



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol.63 #2 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* February 2020

LWVEA OPEN HOUSE



Join us for a celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters!

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2020,
Time: 6:00-7:30pm

Place: Castro Valley Library, 3600
Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley, CA

Welcome and introduction to the League, introduction of Lifetime members and Elected Officials – Penny Peck

Brief video on League – Richard Maurer

Goals of the League – Jo Loss

Benefits of membership and introduction of new members – Rita Duncan

History of African American voting rights – Rita Duncan

Suffragist Performance by Terry Guillory – Aiwa Zelinsky

Trivia Contest – Penny Peck



RSVP: www.eventbrite.com/e/lwvea-centennial-open-house-tickets-91538103933

President's Report



Celebrating the Centennial of our League and the 19th Amendment doesn't have to be just for adults. Schools are interested in celebrating the right for women to vote and would appreciate a visit from a League member to talk about women's suffrage. If you are visiting a class of younger children (kindergarten through 3rd grade), you might read aloud a story or two as a way of explaining how women fought for the right to vote.

Here is an outline for a class visit, where you can engage younger children to listen in a fun, interactive way:

Opening: "Let's go back 100 years, when women were fighting for the right to vote – let's sing 'Wheels on the Bus.'"

Story: *Around America to Win the Vote* by Mara Rockliff. Subtitled "Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles," this picture book describes the true story of two women who drove across the U.S. in 1916, and back, to advocate for the right for women to vote.

Song: "This Land Is Your Land"

Story: *Grace for President* by Kelly S. DiPucchio. A little African American girl runs for class president at her school. There are many facts, such as the Electoral College, woven into this energetic story.

Song: "America the Beautiful"

If you are visiting a class of students in 4th or 5th grade, you might omit the songs but still read aloud a short book to them. There are many picture book biographies you can choose, or other illustrated informational books that are brief read-alouds (ten minutes or less). Here are some that work well:

Hannigan, Kate. *A Lady Has the Floor: Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women's Rights*.

McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Ballot Box Battle*.

Murphy, Claire Rudolf. *Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage*.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Elizabeth Leads the Way: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Right to Vote*.

Wallner, Alexandra. *Susan B. Anthony*.

It is always helpful to bring props or things to show. You can talk about registering to vote and show them a voter registration affidavit. There will be some children who might want to bring the affidavit home to a parent.

Photos can also engage a classroom, and most teachers will have a way to display photos on a screen (check with the teacher). Show photos of League members registering voters, or working at a candidate forum, or other League event. Show photos of local elected officials and see if the students can name them – do they know their local mayor, or school board president? How about the governor, or senator?

The most likely classes to welcome a visit will be social studies classes at middle and high schools, or any elementary school class. Let your local schools know you are available to do a short presentation on the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage – it can be a great way to bring the League's message to a new audience!

Penny Peck, LWVEA President

LWV Featured in Rose Bowl Parade

The League of Women Voters was featured in this year's Rose Bowl Parade, in honor of the League's Centennial. Some of our Eden Area members were there, including Janice Friesen and Richard Maurer. Here are some photos provided by Richard:



International Women's Day – Friday, March 13



Join us for the annual International Women's Day event, which is cosponsored by LWVEA. This is our second year

participating with this inspiring celebration:

Date: Friday, March 13, 2020

Time: 5:00pm

Place: Hayward City Hall,
777 B St., Hayward

RSVP: <https://iwd2020hayward.eventbrite.com>

Three or four speakers are scheduled, including LWVC President Helen Hutchinson, who will speak on political issues in our state.

LWVEA Joins Castro Valley Reads Program



For the third year in a row, the LWVEA will join the Castro Valley Reads program, facilitating our own discussion group as well as participating in the library's great offering of events. This year's book is *Bluebird*, *Bluebird* by Attica Locke, a "blues-infused thriller about the collision of race and justice in America."

To obtain the book, visit the Castro Valley Library and enroll in the program: <https://guides.aclibrary.org/castro-valley>. You will receive more information about the events planned for Castro Valley Reads. If you would like to participate in the League's discussion group, please email Janice Friesen at jfriesen5490@yahoo.com.

RECENT VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS



Photo from Richard Maurer

The League of Women Voters Eden Area provided a voter registration booth at this year's Women's March held in Pleasanton. Corinne Hansen and Janice Friesen are pictured; they and others volunteered to register voters and give out information about our League and about voting in general.

Our League's booth was featured on local television news stories about the Women's March! Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers and Richard's leadership on offering this needed service.



An Overlooked Scientist and Discovery

The person who discovered that CO₂ gas and water vapor in the atmosphere are "greenhouse gases" and are responsible for warming the atmosphere was **Eunice Newton Foote**. She conducted her

experiments in 1856 and concluded that this is why the Earth is warmer than it "should" otherwise be.

She reported her results, but she had three strikes against her getting widespread credit. She was female. She was an amateur. And she was an American in an age when all the acknowledged "good" scientists were European.

So, man has known that CO₂ gas in the atmosphere has this tendency to warm the planet, and man also knew that burning fossil fuels generated CO₂, but man ignored the consequence of burning ever larger volumes of fossil fuels. It has finally dawned on us.

Richard Maurer

CLIMATE CHANGE and GLOBAL WARMING

by Richard Maurer, LWVEA

Part 2

In Part 1 (January 2020 VOTER), we pointed out that global warming is caused by an increase in heat energy entering the atmosphere, and from there, entering the ocean. Why is this happening, and how much is it happening? And why do we care?

