

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young, Co-Presidents



Celebration, Participation, and Strength

LWVEA celebrated its 60th anniversary on September 24, 2017. Members with over 20 year's membership and lifetime members were recognized at the celebration. They shared with us their personal stories and experiences about our League. One member who recently joined said that she "...thoroughly enjoyed attending the 60th anniversary celebration, especially hearing all of the personal stories from the longtime LWVEA members. It was very inspiring" (Corrine Hansen). Another longtime member reflected on her involvement and participation in the League work as indeed a "labor of love" and stated, "The Eden Area League of Women Voters is an outstanding group of women and men dedicated to voter education and transparency in government and I am proud to have been a member for the last twenty-seven years. Our League will continue to be a respected organization within Alameda County and to grow in stature and influence" (Nancy VanHuffel). The passion and the deep belief in the work of our League as a "labor of love" have motivated and energized many people to continue the work that the League of Women Voters started in 1920 – educating the public, protecting voters, and participating in shaping public policy.

Two days after the anniversary celebration, on September 26, 2017, volunteers of LWVEA enthusiastically and proudly participated in National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) activities, registering voters at local BART stations, libraries, and college campuses – a true celebration of democracy in America.

The NVRD activities and our League's 60th anniversary celebration once again reminds us that voting is our constitutional right as citizens. Susan B. Anthony, a pioneer crusader for the women's suffrage movement in the United States and a women's rights activist, declared in her speech that "**...in thus voting, I not only committed no crime, but, instead, simply exercised my citizen's rights, guaranteed to me and all United States citizens by the National Constitution, beyond the power of any state to deny**" (1872).

So, let's continue to exercise and celebrate our right to vote, participate in shaping public policy, strengthen our values of equality, and make democracy work for all.

BOARD BRIEFS

Hayward Volunteer Recognition Dinner: **Tuesday, Oct. 10th** is the date of this annual event. This year both René Besold and Aiwa Zelinsky will be receiving awards. If you would like to attend and sit at the League table, contact Joanne Young at ijsunrunner@gmail.com; tickets are \$40 per person.

Database Management Team: There has been an ongoing issue regarding our database of members, and **we are seeking a volunteer** who can revise that list each month so it is up to date. Then, various members can use it to update our social media outreach accounts and other business. Please let our co-presidents know if you can help.

Senator Wieckowski Honors Leagues: State Senator Bob Wieckowski honored the local leagues in his district at an event on Sept. 28th at the Silicon Valley campus of UC Santa Cruz. The Community Partner of the Year Award was given to the Eden Area League, as well as the leagues in Fremont/Newark/Union City and San Jose/Santa Clara.

Penny Peck, LWVEA Secretary

National Voter Registration Day



Joanne Young, Aiwa Zelinsky, Evelyn Cormier, and Ken Pon registering voters at Chabot College

On Tuesday September 26, 2017 the League of Women Voters Eden Area, which represents several communities in central East Bay, conducted several voter registration events as part of National Voter Registration Day.



Our league volunteers registered new or recently moved voters at three East Bay colleges, two transit stations and a library. In addition to registering voters, volunteers were able to inform many people that California law now allows the pre-registration of 16-year-olds so they will be automatically eligible to vote when they turn 18 years old. We also informed many of the web site which allows

easy online registration. On Tuesday, our volunteers were successful in bringing over forty citizens onto the voter rolls, and reminded many others that voter registration is the important first step in real citizen participation in our democracy, so we can select competent public officials and sound public policy. Look for league volunteers at many future public venues to encourage and sign up citizens to register to vote.

Richard Maurer, Voter Reg Chair



Richard Maurer, or Voter Registration Team Leader, staffs the registration table at the Livermore Public Library



Penny Peck offers a brief history of the League at the Livermore Public Library Voter Registration event

LWVEA 60th Anniversary Celebrated



Terry Guillory performs monologue as Susan B. Anthony

We had a very successful 60th Anniversary and Member Recognition Social on Sunday, September 24th with approximately 35 members in attendance. After our social time with plenty of snacks and beverages, Terry Guillory dressed as Susan B. Anthony, delivering Anthony’s marvelous and heartfelt speech after being charged with a crime for illegally voting in the Presidential Election.

