

## League of Women Voters Eden Area

## VOTER

Vol.60 #7 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation July/Aug 2017

#### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME



League members have been mailed a notice and invoice to renew their annual dues to support the League's work. The Board and membership at our annual meeting approved a dues increase to \$60.

We send \$60 of our membership dues to national, state and the Bay Area leagues to support the Leagues' effort to monitor, educate and advocate on vital legislation on important issues that impact you and your community.

Please make out your check when you receive your invoice so that it doesn't slip to the bottom of your "things to do" pile of good intentions.

Member support of the League through payment of dues goes a long way to ensure that the League will meet its mission to educate members and votes on important issues at the regional, state and national levels.

#### **AAUW FUNDRAISER ON AUG. 21**

The Hayward-Castro Valley branch of AAUW (the American Association of University Women) is holding a fundraiser on Monday, August 21, 2017, 5:00-8:00pm at Gianni's Italian Bistro, 2016 San Ramon Blvd., San Ramon, 925-820-6969. "Tips for Change" is raising funds to continue to cosponsor the Tech Trek program, where 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls attend a week of camp focusing on technology, science, and engineering. Attendees order and purchase their meals like any other restaurant experience, with all the tips going to AAUW – and your servers are AAUW volunteers!

# Update on Eleanor Parker's Celebration of Life Gathering And Memorial Scholarship

On June 25, family and friends gathered at Jo and Ed Loss's home to celebrate Eleanor Parker's life and award two scholarships in her name to two Oakland Technical High School graduates. OTHS was Eleanor's alma mater (1944) and a place dear to her heart. She was an over 50-year Life Member of the League and served in every office, including president and at various levels of the League.

We raised \$4500 in Eleanor's name and awarded two scholarships. The candidates had to apply, were interviewed and selected as the awardees—Clara Voong and Sophie Schafer. We think we picked two outstanding young women who will someday make a positive difference in our world, just as Eleanor did, as leaders dedicated to improving the lives of others.

We want to thank Jo and Ed Loss, long-time friends of Eleanor's for providing their lovely home in Castro Valley to hold the gathering. Thanks to Nancy Van Huffel who provided the delicious food for the event, and Suzanne and Eleanor's family for providing photos and memorabilia and a Remembrance Book. The book contained the various notes and letters that were received to honor Eleanor and also information about the scholarship and the two awardees.

We plan to keep in touch with Clara and Sophie and forward updates to donors to the scholarship fund.

Suzanne Barba & Nancy Van Huffel - LWVEA



#### **CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

## Moving Forward and Continuing the Fight to Making Democracy Work

What a busy June for LWVEA!

We had both our Annual Meeting and our Annual Retreat, on June 10 and 17, respectively. Both meetings yielded excellent recommendations and action items going forward into the new League year 2017-2018 and beyond. Some of these recommendations are already being acted upon while others are being consolidated for further review and follow up/action by appropriate teams. We have several new energetic and talented members on our board while a couple of valuable long-time board members left due to moving and other reasons. Thankfully they agreed to stay on as off-board advisors.

As we move forward with our new board, we asked Suzanne Barba, one of our longtime former board



members for words of wisdom. She reminded us that critical issues can change daily. The League needs to meet the changes and challenges to

keep LWVEA strong. However, recruitment and retention of members should be an everyday effort of the League. Suzanne advised, "I think the basic strategy is the same as it always has been – personal contact in recruiting and giving new members a task, which is important, a task that they can be accomplished using their skill sets."

In addition, we also asked Suzanne to recommend changes to the League's role in the community to better engage the community and make the greatest impact.

She suggested that active participation in community events was a good way to increase our exposure and is both doable and fun. By actively participating in community events, the League can find out the issues the residents are interested in; it also helps the League spread the word about the role that the League is playing in advocating public engagement and public policy. She reminded us that utilizing technology fully is another way to reach out to the community and engage people so as to make the greatest impact.

"The League has been around for almost 100 years and from that time to the present, it has an excellent reputation based on upholding its basic mission—To be a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. That is an amazing mission and the reason the League has an enviable reputation. LWVEA should continue to hold up this tradition, be diligent in carrying out the League's mission, and

keeping that past accomplishments in mind when there are little bumps in the present road to accomplishing the league's audacious mission."

Moving forward and continuous improvement are our commitments. Our continuous teamwork and team decision-making will be further fostered so as to build on trust and operate from a common understanding of our League's goals with the shared commitment to ongoing improvement.

Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young, Co-Presidents

#### **BOARD BRIEFS**

Briefs from the Board Retreat and July 24 meeting



Outreach: The Hayward Street Fair event went very well, with people inquiring about League membership and voter registration. Members may want to volunteer for future outreach events, which will be listed in the next VOTER.

**Women's Equality Day:** Join us on Saturday, August 26, at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W. Estudillo St., 10am-1pm for this exciting event featuring guest speakers, program, and children's events. We need volunteers to serve at the Voter Registration table.

**Voter Registration Day:** Contact Richard Maurer if you are available to volunteer on Tuesday, Sept. 26, to assist at various sites including BART stations, local colleges, and other places to register voters. Email prmaurer3130@att.net.

**Education Forum:** Rita Duncan and Lynda Foster are planning a "State of Education in the Eden Area" forum to be held in October. More information to come as date, venue and speakers are confirmed.

Hayward Volunteer Recognition Dinner: Tuesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> is the date of this annual event. This year both René Besold and Aiwa Zelinsky will be receiving an award. If you would like to attend and sit at the League table, contact Joanne at <a href="mailto:jysunrunner@gmail.com">jysunrunner@gmail.com</a>, tickets are \$40 per person.

Members' Social Event and our League's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: You are all invited to our League's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Social. Be sure and save the date: Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jo Loss. More info to come in next month's Voter.

#### **Board Reports Continued:**

Russell City Energy: This power plant is petitioning to amend their agreement with the California Energy Commission. There is a public comment area on the Commission's website for those who would like to weigh in on this issue: www.energy.ca.gov/

**LWVEA Issues of Interest for Upcoming Year:** At the Board Retreat on June 17, members engaged in a Mind Mapping activity to discern what topics would be of interest for upcoming forums. The top three priorities are as follows:

- 1. Program on single-payer health care.
- 2. Actively recruit engaged young people as members.
- 3. Program on civil discourse.

Other topics of interest included education and involving more young people and students in our league's activities.

Penny Peck

## **Bay Area League Report**

Below are the notes from the recent Inter-League meeting, which Rita and April attended.

- 1. Update on the work Kathleen Cha has been pioneering regarding regional governance in transportation (with ABAG and MTC); she's working to unite all parts in the Bay Area.
- 2. Our League Day will be Saturday, February 3, 2018. All members are welcome, as are elected officials and the public. Registration begins at 9:30. The day will end around 3:00. There will be a keynote speaker, along with panels before and after lunch. Location TBA.
- 3. Leader's Update: be sure to have members sign up for newsletters from LWVC to receive updates from each BA League and to access the "Member's Only" page.
- 4. The Monitor. Recommend that members subscribe to The Monitor through their website and follow their page on Facebook. Also, they'll be looking to BA Leagues to garner financial support to keep The Monitor going. They currently print about 3,000 hard copies, and they pay for one staff editor along with four writers. These are invaluable to LWVBA because they are circulated widely among members and to the public, but most importantly, they are delivered to elected officials.
- 5. Be sure members sign the petition for "Make-It-Fair".
- 6. Great podcast that comes from two young LWV members called "What Would Alice Paul Do?" and you can like them on Facebook as well.

- 7. Piedmont League is celebrating their 60th year, so they invited any and all BA League members to join them on July 4th to walk in the annual parade in Piedmont.
- 8. Marketing and Publicity: We are encouraged to email Alec (the editor for *The Monitor*) any events we hold, so he can publicize them on Facebook. Also, Veda in the Marin County League, who is also the communications person for LWVBA, volunteered to add them onto fliers and announcements (communications@lvwba.org).
- 9. LWVBA Directory: Send Leanne any updates to our LWVEA information in the directory.
- 10. League Updates: each representative shared the work of her local League, and Rita was able to get contact information from Veda concerning the study her league is doing regarding charter schools vs. traditional public schools. Seems like there were some great collaborative/sharing efforts at work.

That's all! Thanks for letting us attend on behalf of our League. It was really wonderful to connect to women in our nearby communities.

April Anderson

### **Membership Report**

The Outreach Team is starting the planning process for the upcoming year. We will be participating in several events and are looking for committee members to help with the plans. Our first event was the Hayward Street Fair on July 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact April Anderson 619 549-8202 or Carolyn Darcey 510 325-9054.

## Welcome New Members Alejandra Magallon and Vicki Derdivanis

Alejandra Magallon was born and raised in the East Bay to two loving parents, and is the oldest of three daughters. She graduated from Bishop O'Dowd High School and is an incoming Junior at California State University Easy Bay majoring in Kinesiology. She is also currently employed at the San Leandro City Main Branch Library. Alejandra has found her passion for registering and informing her peers of national and local politics, and desires to pursue this passion while being an active member for the LWVEA. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family, hiking, and reading in her free time.

