be a proud member who makes a difference in making democracy work.

Thank you.

*Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young, Co-Presidents*



## BOARD BRIEFS

**FairVote California:** The board plans to send a letter to the City of San Leandro regarding the practice of Ranked Voting. There is support to ask the Registrar of Voters to continue running its counting algorithm until there are only two candidates left.

**VOTER Newsletter:** A small task force will explore revising the format of our VOTER newsletter, so it can be more timely, email links more easily, and generally update the format. This group will offer their recommendations at the March board meeting.

**Palomares Hills HOA Election:** Our league has been chosen to facilitate the election of the Palomares Hills HOA board. The counting will take place on March 13 or 20, 2018; we will need volunteers to assist with the count. Email Joanne Young if you are interested.

**Make It Fair:** The LWVC (California League) is supporting an upcoming November 2018 ballot proposition to reform Prop. 13. They have submitted the proposition to the state Attorney General, and once that office determines the title and summary, local leagues may be asked to gather signatures in support. For more information on Make It Fair, check out:

<https://lwvc.org/our-work/issues/government/make-it-fair-campaign>

*Penny Peck, LWVEA Secretary*

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Twelve or 13 people attended the New Member Social on January 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a mix of new and old members. It was suggested that four old members are plenty, so we don't outnumber the new people. Some of the new members volunteered for various efforts we are doing. It was suggested that potential members also attend Sips & Civility, until another New Member Social can be scheduled (possibly later in Spring). More on upcoming events in the next VOTER.

*Carolyn Darcey, Membership Chair*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Sharon Sigler:** Sharon writes: "I have been a life-long resident of Alameda County, with the exception of my four years at San Jose State University and a few years in the Sacramento area. I

currently live in Castro Valley with my husband. I have a daughter living and working in San Diego, and two step-children away at college in southern California.

In the early days of my career, I worked in community outreach for various health care organizations and for Highland Hospital. I was responsible for attending Board of Supervisor meetings and exchanging information between the Board and the communities I worked with. I am currently retired after almost twenty years as a Human Resources EEO Investigator. In this role, I investigated employee complaints of harassment and discrimination. I joined the Eden Area League this winter and look forward to becoming more active. In retirement I am enjoying walking, exercise classes, reading, arts and crafts and traveling".



**James Aguilar, 18,** was born in Berkeley, raised in Oakland, and now lives in San Leandro. He currently serves on the San Lorenzo School Board as their first Student Board Member and is the Student Body President of San Lorenzo High School—before then,

serving as the first male Student Body Secretary, then Vice President. James will be running for the San Leandro School Board in November and is working to become a strong leader for San Leandro students and an advocate for his community through his experience, engaging in activities with the Democratic Party, and by joining the Eden Area League of Women Voters.



## **NEW STUDENT MEMBERS and SCHOLARSHIP RECEIPENTS**

### **SOPHIE SCHAFER's BIO (May 2017)**

A Graduating Senior from Oakland Tech as part of the Engineering Academy and the Paideia Program, two challenging and interesting programs in which I study physics/engineering and the humanities. I will be attending Carleton College next fall, a small liberal arts college in Northfield, Minnesota,

Last year I worked in a third grade class, and this year I followed those same students to fourth grade, hoping to give them a sense of stability and continuity (plus, I love them). My job at Emerson is technically "Peer Mentor," but has a variety of meanings in execution. I help students individually with whatever they are doing, teach the class if the teacher is busy, comfort kids having a rough day, mediate disputes between kids, and much, much more. The program I do this through is a school program that had about a dozen students last year.

### **CLARA VOONG'S BIO (May 2017)**

I want to pursue a career in social justice because I believe that my generation has undoubtedly the highest potential to change the world. My purpose in life is to use my privilege to help those who are less fortunate.

Growing up with a refugee father from Vietnam and an immigrant mother from China enabled me to see my role in my family differently than others. Often sacrificing their time to provide for their four young daughters and struggling family in Asia, I am the beneficiary of my parents' sacrifices and hard work. I have assumed many responsibilities for them, including translating conversations and documents, organizing trips, mediating conflicts, and taking care of my family.

I want to major in sociology which will help my future career., I want to uplift the lives of those who were shunned by their families or kicked out of their homes. I want to help the 1.6 million LGBT youth who experience homelessness.