Nancy, Aiwa and Joanne honored the following members with a pin and flowers:

Malca Chall, 60 YRS	Evelyn Cormier, 53 yrs
Gail Steel, 52 yrs	JoAnn Murdach, 49 yrs
Alison Lewis, 49 yrs	Janice Friesen, 33 yrs
Alice Sarafian, 33 yrs	Nancy Van Huffel, 27 yrs
Suzanne Barba, 23 yrs	Shelia Young, 18 yrs

Our honored members shared some wonderful memories of their time with the League.

We recognized two members who we lost this year. Mark Norberg spoke for his wife Carol Norberg and Suzanne Barba spoke for Eleanor Parker. René Besold presented Nancy Van Huffel with a gift and card for all the hard work and love she has given our League as she steps down from the Board to perform an advisory role.

The afternoon was concluded by Aiwa and Joanne cutting our 60th Anniversary cake. We wish to thank Jo and Ed Loss for hosting this wonderful event. A great time was had by all.



Suzanne Barba honors the late Eleanor Parker

Carolyn Darcey, Membership Chair

DISCLOSE ACT—We’re almost there.....

AB 249 (DISCLOSE ACT) is now officially on Governor Brown's desk! He has until October 15th to sign the landmark bill to require political ads to show who's really trying to buy the election.

As you know, Citizens United unleashed unlimited, anonymous corporate spending on campaigns nationwide. The *California DISCLOSE Act*:

- Lets voters know who *really* is paying for political ads — on the ads themselves.
- Ballot measure ads will have to clearly/prominently list their three largest funders.
- "Follow-the-money" disclosure stops ads from deceiving voters about who pays.
- Applies to television ads, radio ads, robocalls, and print advertising.

We're on the cusp of having the nation's strongest disclosure law; thanks in part to Clean Money supporters whose outpouring of activism helped AB 249 pass the Senate and Assembly in overwhelming bipartisan votes (29-9 and 59-15!) DISCLOSE Act supporters made thousands of phone calls and sent tens of thousands of emails to their legislators.

Governor Brown is deciding right now whether to sign AB 249 — he's vetoed campaign finance reform bills before — so we

need your help to contact him and to urge him to sign. California must lead the nation against secretive Dark Money in politics.

Contact Governor Brown today and tell him to sign AB 249, the California DISCLOSE Act!

Make It Fair – What Is It?

This article is excerpted from the state league position regarding its support for modifying Prop 13 to make it more fair for homeowners and local government. To see a “backgrounder” article on how and why we got here, go to www.LWVEA.org to read the full text online.

Local governments have had difficulty providing the services residents need ever since Proposition 13’s passage. Make It Fair is a coalition of community organizations that is working to reform Proposition 13 by requiring that non-residential, non-agricultural property be regularly reassessed at fair market value. Estimates are that this would raise more than \$9 billion in additional revenue for schools and local governments and make the tax fairer.

The League of Women Voters of California is a member of the Make it Fair steering committee. The basis for the League’s endorsement of the Make It Fair campaign is the LWVC’s position on state and local finance. The position advocates ensuring property tax equity by:

- a. the requirement that all types of property subject to the property tax bear a fair share of the property tax burden;
- b. separation of residential from commercial/industrial properties for taxing or assessment purposes in order to achieve fair sharing of the tax burden;
- c. provision for property tax relief for those on low or fixed incomes, especially the elderly.

With respect to property tax assessment, the LWVC position supports:

- a. regular, frequent reappraisals;
- b. the use of market value as the standard for assessments with effective alternatives to preserve agricultural land and open space.

Any change in Proposition 13 would have to be approved by the voters. There is general agreement that the Legislature will never muster the 2/3 vote required to put this reform on the ballot, so that eventually a voter initiative will be necessary.

The purpose of starting in the Legislature was to subject the proposal to a thorough public vetting and discussion—something that is lacking for most voter-sponsored initiatives. In addition, starting in the Legislature means that the extensive resources of state government can be used to get a sound financial analysis before final language for the initiative is decided upon.

However, the Make It Fair coalition remains active in trying to raise public awareness of the issue and in working to get endorsements from local governments, elected officials, civic leaders, and business owners.

Sips and Civility Event Scheduled for October 12th

Please join us for our first Sips and Civility event: Meaningful Conversations with fellow LWVEA members.