A big welcome to our new member, Vicki Derdivanis. Vicki has moved to our Eden Area and has transferred her membership from Oakland to our League.

Carolyn Darcey

### **Report from Conference**



Right to left: Lynda Foster, Cimberly Eng-Tamura, Richard Maurer, April Anderson, and Rita Duncan.

Five board members attended the League of Women Voters California conference held in May in Sacramento. Here are their thoughts on the events they attended:

**April Anderson:** As a new member to the LWV, attending the convention accelerated my understanding of the LWV and the policies, procedures, and operations involved in membership, outreach, advocacy, action, and education. In addition to these logistical and practical matters, what struck me more than anything was the deep community of devoted activists--individuals who have committed the majority of their lives in many cases to the League in order to better their own communities and to promote democracy. In our current political climate, to see people from all walks of life join together and move toward a shared goal inspired great hope in me for the future. Not only did the communal-aspect encourage me to become more involved in my own League, but it also reminded me of how powerful an impact a group can have to effect real change.

On a more issues-oriented note, I used my time at the convention to learn from other Leagues: to take their enterprising works and funnel them into ideas for what the LWVEA can do. In particular, I attended a caucus on Climate Change, which was especially poignant in terms of timing, since it was held the day after the current administration pulled out from the Paris climate accord. The group of League members present at this caucus shared practical, innovative, and conscientious solutions for combating climate change through sustainability at the local level. Again, I was moved, and so I joined the team on Climate Change in the LVWC to learn more and become more involved in advocacy work.

A truly heartfelt thank you to the LWVEA for allowing me to attend this convention. I am full of thanksgiving and gratitude for the opportunity to learn and to grow more inspired and impassioned about the work of the League.

I return home fully energized, enthused, and ready to take action!

Richard Maurer: As a new board member of the League of Women Voters, Eden Area, I attended this year's California Convention of the League, held in Sacramento in early June. I found the experience rewarding and hopeful for our Democracy; so many informed and engaged members attuned to the important public policy issues of the day. This active group of league members is contributing to our country, for 'Democracy is not a spectator sport,' it is inspiring to see League members serving as good examples of citizenship; alert to public issues, open to hearing all sides of an issue, aware of the positions of our elected officials, and prepared to speak out and take a position in the interests of positive programs responsive to the real needs of all our fellow citizens and state and nation.

In addition to attending the main plenary sessions and representing my league by voting on matters brought before the convention attendees, I also attended workshops and caucus meetings covering specific issues. Presentations on Response to Climate Change, Fixing Proposition 13, and Single-Payer Health Care for Californians were most informative, and allowed participants to explore these important issues in depth with the well prepared speakers. These significant issues are likely to come before the general public and our elected officials in the near future for debate and action. It was a welcome opportunity to become better informed about the pros and cons of past and coming personal and legislative action on these issues.

I am proud to be a league member and grow as a better informed American citizen. I look forward to making my contribution to better inform my fellow citizens and provide them with accurate and timely information to help them better judge and act on political and public policy issues in the future.

Rita Duncan: As Co-Chair of the Program Committee my experience at the League of Women Voters State Convention in Sacramento was invaluable. The experience provided me with a deeper understanding of the League's mission, organizational structure and the commitment of the members to make democracy work. It also provided me with the opportunity to network and meet members from Northern, Southern, Central California and the National Leagues. The following experiences are what resonated the most with me during the Convention:

#### Recognition:

Recognizing members who were celebrating their 50 years of volunteer service to the League of Women Voters was inspiring. It was motivational to learn about the various Leagues and their projects that received recognition for their engagement in their communities, creating visibility for their leagues and strengthening Democracy. Both of these events illustrated the long-

term and level of commitment of the League's members. It made me proud to be a part of the organization and validated my decision to join the League and serve on the Eden Area Board

#### Workshops

The Risk & Resiliency: Planning for Uncertain Future workshop which I attended equipped the participants with tools and a process to assist Leagues in broadening their perspective about issues they decide to advocate for and underscored how our Political, Environmental, Social, Technology, Economic and Legal/Regulatory sectors (PESTEL) are connected. The tools and process provided a method to prioritize issues weighing time, energy, resources and the impact the various sectors may have on the issue. The training materials are on the League's website.

#### Caucuses

I also attended the **Bridging the Divided Caucus** which highlighted work accomplished by Leagues.

