



**League of Women Voters Eden Area**

# **V O T E R**

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



## **HOLIDAY PARTY NETS APPROXIMATELY \$1700**

The League of Women Voters Eden Area held its annual holiday party and auction-fundraiser on Dec. 8, 2017 at the Balch Pavilion at St. Rose Hospital in Hayward. Thanks to our team leaders Jewell Spalding and Cimberly Eng-Tamura for organizing such a fine event, and to all our members who contributed auction items, wine, decorations, paper goods, and other essentials. Forty-eight people attended this festive event.

The auction raised \$2945.00, from a variety of bidders. Because the expenses for the event were approximately \$1300, our net was almost \$1700. As always, sports tickets were donated by our Alameda County Board of Supervisors and raised the majority of our earnings. These included four Warriors tickets from Supervisor Wilma Chan, two Raiders and two Warriors tickets from Supervisor Nate Miley, two Warriors tickets and two Harlem Globetrotters tickets from Supervisor Richard Valle, gift baskets from our state legislators Bob Weickowski, Bill Quirk, and Rob Bonta, a gift basket from Congressman Eric Swalwell, and other generous donations. Our most financially beneficial donation was from Liz and Bob Bathgate, who offered a week at their North Shore Lake Tahoe beach house. Our league's auction would not have been as successful without the generosity of all of our donors, and our members who bid on these items. Thanks to everyone for participating.

## CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT



### **New Year, New Resolutions: Active Participation and Engagement**

Dear League members and friends,

With the holiday season upon us and 2017 winding down, January is an appropriate time to start to aim our focus for 2018 and look ahead with hope and optimism as the New Year starts.

2018 is the midterm election. In this midterm election, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 33 of the 100 seats in the Senate that will be up for reelection. Voters in California will elect one member to the U.S. Senate in the election and will elect 53 candidates to serve in the U.S. House, one from each of the state's 53 congressional districts on November 6, 2018. Alameda County will hold general elections for county board of supervisors, county assessor, county auditor, district attorney, county sheriff, county treasurer, and county superintendent of schools also on November 6, 2018. Numerous local elections will also be contested. A primary election will be held on June 5, 2018. Please remember that California utilizes a top-two primary system, which allows all candidates to run and all voters to vote but only moves the top two vote-getters, regardless of party affiliation, to the general election held in November.

With the midterm election coming up in 2018, our League has planned to be actively involved

in voter service and voter education in the Eden Area. There will be candidate forums, voter registrations, voter education programs, and other election related activities. All these activities require vigorous support and participation from our league members. As many of us gear up for New Year resolutions, we would like to urge you to make your continuous support for LWVEA as one of your resolutions and help our League succeed.



Along with the activities and programs planned for the election, our league will continue our fight to make democracy work as our priority. We urge you to be actively involved and engaged to defend democracy and improve our communities and work together moving forward.

Happy New Year to you and yours!

*Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young, Co-Presidents*

### **Member News and Notes**

#### **Fairview Municipal Advisory Council:**

LWVEA board member Jewell Spalding has been appointed to the new Fairview MAC.

#### **San Lorenzo School Board:**

LWVEA member Janet Zamudio was selected to be the new President of the San Lorenzo School Board. LWVEA Secretary Penny Peck is now the San Lorenzo School Board's Vice President.

## PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING, February 10, 2018

Mark your calendars for our Program 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. 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting place is tentatively planned for the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley.

Locally, Program Planning meetings take place every January or February to re-examine the program policy positions of LWVUS (even years), state Leagues (odd years), and local Leagues.

### What is Program Planning?

The League's program consists of those governmental issues that the League has chosen for concerted study and action at the national, state or local level. The program process is specified in the bylaws and includes the following steps:

- *Formal adoption of an issue for study. This would be done by local League members at an annual meeting, or by convention delegates at a state or national convention.*
- *Member study and agreement on broad concepts.*
- *Formulation of a position by the appropriate board of directors.*
- *Action as directed by the board of directors.*
- *Annual or biennial re-adoption of the position ("Program Planning").*

League action may be taken only in those areas where member understanding and agreement have arrived at a general public policy position. Issues addressed reflect

community concerns and range from election reform, to nuclear waste disposal, from air pollution to international trade, from mental health to energy policy.

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

What will our top priorities for the coming year be? For which policies should we advocate, educate, and inform?



**In a few days you will be emailed the annual "priorities" survey. We need you to thoughtfully complete the survey and return it to us.** Help us target our resources in the most meaningful way consistent with the top priorities of our membership. Tell us what is most important to you!!

Come to discuss the LWV national and local program for 2018-2019 while we treat ourselves to light breakfast. Let's light up the gray February skies with some sparkling conversation!

***May 2018 bring each and every one good health, personal happiness, and the love and support of family and friends. May we find a way to bring back constructive discourse and community problem-solving; to rebuild our ability and willingness to really listen to each other; and to solve common problems together without acrimony and hate.***

***Happy New Year!!***

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Join us for a  
New Member  
Social on Tuesday,  
January 16, 2018,  
5:30-7:00pm at the  
home of

Membership Chair Carolyn Darcey, 20172  
Brittany Ct., Castro Valley. Light refreshments  
will be served, and we will have a conversation  
about our League mission and plans for 2018.