When: Thursday, Oct. 12, 6:00-8:00pm

Where: Home of Carolyn Darcey

20172 Brittany Ct.

Castro Valley, CA

Topic: Civil Discourse

What to bring: a dish or beverage to share

We look forward to seeing you! Organized by the Membership and Outreach Teams of LWVEA. Please direct questions to April Anderson: april.anderson@cgu.edu

The League of Women Voters Through the Decades!

Founding and Early History:

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea - that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to "finish the fight" and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage had already been attained.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League leader to rise to that challenge. She had steered the women's suffrage amendment through Congress in the last two years before ratification and liked nothing better than legislative work. From the beginning, however, it was apparent that the legislative goals of the League would not be exclusively focused on women's issues and that education aimed at all of the electorate was

in order. For almost 90 years, the League has helped millions of women and men become informed participants in government. And it has tackled a diverse range of public policy issues.

From the beginning the League took action on its stands; for several years, through effective lobbying, the League got selected issues included in the platforms of both major political parties and worked for enactment of legislation furthering its program goals. Over the years many procedural changes have been made in the way League program is defined, adopted and structured, but through all the changes the basic concept of study-member agreement-action has remained constant.

The League is political, but non-partisan. It never supports political parties or candidates, but it does study issues, develop consensus positions and then actively work to support those positions. As Carrie Chapman Catt noted in 1919, *"Is the (League) political? Certainly, but not partisan. Its members are as free as other women to join and vote with the party of their choice. They make no pledge otherwise in joining the League."*

Conclusion:

While the League's programs, priorities and procedures have changed over the years to meet changing times, a League pamphlet written in 1919 describes with remarkable accuracy its basic aims today: The organization has three purposes to foster education in citizenship, to promote forums and public discussion of civic reforms and to support needed legislation.

"Over the years, the League has also been a training ground for women who want to serve in public office. In fact, the League's ability to prepare women for public life may be its finest legacy to the nation." (Nancy Neuman, President, LWVUS, 1986-90).

There is probably no other national volunteer organization in America that inspires such a great degree of commitment from its members. As a direct result of that commitment, the League of Women Voters has evolved from what it was in 1920, a might political experiment designed to help 20 million enfranchised women carry out their new responsibilities, to what it is today: a unique, nonpartisan organization that is a recognized force in molding political leaders, shaping public policy and promoting informed citizen participation at all levels of government.

League of Women Voters Eden Area: 1957-2017

The League of Women Voters was formed in 1920 as an outgrowth of the movement to give women the right to vote following the passage of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The League of Women Voters Eden Area (LWVEA) was established in 1957 serving the people of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, Hayward, Hillcrest Knolls, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo.

This year marks our chapter’s sixtieth anniversary. For sixty years, LWVEA diligently carried out its mission through voter education and services.



**Suzanne, Nancy, Rene', Aiwa
Four Board members representing
over 60 years of experience**

LWVEA has conducted studies and/or educational forums on mental health, health care, energy, the education system, juvenile justice, transparency in government, voting systems, state and local finance, land use, parks and open space, and

boards and commissions, water, transportation, and housing issues in CA.

Members of the EdenArea League have given thousands of hours to their communities with these forums, voter drives, and other services. The League has conducted hundreds of candidates’ forums, distributed more than 100,000 of the highly respected Pros and Cons on ballot measures in several languages, registered thousands of voters, maintained over 80 voter affidavit distribution sites, and provided speakers at various forums and debates.



April, Rita, Richard, Lynda, Cimberly



Norm



Joanne

Evelyn



Carolyn



Penny



Janice



Marian



Jewell



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

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Dues: Regular \$60,

2nd member same Household \$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., Oct. 10, 2017	Hayward Volunteer Recognition	St. Rose Hospital
Thurs., Oct. 12, 2017 6:00-8:00pm	Sips and Civility april.anderson@cgu.edu	Carolyn Darcey's home 20172 Brittany Ct., Castro Valley
Thurs., Oct. 19, 2017 6:00-8:00pm	Forum on Education in Eden Area	San Leandro Senior Center 13909 E. 14 th St., San Leandro
Mon., Oct. 23, 2017 5:45-7:30pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Historical Society 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward
Fri, Dec 8, 2017 5:30-8:30pm	LWVEA ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY	St. Rose Hospital, Hayward

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