



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 60 No. 1 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation January 2017

SETTING THE LEAGUE'S EDUCATION & ADVOCACY – PRIORITIES FOR 2017-19

DATE: January 14 (Saturday)
TIME: 9 am to Noon
PLACE: Hayward Area Historical Society
22380 Foothill Blvd., Second floor



WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

We will review the "positions" (League's viewpoint on important issues) of the State, Bay Area and Local League. We will prioritize those positions we want the Leagues to emphasize for education and advocacy. We can also propose that the State league conduct a study on a specified new topic.

WHY IS MY PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?

We need grassroots opinions on what issues we want to prioritize for 2017-19. Local members were sent a survey of State positions to rank and this information will be used to review specific positions.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IF I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE POSITIONS?

Information on National, State, Bay Area and Local positions is available now on our website, www.lwvea.org.

WILL IT BE INTERESTING, OR WILL I FALL ASLEEP?

It will be interesting. Setting League priorities for the future is one of the most important tasks that local League members can do. We will be discussing issues that will impact you and your community.



There is no cost, but an RSVP would be appreciated so we know how many materials, chairs and refreshments are needed. Please RSVP to suzbarba@comcast.net or call Suzanne at 538-9678.

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT



Facing the Challenges with Courage, United Strengths, and Focus

Chris Carson (2017), the national League President states in her latest newsletter that “our job of Making Democracy Work™ feels like an uphill battle at all levels of government” since the November election. However, we are powerful when we are united and work with a focused mind.

It is clear to every one of us that we are facing increasing challenges such as in the area of recruitment and retention, voter rights protection, equal pay, diversity, and protection of democracy for all in an ever changing civic and political environment.

To successfully face these challenges, it is imperative that we all work together and pull our resources together to engage our communities with a diversity of individuals so as to ensure that the League remains an effective advocate and trusted organization that the public can lean on.

Our Program Planning meeting in January 2017 will provide us an opportunity to select issues of concern at our local, state, and national levels. It will help our League focus our local energy and resources for the programs over the next two years. It is a step to bring our attention and strength together to take action on the challenges and changes we are facing.

It is clear that as we ring in the New Year, we are in need of forging a united front to tackle the tasks ahead of us. It is critical that each one of us stay engaged every day and leverage our resources to get our community involved. In addition, we will continue to strengthen relationships with allied local organizations to create collaboration and cooperation for programs that impact the community and governance.

United, we are powerful to continue the fight to keep the power of our democracy in the hands of the people.

United with strength and focus, our League is stepping up to the challenges ahead to move forward in the years to come.

The following is a link to the LWV website that suggests 10 ways to help defend our democracy. If you would like to learn more about the ways the League will continue its fight for democracy, please click:

<http://lwv.org/blog/10-ways-you-can-help-defend-our-democracy>

Happy New Year to You All!

Joanne Young and Aiwa Zelinsky



BOARD BRIEFS **November 28, 2016**

- **Program Planning Team** - Checklist for Program Planning meeting was reviewed. When surveys are complete and positions known, volunteers will be recruited as presenters. The team will make assignments for food and materials.
- **Voter Service Team** – Report of the many successful activities: voter registrations at BART and Farmer's Markets, four candidate forums, working with two libraries on the national candidate forums (televised), and outreach to high schools and colleges.

- **Membership Team** – A successful orientation event was held in September. New members will be contacted to discuss what activities they are interested in, thank you notes to all donors and begin planning for a New Member Orientation in March or April.
- **Holiday Party** – Discussed food, auction items, room set-up and the charity we are supporting with holiday gifts.
- **VOTER Publication** - Twelve issues were published in 2016 and copies sent to local media outlets with some success. Editor said she would be recruiting for a member who might be interested in taking over this fun job.
- **Action Services Team** - Action Alert notices received from National or State Leagues will be forwarded to board members for follow up.
- **Local Position Team** – Three local positions have been updated and approved by the Board—Library, Behavioral Health and Parks and Recreation. These will be presented at the annual meeting in June for final approval. The team continues to work on updating the remaining positions.
- **Meeting Dates** - The Board cancelled the December 21 meeting and approved moving the next meeting to January 9 (originally scheduled for Jan. 23.)
- **Bay Area League Day** – January 28 in San Jose on Affordable Housing. Board approved paying for six people to attend.

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



Welcome New Members!

LWVEA is fortunate to have gained many new members since July 2016. Many have already jumped in and assisted in voter registration, candidate forums or pro and con presentations on the November State Propositions.

We hope more will become active in 2017. There is much to be done at the “grassroots” level. Welcome to:

Dagma Abbott (Oakland)
Eileen Barr (Dublin)
Josie Diaz (San Lorenzo)
Rita Duncan (Hayward)
Lynda Foster (Castro Valley)
Mary Ann Frates (San Leandro)
Tomika Greenwood (Hayward)
Judith Harrison (Hayward)
Yardley Hoffman, (Castro Valley)
Richard Maurer (Castro Valley)
Akemy Nakatani (Hayward)
Beverly Powell (San Leandro)
Mary Shields (San Leandro)
Denise Smith (Castro Valley)
Helene & Darrell Victor
(Castro Valley)
Joel K. Wong (Hayward)

We apologize if we have inadvertently left anyone off this list, Please contact Carolyn Darcy, our membership chair cdarcey@pacbell.net and let her know!