## Notes from LWVBA Meeting

Below are the highlights from the League of  
Women Voters Bay Area meeting, held on  
December 20, 2017, submitted by April  
Anderson:

1. There will be a LWVBA PMP increase of \$2:  
\$1 in 2018 and another \$1 in 2019 to total \$2.  
They have not increased the PMP in 25 years.
2. New LWVBA website will soon be ready to  
launch.
3. LWVBA Program Planning Kits will soon be  
available; remember to check their website to  
review positions.
4. Bay Area League Day: theme is "Winds of  
Change" on regional governance, scheduled  
for February 3rd at Laney College, 900 Fallon  
Street in Oakland. Register on their website:  
[http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-league-day-  
regional-governance](http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-league-day-regional-governance) ; \$35 registration fee, \$40  
for day-of registration.
5. Copies of the *Bay Area Monitor* will be  
available at our next Board Meeting, but  
reminder to subscribe to receive electronically  
and to "like" them on Facebook.
6. Local League info that stood out to me:  
Sonoma is offering a training on Civil  
Discourse to their community; Vallejo received  
a \$1000 from LWVC to increase their efforts in  
voter registration; and Berkeley brought Dr.  
Daniel Kammen from UC Berkeley and the  
Citizens Climate Lobby in for a talk on climate  
on Dec. 13.



We had a great party! It was a huge success  
thanks to so many who helped out, donated,  
and participated. I'm always asked why we  
raise money – don't we make enough through  
our membership dues? The simple answer is  
"No, we don't." The more complex answer is  
we actually lose money. Our national dues per  
member are \$62.00 – we charge our Eden  
Area members \$60 in an effort to keep dues  
affordable and to not raise them annually.

Therefore, we need to raise additional funding  
to keep all our core programs going strong:  
voter education, voter registration, and many  
other activities. Our annual Holiday Party is our  
main fundraising activity and this year we came  
through like champs – netting \$1700!!!

To raise those kind of funds, we need tight  
party planning, great donations, and full  
participation of our members. Thanks to all of  
you that made this year so successful. It would  
not be possible to keep our dues affordable,  
keep our programs strong, and add forums as  
topics demand if it weren't for the dedication,  
participation, and general goodwill of our  
members. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

## And, special recognition to the following donors:

Liz & Bob Bathgate, Rene' Besold,  
Assemblyman Rob Bonta, Supervisor Wilma  
Chan, Mayor Pauline Cutter, Carolyn Darcey,  
East Bay Regional Park, Janice Friesen,  
Mayor Barba Halliday, Lake Chabot Golf  
Club, Sherman & Alison Lewis, Supervisor  
Nate Miley, Monarch Bay Golf Club,  
Assemblyman Bill Quirk, Redwood Canyon  
Golf Course, Congressman Eric Salwell,  
Sugar Bowl Bakery, Supervisor Richard  
Valle, Nancy Van Huffel, Dennis Waspei,  
Senator Bob Weickowski, Joanne Young,  
Shelia Young, and Aiwa Zelinsky

# Make It Fair Campaign

Californians deserve world class schools and universities; quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes. That is what our taxes should pay for. It's past time to close this loophole and stop letting big business rob our schools and local communities, impoverish future generations, and endanger California's economic future. The [California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018](#) is the responsible, fair, and long overdue tax system to ensure California can thrive; now and in the future.

[The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018](#) will create a "split roll"; non-residential, non-agricultural commercial property will be reassessed on a regular basis. This will lead to an estimated increase in property tax of over \$11 billion per year -- revenue that will go directly to schools and local governments.

Our [broad grassroots coalition](#), including [PICO California](#), [California Calls](#), [Advancement Project California](#) and [Evolve California](#), announced the filing of a ballot initiative to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Proposition 13 while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses. Through filing this initiative the coalition is beginning to take the necessary steps for a possible 2018 ballot initiative.

*LWV California*

## LWVUS SUPPORTS LEGISLATION PROTECTING DACA

The LWVUS's volunteer Lobby Corps has been working to push for a clean [Dream Act on Capitol Hill](#). The Dream act will ensure that the 800,000 dreamers can establish legal residency within the country. The legislation contains provisions that ensure that the young immigrants are enrolled in school, serve in the

military or maintain work history in addition to other requirements.

The League believes that to become citizens, immigrants must learn about our system of government, understand the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and swear allegiance to the United States of America.

These are basic steps to integration in American society, and it is in the interests of current citizens, immigrants and future generations that we build one nation. The Dream Act is critical to enabling immigrant youth to become fully productive members of American society.

The League of Women Voters urges Congress to pass the Dream Act without amendment, to protect, not turn away, the 800,000-young people who were brought to the United States as children.

LWVUS

## BAY AREA MONITOR

Published six times a year by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund, the Bay Area Monitor covers transportation, air quality, water quality, open space, and land use issues in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The publication is distributed to League members, elected and appointed officials, government employees, libraries, media outlets, nonprofit organizations, business leaders, and engaged residents. Every edition is also posted online at [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org). In the December 2017 issue you will find articles on the following:

[Smoke Signals: Communicating with the Public about Air Quality](#)  
[New Radar System Being Developed to Help Pinpoint Flooding](#)  
[Will Prop 64 Curtail Trespassing on Marijuana Grows?](#)

**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**

Tues., Jan. 16, 2018  
5:30-7:00pm

New Member Social

Home of Carolyn Darcey  
20172 Brittany Ct., Castro Valley

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](http://www.lwvea.org)