



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol.63 #7 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation July 2020

Community Forum

Schools & Communities First Initiative

Come learn how our local neighborhoods and schools can reclaim \$12 billion every year for the essential services and workers we depend on.

Guest Speakers:

- Jahmese Myres, Schools & Communities First
- Angela Normand and Mercedes Faraj, CTA
- Penny Peck and Jo Loss, League of Women Voters of the Eden Area
- Moderated by Maya Walker, CTA



Monday, July 27

6:00 – 7:00pm PST

Online Event



Register for this event to receive the link to the Zoom forum:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/schools-communities-first-forum-registration-110827630426?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

President's Report



Every day brings changes to the lives we had before Covid 19. It feels like there is not any way to predict what tomorrow will bring or what it will halt. This uncertainty leaves us in a new strange pattern of life.

However there are some future activities that we can count on and the LWV EA will be sure to continue our mission. There will be an election in November and we will be fulfilling our mission of empowering voters and defending Democracy. We will find ways to register voters and work on making voting more accessible for all.

LWV EA plans to offer candidates' nights, using a virtual format if necessary. We will explore many options to reach as many people as possible, so that candidates' perspectives are readily available in as many races as possible. Voter's Edge will carry candidate profiles. We are proud of our reputation as reputable stewards of nonpartisan events.

There will be a number of initiatives on California's November ballot as well. We will exercise our education expertise to provide pro/con forums and share the positions adopted by LWV. Again, these may be in a virtual format but they will be informative for any voter.

There is a lot of confusion and conversation in our nation today about the act of voting; whether it needs to happen in person or by mail. The LWV has been active in the arena of voter suppression for many years and we will continue to gather and share information on this issue with you as it unfolds.

We also know and can count on the LWV EA to stand for the right of every citizen to vote!

Jo Loss, LWVEA President

Recap of Annual LWVEA Membership Meeting



For the first time in our league's 70-year history, our Annual Membership Meeting was held online instead of "in person." Over 30 members attended, where we discussed the events of the past year and offered suggestions for projects for the upcoming year.

The members approved a new section of our bylaws that will allow the board to give honorary lifetime membership to a person who has given "longtime outstanding service to our league, giving dedicated, important service and making a significant contribution to LWVEA."

The members also approved the appointment of our new officers and board members, many of whom are continuing their service to the board.

During the important section of the meeting where members offer input on the upcoming year, several significant suggestions were added:

- Focus on increasing our membership and its diversity,
- Increase our online presence,
- Continue to look at the redistricting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' districts.

Penny Peck

54TH BIENNIAL LWWVUS CONVENTION: The First Virtual LWWVUS Convention

Report from Marian Handa



It was my privilege to be named as a League of Women Voters Eden Area delegate to this year's LWWVUS Annual Convention, which was to be held in Washington, DC from June 25-27. Due to the worldwide COVID-19

pandemic, the convention could not be held in person, but instead was held via Zoom.

In many ways, the online format worked amazingly for both the convention organizers and attendees; however, the conference was not without its problems. With around 1,300 participants and many staff and presenters, technological problems were inevitable but not insurmountable. Kudos to the League staff for first organizing an entire convention, then after stay at home orders were imposed across the country, putting together and successfully executing an entire virtual conference.

The thing that impressed me most was the League's demonstrated commitment to its policy of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). From the nominating committee's process for identifying and interviewing diverse candidates for the League Board, to making Vote411 fully functional in both English and Spanish by the end of summer, the League is actively working to create a more inclusive, welcoming organization. One of the key actions approved at the meeting was the permanent suspension of PMP collection for student members. This move will hopefully allow local leagues to continue to welcome younger members into the organization.

In her welcome speech, incoming LWWVUS President, Dr. Deborah Turner, recommended the book, "The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters." The book was written by Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, the first African American LWWVUS president, and was published earlier this year. I'm looking forward to reading it!

Report from Rita Duncan



The virtual League of Women Voters United States 54th Convention, June 26, 27, 28 was indeed a very different experience than expected when I volunteered to attend the convention in November 2019.

The Convention was attended by 1,267 delegates and 8 board members representing 50 states, Washington

D.C. and the Virgin Islands. Despite the many virtual connections there were very few technical difficulties that impacted the convention. Being at my computer for 9 hours over a three day period was less of a challenge than I expected. During the convention, I continued to be amazed by the commitment and the flexibility of the staff, leadership and membership to change a planned face-to-face convention to a virtual event. It underscored one of the League's slogans "Hard one, not done," exemplifying the fortitude of the League to overcome challenges.