## **HELP OUR YOUNG LEAGUERS/ SCHOLARSHIP RECEIPENTS**

Last year, Suzanne Barba and Nancy Van Huffel set up a scholarship fund in memory of life time member, Eleanor Parker. We selected two recipients, Sophie Schafer and Clara Voong, from Oakland Tech (Eleanor's alma mater). We recently received follow up letters from each telling us about their progress. We were so encouraged with their progress that we decided to raise additional funds to continue to support these young people as they strive to complete their college education.

As such, we are asking each of you to consider making a donation to the fund so that we can keep Eleanor's work going by assuring that these students have the best possible chance to obtain their degree and continue her work in advocating for women, good government, and the environment. Once again, our goal is at least \$4,500 for the 2018-19 school year. We would like to award the second-year scholarships in late spring when the ladies return home from their first-year at their respective colleges. These are two amazing young people. We know you will reach that conclusion as well when reading their letters on the next page.

Please make checks payable to the League of Women Voters Eden Area (LWVEA) and send donations to P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA. 94546 As before, our League will donate the administrative efforts needed to make this all happen and 100% of the donations will go to the scholarship recipients. **Deadline for donations is April 1, 2018.**

In this environment of divisiveness, dysfunction, and rancor, supporting two young people who are dedicated to making a positive difference in our world seems like a really constructive action. Won't you share in our pride in these two students, let them know you support their growth and education, and assure that two more young "Eleanors" go out into the world to continue the struggle for a better world?

***Continued on next page ►***

## **HAPPY TO BE HERE by Sophie Schafer**



I am so sorry it took me this long to reconnect, but I wanted to email and say that I am so, so happy at Carleton! I am in my second term (we're on the quarter system) and have absolutely found my home. I am taking incredible

classes with inspiring professors and tons of exciting students.

I thought you'd be interested in some of the classes I've been taking, such as my current "The Politics of Teaching" class and last term's "Growing Up Cross-Culturally" class. It was fascinating to be placed in a class last term surrounded by other students who had grown up cross-culturally and assess how each culture addresses life from birth to death. The Educational Studies class I'm taking currently is really captivating, as I'm pretty sure I will be minoring in Ed Studies (they don't offer it as a major). Carleton also has a teaching licensure program I'm considering... I'm also taking lots of math and French classes, which are incredibly difficult but so well taught that I enjoy myself even in the toughest of times.

I am continuing with Cross Country and Track and had a really great season in the fall and hoping for another great one in the winter and spring. As I am in Minnesota, I am freezing! Turns out -25 degrees IS cold!! I love the snow and the adventure, and it got to 40 degrees today and it was practically tropical, I wore a dress:) I hope you are both well and am still extremely grateful for you helping to be here at Carleton. Thanks and Happy New Year! Sophie

## **MY FIRST QUARTER AT UCSD by Clara Voong**

Hello! My first quarter at college has been an amazing and new experience! Not only am I getting adjusted to living away from my family, I am also getting used to becoming an independent person. Getting involved on campus and meeting new people is exciting!

I have met many new people who have made my first quarter here an unforgettable experience. I also learned to bike and skateboard for the first time in college as a means of transportation around the campus! I joined a program for First-Generation students like me, who never had a family member attend college. They make sure that I am on track to graduate and succeed. I also am a volunteer for a program on campus that helps low-income first-generation students have the same educational opportunities as those who are more privileged than them. The people I've met are very inspiring, and reminds me of my duties as a person who supports equal rights for all people.

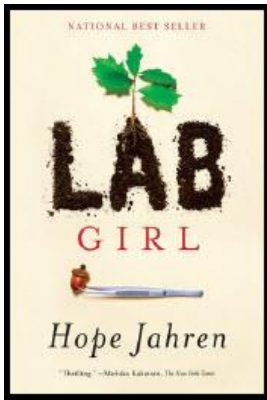
I took my first cognitive science class, which bought me into a whole new world that eventually influenced me to declare my major to Cog Sci. Cognitive science is a field that studies how the brain thinks and processes, which can apply to



neuroscience, linguistics, and even human computer interaction (robot-making)! Cog sci takes into account various topics such as math, neuroscience, or design. Another interesting class I took was music theory, which taught me to play the piano (I have wanted to learn since I was young). My professor was so passionate and enthusiastic that I am considering to become a Teaching Assistant for the music class.