LWVEA HOLIDAY PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS

The LWVEA Holiday Party held on December 9, 2016, was an enormous success. We say, "Thank you very much!" to all the volunteers for preparations done ahead of time: making arrangements for the venue at St. Rose Hospital, Balch Pavilion, selecting an excellent menu from the catering service, festive decorations, and holiday music.

The evening was relaxing and fun with opportunity for members to spend time with each other, greet many of our new members, and welcome and thank our friends and partners and the many officials who were present. We welcomed and greeted forty people to the holiday celebration!

The evening was also an opportunity to thank everyone present for their hard work throughout the year, especially during the very long election cycle both nationally and locally.

It was a year of many accomplishments by our League and especially heartwarming and appreciated is the ongoing demonstration of commitment to the work of the League and to Making Democracy Work. Our Board, members, friends and supporters have worked very hard and we appreciate you so much.

A special acknowledgement was given to the Castro Valley and San Lorenzo libraries for their continued support in co-sponsoring various events in the community, most recently the presidential and vice-presidential debates.

We had a very good time with the ice-breaker "Getting to Know You," and it would be accurate to say that by the end of the round we knew everyone a lot better!



The live auction is a key draw each year. There were many great items donated for the auction and the bidding process was exciting and lively. This is our annual fundraiser, and aside from being great fun, we realized a very nice boon from this holiday fundraising event.

We were pleased to deliver to the charity FESCO several donations in gifts and in money contributions. Thank you all for making donations to FESCO, they are very appreciative.

We also surprised Rene' Besold, League Administrative Assistant, with a birthday cake to thank her for her valuable and tremendous service all year. Her birthday is on Christmas so we were a "mite" early. It was a real surprise to her and we all enjoyed her birthday cake!

Thank you to our amazing Holiday Team for putting together a great party! See the list of volunteers and donors on the next page!

Joanne Young, Co-President



**LIST OF VOLUNTEERS
WHO WORKED AND
DONORS WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO
MAKING THE LWVEA 2016
HOLIDAY PARTY GREAT!**

VOLUNTEERS

Rene' Besold
Suzanne Barba
Janice Friesen
Carolyn Darcey
Aiwa Zelinsky
Akemy Nakatani
Cossette Sun
Nancy Van Huffel
Joanne Young
Penny Peck
Norm Fobért

AUCTION DONORS

Supervisor Nate Miley
(Warrior Tickets)
Supervisor Richard Valle
(Warrior Tickets)
Supervisor Wilma Chan
(Warrior Tickets)
Congressman Eric Swalwell
(Gift Basket)
Assemblyman Bill Quirk
(Gift Basket)
Assemblyman Rob Bonta
(Lunch for two)

**Hayward Mayor Barbara
Halliday**
(Lunch for two)

**San Leandro
Mayor Pauline Cutter**
(Lunch for two)

Nancy Van Huffel
(2 Congressional Holiday
Ornaments)

Janice Friesen
(Ride to and from Oakland or
San Francisco Airport)

Rene' Besold
(Gift Certificate Nail Salon)

Kevin Kobayashi
(Golf & Cart for four at
T [} @ & @ Tony LemaDGolf Club)

Brian Bishop
(Golf & Cart for four at
Tilden Park Golf Club)



SAVE THE DATE

Meet Your Elected Officials has been set for 5:30 pm on March 10 (Friday) at the Hayward City Hall.

The League has held this event for many years and found it to be very informative and helpful to constituents. It gives them a chance to interact and personally meet their elected officials.

It also give elected officials the opportunity to tell their constituents what their vision is for the future of the board on which they have been elected to serve.

We don't have the date yet, but the new member welcome and orientation will be held in April. Stay tuned--plans are brewing!

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY 2017
HTTP://BIT.LY/2017LEAGUEDAY

BAY AREA HOUSING CRISIS

JANUARY 28, 2017 | 9 AM - 3 PM
CAMDEN COMMUNITY CENTER | 3369 UNION AVE. SAN JOSE
\$35 PRE-REGISTRATION | \$40 AT THE DOOR | LWVBAYAREA.ORG

TONY THURMOND
ASSEMBLY MEMBER
DISTRICT 10

PANEL 1 - MEASURING THE AFFORDABILITY GAP & ITS IMPACT

PANEL 2 - THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING PRODUCTION & AFFORDABILITY, & DISPLACEMENT

PANEL 3 - STATE, REGIONAL & LOCAL ROLES IN ADDRESSING AFFORDABILITY

PANEL 4 - THE AGENDA MOVING FORWARD

4-PANELS PLUS KEY ADDRESS BY TONY THURMOND

VIEW FROM THE STATE LEAGUE

Legislative Interviews

A new legislative session with twenty-one new members (as well as eight others who have served in the legislature before) was called into order on Monday, December 5. Each year the LWVC encourages local Leagues to schedule interviews with their representatives in their district offices and provides a package of materials to facilitate this. While we provide questions in three areas where we foresee possible action during the next session, we encourage you to also ask about your local priorities and include this in your report.