I was encouraged to learn that financially, the League is healthy and strong and that we have more than enough reserves to cover the income deficits we are and will experience during this pandemic. The League's financial health in part I learned had to do with the new donors and partnership Virginia Kasey, CEO was able to solicit to support the League's mission. In addition, it was good to learn how the budget is

mapped to our strategic framework and the following categories: civic engagement, system changes partnerships, DEI Leadership, operations and culture. The League in my opinion is in a great position to embark on the next century.

The other highlight during the convention was to learn more about vote411.org which was launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006; VOTE411.org is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- Early voting options (where applicable)
- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Polling place locations
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines

I believe the website will be a very important website for LWVEA to share with our constituents to help mitigate voter suppression. Individuals can share the website with their family members and networks that live in other states.

The convention closed with the newly elected 2020-2022 LWVUS President, Dr. Deborah Turner. Dr. Turner introduced herself to the convention attendees and laid out her vision for the next biennium: making VOTE411 a household name, advancing our DEI work, and embracing inter-generational conversations. I was impressed with her comment regarding the belief that commitment and leadership was not defined by age. As an African- American, it was inspiring to view the League's accepting

change and walking the talk about DEI, electing Dr. Turner an African American.

I thank the LWVEA Board for providing me the opportunity to participate in the 54th Convention. To learn more and get a more detailed brief of the convention please access <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-daily-briefing>.

Report from Lynda Foster



June 26-28, 2020, I attend the LWVUS Annual Convention as a delegate for the League of Women Voters Eden Area. The original site

for the LWVUS 54th Biennial Convention was Washington, DC but due to the COVID-19 pandemic the convention was held via Zoom Meeting, so I attended all 3 days from my living room here in Castro Valley.

From the moment Chris Carson LWVUS president delivered her welcome remarks the convention was full of speeches, votes and calls for action. I particularly enjoyed the conversations with DC Mayor Muriel Bower, Allison Riggs of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice and Alejandra Castillo of YWCA USA. Then was also impressed by Valerie Jarrett of When We All Vote and her storytelling with a call to action. Advising us all that we could all do something... even if it was a small thing, we could all do something to encourage a voter.

The plenary was quite a learning experience with all the discussions and debating regarding our positions and motions and the importance of the wording and the meaning. Also, with 1300+ attendees, there were many technological problems and issues with

connectivity that come with a virtual meeting, but the organizers did their best and powered through.

Norah O'Donnell from CBS Evening News gave the keynote address and congratulated us on 100th anniversary and discussed the great historic occasion.

We had the opportunity to congratulate our Bay Area sisters from Oakland for their 2020 Convention Award for Strength Democracy for Local Leagues.

Finally, I was so pleased to welcome our incoming LWVUS President, Dr. Deborah Turner. She introduced herself and laid out her vision for the next biennium, making VOTE411 a household name, advancing our Diversity and Inclusion work and embracing inter-generational conversation.

Joint Project: LWV EA and AAUW Hayward-Castro Valley

Our two organizations have joined together to generate bi-weekly social media posts to highlight voting in 2020. Volunteers from both groups are researching, editing and posting every other Thursday and Sunday. Check them out on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and NextDoor.

NEEDED: HOA ELECTION COORDINATOR

The LWVEA has monitored and conducted homeowner elections over the last few years. We are looking for a new coordinator for this activity. You would work with the homeowners association and management company to ensure fair and accurate elections.

Responsibilities include submitting a bid and then the printing, distribution and counting the ballots. There are experienced participants

available to provide training and guidance. League members volunteer to count ballots. The time commitment is very flexible and the work is important. The fees generated are also a significant part of our annual budget. Think you might be interested? Touch base with Jo Loss for more information. Thanks.

Welcome New Members

League of Women Voters – Eden Area Membership Report

We are pleased to welcome eight new members to our League!

Mary Lou Eggiman (who has also joined our Board), Barbara Grewal, Dawn Martin, Joan Uhlig, Cindy Cooper and three student members: Madison Glock, Olivia Sally and Virginia Glock.

As we gear up for the upcoming election cycle, we will depend on our members to help support all of our efforts. Dawn and Madison have joined our Social Media Voter Project and we look forward to meeting our other new members either virtually or in person soon.