First, a little background. When we say "global warming" we are talking about the global average temperature of the atmosphere rising by only a few degrees. We have all experienced a 40 or 50 degree temperature swing in a 24 hour period. So what's the big deal about a few degrees? The big deal is that those temporary and local 40 or 50 degree temperature swings average out to a steady temperature over a long period and over the whole earth. It is this very steady global average temperature

which has allowed man to plan his civilization and his day: his agricultural output, the water level at the ocean's shoreline, the required size of his air conditioners, the expected intensity of storms or droughts, and other practical considerations. Even a small change in the average global temperature can affect all of these, and a lot more, dramatically. We'll get to that.

Now, what is the atmosphere and how can it heat up? The atmosphere consists of several gases, but most importantly molecules of oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and water vapor. These atmospheric gases are warmed directly by receiving energy from the sun and by receiving some of the sun's energy reflected back from the earth's land surface and ocean ice. So there is a lot of transferring of energy going on between the sun, the earth's surface, the gases in the atmosphere, and the ocean. The result has been a very stable, though not constant, climate and average atmospheric temperature range for at least as long as civilized man has been on earth. This stability has allowed man and modern civilization to develop and prosper. But remember, we humans have only been around the blink of an eye when considering the age of the earth. We are spoiled by our unfamiliarity with an average warmer planet.

The important thing for understanding the cause of global warming is that not all gases in the atmosphere are created equal. All gas molecules move and vibrate microscopically, and more so when they receive higher energy input. But some gases, due to their structure (how many atoms and how they are arranged in each molecule of that gas) respond to energy input differently than others. These gas molecules vibrate so as to re-emit some of their sun energy input as heat energy

output to the atmosphere. Molecules of oxygen and nitrogen don't do this. But molecules of carbon dioxide and water vapor (and some other gases) do. So, if the volume of any of these particular gases increases in the atmosphere, they will contribute even more heat energy to the atmosphere by converting and re-transmitting sunlight energy as heat energy into the atmosphere. Consequently, the atmosphere, and then the ocean, will become warmer.

Books have been written to elaborate on just about every sentence above. Go ahead and Google any of the subjects for more information. Some sites will emphasize one aspect over others or will go into more detail. Some will look at the same issue from a slightly different perspective. Some will have nice graphs and pictures. Some will have slightly different numbers than others. Some will just try to scare you by quickly pointing out the consequences of unchecked global warming. If you read many sites you may get a bit confused. Some are intentionally trying to do this. If you read and understand them all, you'll have a PhD in climate science! That's not necessary to understand the truth of the basic physics of climate science to allow you to conclude what's best for you, the nation, and the world.

What we are trying to do here is to outline the basic facts of the matter to improve your general and accurate understanding of the issues to prepare you, as voting citizens, to evaluate specific proposals for action and expenditures which we are all going to hear about in the coming months and years. We're trying to keep this short, but still connect the dots which will lead us to understand the essential need to act to both reduce global warming and to decide how to mitigate the unavoidable effects of the amount of global

warming already “cooked into” the atmosphere and ocean.

As you’ve heard before, rising levels of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere is the issue of concern because it is primarily responsible for the recent rise of global warming. How much carbon dioxide are we talking about? And where does it come from? Carbon dioxide comes naturally from the respiration of animals, from the slow rotting of organic matter, from volcanic eruptions, and from forest and grassland fires, etc. It is this naturally produced amount of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere which has heated the atmosphere sufficiently to provide a comfortable temperature for humans to thrive. This is the famous “greenhouse effect”. If Earth did not have this amount of “natural” carbon dioxide, the atmosphere would be considerably cooler than it is (like 59 degrees Fahrenheit cooler). Brrrrr! So some carbon dioxide is good, but like most things, too much can be a problem. As we’ve all heard, the level of carbon dioxide in earth’s atmosphere is rising, primarily from humans burning fossil fuels and produced hydrocarbons, all of which contain carbon. Burning of coal, oil, natural gas, gasoline and other hydrocarbons are the main culprits. These mined and manufactured materials are burned primarily for the production of electrical energy, for heating and cooking, and for transportation. This use of fuels has dramatically increased since the dawn of the industrial revolution.

Prior to the late 18th century, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had been very steady for centuries at about 285 parts per million parts of atmosphere. That’s about 0.028% of the atmosphere. Scientists know this from ice core studies and other research. As of 2019, the concentration of carbon dioxide has risen to about 415 parts per

million, or 0.041% of the atmosphere, which seems like a very small amount to be worried about. But this is an increase of about 45% over approximately 250 years. This level of CO₂ has not existed in the atmosphere for millions of years, when huge volcanic eruptions and fires raged on the early earth. The point is that this level has not existed since man has been around. And the level is continuing to rise as the world’s population increases and as the undeveloped nations become “developed” by burning more fossil fuels. Man has never before experienced a world with this level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We know that it causes the atmosphere and ocean to warm up. We don’t know of a countervailing mechanism of equal magnitude to counter this warming. That should give us all pause. Therefore, man is essentially conducting an experiment on the earth and on humans’ ability to respond to the effects of that experiment, which humans have never seen before. What are likely to be the consequences? We’ll get to this next time.

League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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*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.*

For our Calendar of upcoming events, go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/eden-area>

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