These interviews have an increasing importance as we are sending more Action Alerts and your reports help target these more effectively. These interviews let your legislators know some of the issues members in their district care about and are watching. Legislators are usually in their districts on Fridays and that is often the best day for scheduling.

The Legislative Interview Kit is online at <http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvc/pdf/2016-2017-legislative-interview-kit.pdf> and on-line reports are due on **March 10**. Leagues should try for this date but we understand legislators are busy people and often hard to schedule. While a face-to-face with the elected is most desirable, Leagues should not hesitate to have a conversation with the local staff if that is the only option. Getting to know these people can be very helpful.

Joanne Leavitt, LWVC Second Vice President for Advocacy and Program
jleavitt@lwvc.org

NOTE: If you would like to know more about participating with the local Legislator Interview Team, please contact Joanne Young jysunrunner@gmail.com

Can Partisanship Justify Racial Gerrymandering?

SCOTUS to Hear Arguments

Washington, DC – In the near future the U.S. Supreme Court will hear a landmark case on the critical intersection of racial gerrymandering and partisan gerrymandering. The state of North Carolina argues that its districts were designed to achieve partisan goals, so it should not be overturned as an unconstitutional racial gerrymander.

The [League of Women Voters](#) took a different view in [an amicus brief](#) filed with the Campaign Legal Center, arguing that “post hoc explanations by the legislature that the lines it drew were based on partisan concerns cannot override evidence that race, not politics, was the primary motivation in drawing district lines. The legislature’s claim that politics, not race, motivated the drawing of [districts] was contradicted by the evidence.”

The Supreme Court has many times ruled that racial gerrymandering violates the Constitution, but has not invalidated any redistricting due to partisan gerrymanders.

“The North Carolina legislature’s redistricting map was intentionally gerrymandered on the basis of race and cannot be legalized by using the explanation that it was a political gerrymander,” according to **Chris Carson**, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

“The Supreme Court should maintain its prohibition on the use of race as a proxy for political affiliation,” Carson said. “North Carolina is trying to pull a fast one in this case, and they should not get away with it,” she said.

“Gerrymandering is violation of voters’ rights and an attack on our democratic values,” said Carson. “Politicians cannot hide behind false claims of partisan gerrymandering to target and suppress minority voters.”

Contact: Sarah Courtney
(202) 263-1332 (LWVUS office)
scourtney@lww.org

NATURE ON THE EDGE



*The Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center is part of a vast network of open space assets vulnerable to sea level rise along the shore of the San Francisco Bay. Photo by Alec MacDonald.
By Aleta George*

Sitting atop stilts at the edge of the San Francisco Bay, the [Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center](#) serves as a popular spot for kids and adults to learn about bay ecology. The tides rise and fall below the building every day, and director Adrienne De Ponte knows when they rise more than usual. Last year, when a high tide mixed with a storm surge, the water lapped five inches from the bottom of the interpretive center. The water came so close that De Ponte envisioned the work needed if water came into the building.

“Sea level rise is happening now. If you add storm and wind to a king tide — when the sun and the moon exert the most gravitational pull — you will get flooding,” said De Ponte.

De Ponte has been thinking about sea level rise for nearly a decade, and she isn’t alone. The notion and science of sea level rise has been lapping at the doorsteps of bayside municipalities, agencies, and communities for years. (To read the rest of the article and more, please go to www.bayareamonitor.org)

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 \$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

Joanne Young, Co-President jysunrunner@gmail.com	Suzanne Barba, Voter Editor suzbarba@comcast.net	Terry Guilory, Program michguil@comcast.net
Aiwa Zelinsky, Co-President aiyz@comcast.net	Evelyn Cormier, Nominating ev.cormier@comcast.net	Marian Handa, Youth Reg marian@roble.com
Penny Peck, Secretary pikly@aol.com	Carolyn Darcey, Membership cdarcey@pacbell.net	Jewell Spalding, Local positions jewellspalding@mac.com
Norm Fobert, Treasurer fobert8@comcast.net	Cimberly Eng-Tamura, Outreach cengtam@gmail.com	Cossette Sun, Membership csun12@comcast.net
Rene' Besold, Board Assist rbesold@sbcglobal.net	Janice Friesen, Voter Service jfriesen5490@yahoo.com	Nancy Van Huffel, Past Pres lwvea@aol.com

CALENDAR

DATE/TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Jan. 9 (Mon) 5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meegtig	Hayward Area Historical Society, Foothill Blvd.
Jan. 14 (Sat) 9am to Noon	LWVEA Program Planning	Hayward Area Historical Society, 2 nd floor
Jan. 28 (Sat) 9:30am-3pm	Bay Area League Day Housing Crisis	Camden Community Center San Jose
Feb. 27 (Mon.) 5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Area Historical Society, 2 nd floor
Mar. 10 (Fri)5:30pm	Meet Your Elected Officials	Hayward City Hall

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