This quarter, I am taking Anthropology: Race and Racisms. I have learned to become more self-aware and conscious about the social constructs that affect everybody. I am also taking Design, which has taught me how much design (whether good or bad) has affected us (for example, a Norman door: a confusing door that you push, but actually should be pulled, or vice versa). I am also taking a math course, a cognitive science course, and literature/writing class! Thank you so, so much for your generosity and support of my college career. I am enjoying college so far and I could not have loved it more. Thank you! Clara

## Castro Valley READS Program – Join the LWVEA Discussion Group



The Castro Valley Library is offering its first community reading program, focusing on the book *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. Their first event had such an overwhelming turnout that the library ran out of free copies of the book! Our league will be hosting our

own book discussion group of *Lab Girl*, and we will be invited to the library's finale event, Fri. April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (by invitation only, so sign-up!).

**Any league member is welcome to join our discussion group – just email Penny Peck by Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> ([Pikly@aol.com](mailto:Pikly@aol.com)).** Our discussion meeting will be announced after Penny surveys those who have signed up.

To obtain a copy of the book, enroll at the Castro Valley Library, and let them know you are part of the LWVEA discussion group. For more information, see:

<http://aclibrary.org/content/castro-valley-reads-0>.

## VOTER REGISTRATION IN HIGH SCHOOLS

The several League of Women Voters chapters in the Bay Area are making a concerted effort this year to register eligible high school students to vote. This also includes pre-registration of 16-and 17-year-olds, as now allowed in California. Our effort is in keeping with the notice sent to all California school districts by the California Secretary of State to “encourage eligible students to register or pre-register to vote”. Because of our non-partisan reputation, we are in a sound position to help the area high schools achieve this goal and are now attempting to partner with schools to help them in this effort. Support of teachers and parents in this regard is much appreciated. We will report our success in future issues of the VOTER.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

This is an election year, and your League of Women Voters Eden Area is getting busy with voter registration. Be sure to see next month's VOTER for list of upcoming sites where we will need volunteers to register voters at BART stations, farmer's markets, local colleges and other locations. It's easy, and we will provide all supplies and on-the-job training. Nothing is more important to our democracy now than increasing the number of registered and informed voters.

*Richard Maurer, Voter Registration Chair*



Two members of Congress introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017 on June 14,

2017. The National League is proud to support legislation that enhances access for eligible voters in our elections and works to modernize our electoral system. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems while supporting implementation in states across the country.

The League is a leader in voter registration efforts across the country. Expanding voter registration has been a principal goal of the League since its founding in the wake of the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We are proud to see Congress embracing new technology that expands access to the ballot while still taking the necessary safeguards to secure personal information.

Please write to your congressional representatives today because there has been no positive action on his bill to date. The League urges all members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to support this important legislation.

**LWVUS**

## UPCOMING STATE BALLOT MEASURES SUMMARY

### STATE LEAGUE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The LWVC took final positions on the following measures scheduled for the June 2018 ballot. Here's a quick summary:

- **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1) – OPPOSE**

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB of Cap-and-Trade allowances after 2024. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency and poor decisions.

- **Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5) - SUPPORT**

If passed, this constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can ONLY be used for road and transportation improvement projects. This amendment protects transportation projects by prohibiting the state legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes.

- **Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17) - SUPPORT**

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election-day, that is not always the case. This proposition would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results.

- **California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All (SB5) - SUPPORT**

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds with the money used to finance state and local parks, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being.

### WE ARE RECRUITING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

**BOARD MEMBERS—** Term is from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. Meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Each Board member works with one of our teams (see last page of VOTER).

**VOTER NEWSLETTER TEAM—** Write articles on League-related topics, formatting contents, proofreading,—opportunity to work/train closely with present Team.

**PHOTOGRAPHER—**Take pictures at League events

If you are interested in any of the following positions or want more information contact Nancy Van Huffel, Nominating Team, [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) or call 510.562.4473

*New members are encouraged to apply.*



## 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

2<sup>nd</sup> 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

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## CALENDAR

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

Mon., Feb. 26, 2018  
 5:45-7:30pm

LWVEA Board Meeting

Hayward Area Historical Society  
 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out [www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org)