The Membership Committee will be hosting a New Member get-together soon after the Board completes the planning process at our annual retreat on July 25th. All members will be welcome.

Carolyn Darcey
Membership Chair





Mary Lou Eggiman

Hello, I'm Mary Lou Eggiman [pictured above].

I grew up in San Lorenzo, one of twelve children. I met my husband, Jim, and moved to Castro Valley 47 years ago. We have three adult children (and spouses), and seven awesome grandchildren. Family is always #1.

I was an active Mom in Castro Valley schools, serving in various volunteer positions including PTA president at elementary, middle school and high school. I was Brownie troop leader, team Mom and coached our kids' softball and soccer teams. This was all while we remodeled, re-built and added on to our home.

I worked as a secretary, taught at CVHS and the Eden Area ROP. I was elected to the Castro Valley School Board twice and then I was the Coordinator of the Creekside Middle School Mentoring Program.

I have served on Supervisor Nate Miley's Advisory Committee for the last 20 years and will continue to do so.

I lost the love of my life two years ago and continue to try to figure out this life without him.

I am excited and honored to be on the board of LWVEA, and look forward to working with all of you.



Left to right (Sisters: Madison, Olivia, Virginia)

Madison Glock

Madison Glock recently graduated from Creekside Middle School in Castro Valley. She is an honor student and treasurer of her schools' California Junior Scholarship Foundation. She was recently invited by the Castro Valley Unified School District Superintendent, Parvhad Ahmadi, to serve on the District Student Leadership Alliance. During middle school she partnered with the League of Women Voters and Senator Wieckowski's office to develop Youth Voices Write, a youth letter writing toolkit to encourage other students to share their voices with their representatives. She enjoys postcard writing and recently sent 50 postcards to voters in Mississippi reminding them to register to vote. She began her journey with the Girl Scouts in kindergarten and has utilized her leadership skills to nurture girls at Girl Scout summer camps and in the community to earn both the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards. Madison looks forward to contributing her voice to the Eden Area League of Women Voters to increase their reach among youth. She enjoys music and participates in Certificate of Merit Program and has volunteered as a monthly congregational pianist at her church. She also plays the violin in the Young People's Symphony Orchestra. She

enjoys coding, reading, watching movies and spending time with her siblings.

Olivia Sally

Olivia Sally is a 2020 graduate of Bishop O' Dowd High School. She is a politics enthusiast, writing election pieces for Teen Vogue, serving on KQED's Youth Board, and appearing on NPR, TEDx, and ABC-10 for her civic leadership and activism. As Miss Greater Bay Area OT 2020 and Miss Contra Costa County OT 2018, she has partnered with the Eden Area League of Women Voters to spearhead civic education among youth.

She is a life-long Girl Scout and earned the Bronze Award, Silver Award and is working on completing the Gold Award. She plans to study Political Science and has been accepted at Harvard, Yale, and Stanford (she plans to attend Yale). In her free time, she teaches music to special needs students, leads the orchestra's violas, and plays piano duets with family. She is grateful to the LWVEA for nurturing an appreciation for civics.

Virginia Glock

Virginia recently completed 5th grade at Independent Elementary School in Castro Valley. She has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and recently earned the Bronze Award by working with her principal to create a buddy bench for the playground. She enjoys participating on swim and track teams. She plays the piano, clarinet and enjoys participating in musicals at Creekside Kids Theater. She enjoys reading and caring for animals. She looks forward to getting involved.

Dawn Martin

Dawn Martin is a California native. She is a Database Administrator for Blue Shield of California. She has worked in business



development for Kaiser Permanente and United Healthcare. She has a Master of Business Administration degree in Health Care Management from the Paul Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine. During her time as a stay home mom,

she worked as a music teacher in the Castro Valley Unified School District. She has a passion for healthcare and civics. She enjoys traveling, visiting national parks, reading and listening to podcasts. She lives in the Bay Area with her husband and 4 children (including LWV Student members: Olivia Sally, Madison Glock, Virginia Glock). She looks forward to getting involved.