Sips and Civility "Understanding Immigration"
Education Forum was presented by the San Diego
League. The topic was Refugees, Immigration Myths,
and DACA which was a big success; there were 121
people in attendance at the forum. Offering free beer at
the event attracted a lot of young people.

Gender Representation on City Commissions report was conducted by the Pasadena Area League. The report results underscored the need for gender equality on commissions which are appointed positions. The report showed the need for attention to be focused on gender inequality on many of the cities commissions and the need for representation of women for gender balance. In the future this may be a great issue for the Eden Area League to research for our area.

#### **Guest Speakers**

Mayor Michael Tubbs - City of Stockton, first African-American mayor of Stockton and the youngest mayor elected in American history. In his speech he stressed the need for compassion when interacting with individuals who are unable to have a civil discourse. He cited the example of an incident when Black Lives Matters disrupted one of the City's meetings. Mayor Tubbs shared he learned during the incident that one of the mothers protesting had a son who was shot and killed by a police officer seven years ago and she was still holding on to the pain and anger from her son's death. He reminded the audience that often when individuals are angry, hostile, disrupted and acting uncivil they are operating from unresolved pain and feelings they are not being heard. This insight was a great reminder for me personally to listen and be more cognitive of individuals who are in my opinion acting uncivil during a public discourse.

Brooke Binkowski - Editor and writer for Snopes.com. Brook emphasized the need for individuals to take a break from listening to news on smartphones, TV, radios and social media platforms. Many of us listen to news when we are driving, wake-up in the morning and before we go to sleep. Sometime we check on our smart phones during the day to find out the latest news story. Ms. Binkowski believes this behavior contributes to a part of the stress society is experiencing. She also spoke of the importance of us doing our own fact checking in light of the alternative facts being circulated. We need to do our own research on issues that are important to us and not rely on the news media.

In closing I want to reiterate what a great educational experience the State Convention provided for me to learn about the League of Women Voters and the inspiration I gained to hopefully help the Eden Area Chapter obtain our goals. Thanks again for the opportunity and sponsorship.

Senate Health Care Bill is not Worthy of this Great Nation - Legislation Will Defund Medicaid and Harm Millions of Americans

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president, **Chris Carson** today issued the following statement on the "Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017" unveiled by Senate leadership:

"The Better Care Reconciliation Act is even worse than the version we saw pass in the House of Representatives and is not worthy of this great nation. The cuts to Medicaid will be massive and will destroy the system that so many Americans rely on. This is a nasty bill that will hurt millions of Americans and we urge Senators to reject it.

"It is not at all surprising that this bill is a terrible one. Legislation developed in secret and rushed to passage is usually trying to hide something. Like the House bill, the Senate plan will cut coverage and raise costs for millions of Americans while giving a huge tax break to the wealthiest individuals and large corporations. The Senators who wrote this bill should be ashamed of themselves.

"As the League has said before, we know the Affordable Care Act is not perfect, however it has successfully provided health care coverage to tens of millions of Americans who previously went without.

"The Senate health care bill will hurt tens of millions of people across our nation. Rushing through this legislation that will negatively impact so many Americans is just wrong."

Sarah Courtney, 202-263-1332, scourtney@lwv.org

## **RECENT LWVEA MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS**

## 1. Why are you a member of the League of Women Voters? (Mark all that apply.)

	Responses
(2)	<b>70.00%</b> 28
	<b>17.50%</b>
	62.50%
(3)	25
	95.00%
(1)	38
	<b>40.00%</b>
	<b>2.50%</b>
	(3)

## 2. Which Chapter events do you usually attend during the year? (Mark all)

Answer Choices-		Responses- 40
_		62.50%
Annual Meeting	(3)	25
_		47.50%
Holiday Party		19
_		65.00%
Educational Forums	(1)	26
_		65.00%
Candidate Forums	(1)	26
_		40.00%
Ballot issue "pros and cons"		16
_		52.50%
Meet Your Elected Officials		21
_		10.00%
None		4

## 3. If you attend, how many League events did you attend in 2016/17?

Answer Choices-	Responses-
_	29.73%
1	11
_	48.65%
2-4	18
_	21.62%
More	8
Total	37

## 4. If you didn't attend any, why not? (Mark all that apply)

Answer Choices -	Responses-
_	16.67%
No interest in attending and/or no time to attend League events.	2
_	0.00%
Event topics are not interesting to me.	0
_	91.67%
Day or time of day for events not good for me.	11
	0.00%
League is outdated (topics and issues are not relevant to me.)	0
Total Respondents: 12	