CLIMATE CHANGE and GLOBAL WARMING

by Richard Maurer, LWVEA

Part 6

Are you aware of the effort to adapt the Hayward bay shoreline to accommodate sea level rise? To learn more go online to www.haywardshorelinemasterplan.com In Part 5, I outlined several studies which have been made and are continuing to be refined regarding the science of global warming and climate change and the consequences expected. These studies have generated reports which you can see online. I focused on sea level rise (SLR) as one of the most dramatic, rapid and worldwide consequences of global warming, and because it is of particular interest to us in the Eden Area as we live near the ocean. In Part 5, I started with the big picture, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and then focused in on what studies some of the United States federal government agencies are

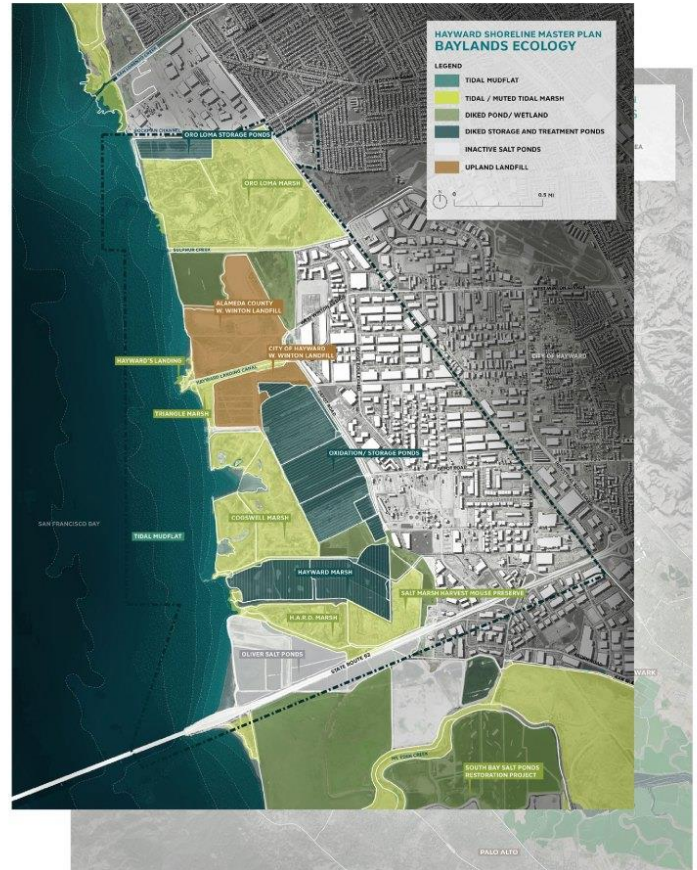
conducting and the reports they have issued. Then I outlined the studies made and reports issued by the State of California. Finally, I zeroed in on studies conducted by agencies in the San Francisco Bay area; by the City of San Francisco, by the SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), by the Bay Area Adaptation Network (BayCAN), by the SF Bay Regional Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group (CHARG).

Another agency and study underway currently which you should be aware of, because it is the closest and most focused on the Eden Area is the Hayward Shoreline Adaptation Master Plan effort. The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the Hayward Area Recreation District (HARD), and the City of Hayward have come together as the Hayward Regional Shoreline Planning Agency (HRSPA) to study the impact of SLR on the Hayward shoreline, and to seek input from the public (that's us) as to which alternative actions these agencies should pursue to accommodate various projections of SLR. Submit your input (late or not) to www.haywardshorelinemasterplan.com.

The HRSPA was established in 1970 (I hadn't heard of them either) "whose purpose is to coordinate agency planning activities and adopt and implement policies for the improvement of the Hayward Regional Shoreline for future generations." This Master Plan effort has been underway formally since last year and the team expects to complete its report and adopt the alternatives recommended in the study within the next several months. Now is the time to Google "Hayward Regional Shoreline Planning Agency" and "Hayward Shoreline Master Plan" to become familiar with the natural and man-made features along the Hayward shoreline which are under study, and the alternative adaption scenarios which are being considered for the Hayward shoreline as it faces rising sea levels. The SF Bay Trail, marshlands, the Hayward Wastewater Treatment Plant and ponds, the Calpine/Russell City Energy Center (i.e. power plant) the Highway 92 approach to the Hayward-San Mateo Bridge, and the Hayward Shoreline Interpretative Center are all

threatened by sea level rise. HRSPA holds workshops and public tours of the Hayward shoreline to seek public review of their report progress and suggestions for preferred alternatives.

This is our SF Bay shoreline. It is time for our input.





Malca Chall – 100 Years Old!!

Malca is the longest living Leaguer in Eden Area. She joined the League 72 years ago prior to the birth of her children. It is so unfortunate in these turbulent and scary times that we cannot gather to celebrate Malca's 100 birthday with her on July 16, 2020. Instead, we honor her and



her life of commitment with this very brief and inadequate bio from afar. Malca is so much more than what we captured here. She continues to live a life of service and commitment to the common good, and to remain involved. We are so fortunate to have her as a member of our League, as a contributor to our community, and as a friend. Happy Birthday, Malca! May there be many, many more.

Malca has served in various capacities within the League, always inspiring the membership and pushing the Eden Area League to step up and stand up for what was right or important at the time. She almost always attends LWVEA meetings, most recently she was a vital participant in LWVEA's 100th anniversary on 2/11/20. She is a faithful reader of the Newsletter VOTER and never fails to respond with praise for well-written articles or gentle suggestions to improve those that are not!. Want to know more? Google "Malca Chall" and read to your heart's content!

Nancy Van Huffel



Malca Chall 1965

Following are some excerpts from "An Oral History with Malca Chall"¹:

"Malca Kleiner Chall was born in 1920 in Tacoma, Washington, to a family active in business, in civic affairs, and in the Jewish community. Malca graduated from Reed College and received a master's degree in political science at the University of Iowa. In 1943, she accepted an offer from George Bernard Noble, her major professor at Reed who had been appointed head of the War Labor Board, Twelfth Region, to join his staff in Seattle. At age twenty-three, with minimal formal training, she stepped into the ticklish job of analyzing requests for wage increases from both labor and industry, as the WLB sought to dampen inflationary pressures in the midst of critical labor shortages. She visited potato fields, apple orchards, fisheries, banks, factories, shipping companies, and other work sites, conducting research and making determinations on acceptable wage rates.

Following the war, Malca moved to New York and found work with the Edward Bernays public relations firm and in time met and married her husband, Harold Chall. After they moved to California, Malca launched her second career as a civic activist, or as she puts it, "a pioneer of controversy in the community." She joined the League of Women Voters in 1948 and was soon a leader in its Eden Unit, spearheading a study of the Hayward city government and helping to draft and secure voter approval for substantial charter revisions. She was active in campaigns for local political figures, including March Fong Eu's election to the State Assembly as the second woman and first Asian American in the California legislature. She was also prominent in numerous battles to counter right-wing-John Birch Society-McCarthyite pressures in the Hayward area and to secure increased funding for local schools.

Malca came to the Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) in 1967 and soon became an indispensable and respected interviewer, project director, and right-hand woman to director Willa Baum. Over the years she planned and carried out an impressive array of oral histories, most prominently the *California Women Political Leaders' Project*. Her final volume of interviews was completed in 2000

¹ [*An Oral History with Malca Chall, Interviewer/Editor for the Regional Oral History Office, 1967-2000*](#) Posted on July 19, 2017 by [ddunham](#). Ann Lage, Interviewer Emeritus, Berkeley, July 2017



Gail Steele – A Mouse Made of Steel(e)

Gail Steele, former Alameda County Supervisor and 55-year Life Member of the Eden Area League of Women Voters passed away on June 25, 2020, surrounded by family. It is a tragic loss for family, friends, and the entire Alameda County community. She was 83.

Gail was a resident of Hayward, California but was well known throughout Alameda County and beyond up to and including Washington DC. She was an ardent and adamant advocate for children, and anyone disadvantaged by life or being short-changed by the government or society at large. Children were her passion. This passion culminated in the dedication to her grandchildren and her deep pain in response to the children killed by violence in Alameda County and those suffering domestic violence.

She conceived the Children's Memorial Grove Project. The California Assembly in April 1997 formally declared the fourth Friday in April as a statewide annual observance day, where every year, the Children's Memorial Flag is lowered statewide in memory of all California children who died by violence in the previous year. She started the Children's Memorial Statue Project and has been singularly instrumental in getting statues placed around the County in memory of the children killed by violence: "I think it's important to come together to say to those parents we will also remember your children every year and to also say to the community this is not OK," she said.

Gail was always slight of build and on the diminutive side. Her appearance and stature caused many a political opponent to underestimate her to their later regret...and admiration. Her approach (and tears) often struck fear in the hearts of a political adversary, many who tried to slip away from her approach, mostly without success. It was well known throughout the county and beyond that she had an unbendable steel rod for a backbone. She did not believe in giving up if the cause was a righteous one. To call her a rock gives more credit to rocks than they deserve – water could not wear her away or back her down no matter how long or hard it pounded on her; she did not crack under pressure. She was an unrelenting force with which to be reckoned.