## 5. I believe the League is a relevant organization in today's environment.

Answer Choices-		Responses
Yes, because the League conducts the following: (Mark all that apply)		<b>62.50%</b> 25
- * Voter registration	(4)	<b>90.00%</b> 36
- ♣ Educational forums	(3)	<b>92.50</b> % 37
- ♣ Ballot pros and cons	(1)	<b>95.00%</b> 38
- & Candidate forums	(1)	<b>95.00%</b> 38
- Advocacy for policy issues		<b>77.50%</b> 31
− ♣ Keeps campaign reform advocacy alive		<b>72.50%</b> 29
- ♣ Regularly publishes The VOTER		<b>67.50%</b> 27
No, because (Mark all that apply.)		<b>0.00%</b> 0
- ♣ Topics are not timely.		<b>0.00%</b> 0
<ul> <li>Topics/Activities are out of step with needs and wants of the membership.</li> </ul>		<b>0.00%</b> 0
Activities (I.e., Annual meeting, Meet Your Elected Officials, educational forums, caforums) are not of interest to me.	andidate	<b>0.00%</b> 0
<ul> <li>The main League activities (I.e., voter registration, campaign reform, voter education advocacy) are outdated.</li> </ul>	on, and policy	<b>2.50%</b> 1
The League does not disseminate information or communicate with members in a effect for me	manner most	<b>0.00%</b> 0

Total Respondents: 40

## 6. I want to be more involved with the League in the future if...(Mark all)

Answer Choices-	Responses-
_	28.21%
I have more time.	11

Answer Choices-	Responses
I am asked.	<b>5.13%</b>
Topics/issues/activities are more timely and of greater interest to me.	<b>12.82%</b> 5
_ I am convinced that the work of the League/Chapter makes a real difference.	<b>15.38%</b>
_ I don't want to be more involved	<b>12.82%</b> 5
_ I am currently involved as much time as I can for the League	<b>51.28%</b> 20

Total Respondents: 39

#### 7. I want to serve on a Team Committee

Answer Choices-	Responses-	
_	19.44	%
Yes		7
_	50.00	)%
No		18
_	30.56	5%
Maybe later		11
Total		36

8. I believe the following three things should be League priorities in 2017/18 (Choose3 only.)

Answer Choices-		Response
_		51.28%
Voter registration	(2)	20
_		66.67%
Voter education	(1)	26
_		51.28%
Candidate forums	(2)	20
_		48.72%
Ballot issue pros and cons		19
_		48.72%
Campaign reform		19
_		23.08%
Policy advocacy		9
_		10.26%
Publishing The VOTER		4
_		2.56%
I have no preference		1
Total Respondents: 39		

9. I would like to see the League take a more proactive role in the following issues. (Choose no more than three.)

Answer Choices-		Responses-
_		17.50%
Immigration		7
_		45.00%
Campaign financing reform	(1)	18
_		17.50%
Voter registration		7

nswer Choices-		Responses
_ Voter education	(2)	<b>35.00%</b> 14
Communication with the membership		<b>7.50%</b> 3
The environment		<b>27.50%</b>
_ Governmental transparency/sunshine laws		<b>25.00%</b> 10
_ Growing the Chapter membership		<b>20.00%</b> 8
– Tax reform		<b>15.00%</b> 6
- Healthcare		<b>27.50%</b>
- Housing		<b>20.00%</b> 8
- Homelessness		<b>10.00%</b> 4
_ Infrastructure		<b>15.00%</b> 6
_ Government efficiency		<b>10.00%</b> 4
_ Transportation		<b>10.00%</b> 4
_ Education		<b>10.00%</b>

Total Respondents: 40

10. My preference for being notified of activities is:

Answer Choices-	Responses 40
The VOTER newsletter	<b>50.00%</b> 20
-Email notifications	<b>87.50%</b> 35
-Text	<b>2.50%</b> 1
-Twitter	0.00%
-Facebook	<b>7.50%</b> 3
- Website calendar	<b>7.50%</b> 3



League of

Women Voters

#### 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:
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Dues: Regular \$60,
2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

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#### CALENDAR

Mon., Aug. 28, 2017 **LWVEA Board Meeting Hayward Historical Society** 5:45-7:30pm 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward Member Social and 60th Sun., Sept. 24, 2017 **Home of Jo Loss** Time TBA Details to come **Anniversary** Mon. Sept. 25, 2017 **LWVEA Board Meeting Hayward Historical Society** 5:45-7:30pm 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out <a href="https://www.LWVEA.org">www.LWVEA.org</a>