In 2012, Alameda County acknowledged her contribution to County mental health when they named the new center in Hayward after her – The Gail Steele Wellness and Recovery Center. "Improving behavioral healthcare services is a calling and passion of Gail Steele, and this is a well-deserved honor," said Nate Miley, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.



Gail served as Alameda County Supervisor from 1992 until 2010. She was a Hayward City Council Member from 1974-1982. She founded the Eden Youth Center in 1966/67, serving as Executive Director from 1979 to 1992; and nurturing and defending it until her death. Gail was recognized as Assembly Member Bill Quirk's Woman of the Year in 2015. A towering figure has been lost to Alameda County. A one-of-a-kind public servant who never forgot why she was in office and never forgot those who could not advocate for themselves.

Nancy Van Huffel

I met Gail Steele shortly after I joined the League in 1968. Gail was an irresistible avenue to learn about Hayward and surrounding communities -- their issues, their leaders and especially the impressive women. She knew everything and everybody, in the most energizing way and was much admired. Our League at that time prohibited Board members from publicly supporting candidates even for non-partisan offices; and allowed positions only on non-partisan issues. Gail ran for Hayward City Council and became the game-changer because everyone appreciated her passions, issues, and hard work. Many of us wanted to actively support her. Somehow (hmmm) the rule was changed and many of us got involved and helped Gail win a seat on the Council!

Alison Lewis, Past President LWVEA

Ilene Weinreb's home was destroyed in the October 1991 Oakland hills fire. Immediately following, Gail spent hours combing through years of the Daily Review, copying all articles pertaining to Ilene's political activities and achievements, and set them in a handsome scrapbook, thus replacing the years of Ilene's files lost in that horrific fire. That is friendship. Barbara Golumb, a League member and Gail's close friend, moved to San Francisco in 1983. Gail made certain they never lost contact. Knowing that Barbara was a dedicated fan of Hayward's Oscar's Hot Dog and that Barbara's struggle with Parkinson's was curtailing her activities, Gail planned to give her a special treat--lunch at Oscar's in Hayward. On the appointed day, Gail and I picked Barbara up at Bart and drove to Caspar's in Hayward. We each ate two hotdogs with all the trimmings with Barbara claiming the entire time that Oscar's was still the best!

Malca Chall, 72-year member of LWV

I remember when Gail was first elected supervisor in 1992. She spent \$10,000. Her opponent spent \$250,000. He also had all the major endorsements. But Gail had the grassroots. Dozens of walkers worked every precinct. It was a community victory.

Bill Quirk, Assemblymember 20th District/ Former Councilmember City of Hayward

Throughout her life, Gail never stopped advocating passionately for children and the disadvantaged. She was a Council Member, a community fund raiser, a tireless advocate, as well as a County Supervisor. She served as a towering example for elected officials and community advocates everywhere on how to focus limited resources and apply your passion productively and successfully against formidable odds. She was a small person who cast a very large shadow on the walls of many an elected official's office. A relentless bulldozer in the guise of a little mouse.

Nancy Van Huffel, Past President LWVEA

Gail was the kind of person who made life better for those whose lives she touched—and there were many. She was a champion for those who were struggling, and she stayed a true friend to them after the problems were solved. She was respected and admired. Gail was an angel, or a saint sent to earth to do the right thing—and she never wavered from that goal. I am honored to have been a friend. Though she is gone, she will not ever be forgotten.

Suzanne Barba, Past President LWVEA

"She's a wonderful lady — but I'll tell you one thing, if she starts to cry, get the hell out of the way." East Bay Times characterized it this way: "Steele and crying are as synonymous around the county administration building as budgets and cuts. Her unrivaled passion for many mental health programs and those that help children led to many a tearful board meeting. They've also led to a variety of programs and initiatives in the county to tackle those problems."

Charlie Plummer (deceased), Former Alameda County Sherriff



League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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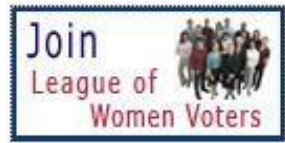
League of Women Voters of Eden Area Treasurer
P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Dues: Regular \$70,
2nd member same household
\$30, Student free



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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