



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol.60 #8 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* Sept. 2017

**60th Anniversary Celebration
and Member Recognition**

You are Invited!



To our League's 60th Anniversary Celebration and Member
Recognition Event

Come help us celebrate our anniversary and recognize our long-time, 20+
year members – we can't do it without you!

Date: Sunday, September 24th

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Place: Jo Loss' Home

18003 Center Street, Castro Valley

**Refreshments will be served and there will be plenty of time to socialize and
meet fellow Eden Area League members**

Please RSVP to: Carolyn Darcey no later than September 15th

Email cdarcey@pacbell.net or call (510) 325-9054

We encourage everyone to carpool; and we can provide rides to those that need it.

We want you there!

National Voter Registration Day Volunteers Needed



Ken Pon registering voters at San Leandro BART

Here is an opportunity to help your league with its mission of voter education and new voter registration.

Tuesday, September 26, is National Voter Registration Day.

We want to be present at several locations to register voters and inform them about the LWVEA. There's nothing to it, we have all the supplies and easy instructions on what to do.

Although there is no election this year, some people move and forget they have to re-register; and young people suddenly become eligible to vote all the time. Even 16- and 17- year olds can now pre-register, before they go off to do whatever 16- and 17- year olds go off to do!

Here are the locations where we still need help on **Sept 26:**

San Leandro BART station

2 volunteers from 3 to 4:30 pm
2 volunteers from 4:30 to 6 pm

Bayfair BART station

2 volunteers from 3 to 4:30 pm
2 volunteers from 4:30 to 6 pm

Hayward BART station

2 volunteers from 3 to 4:30 pm
2 volunteers from 4:30 to 6 pm

Chabot College

2 volunteers from 12 to 1:30 pm
2 volunteers from 1:30 to 3 pm

Cal State East Bay

2 volunteers from 12 to 1:30 pm
2 volunteers from 1:30 to 3 pm

Please contact Richard Maurer, LWVEA Voter Registration Services, if you can help: prmaurer3130@att.net

MAKE IT FAIR BAY AREA TOWN HALL

CLOSE THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY TAX LOOPHOLE



Invest over \$9 billion in our neighborhoods.

BART & AC Transit encouraged.
Limited Free Parking Available.

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2017 - 10:30AM - 12:30PM

First Congregational Church of Oakland (United Church of Christ)
located at 2501 Harrison St, Oakland, California 94612

www.MakeItFairCA.org

RSVP: <http://bit.ly/MIFBAY17> - For more information contact: Ben Grieff - ben@evolve-ca.org

MAKE IT FAIR Event in Oakland on Sept. 9th:

This Bay Area town hall, sponsored by the LWVC (League of Women Voters California) will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, 10:30am-12:30pm. It will take place at the First Congregational Church of Oakland, 2501 Harrison St. MAKE IT FAIR is an effort to reform Prop. 13, "to close the tax loophole and restore \$9 billion to invest in local communities." The LWVC is a cosponsor of the MAKE IT FAIR campaign, and speakers include State Senators Nancy Skinner and Scott Wiener. For more information, see:

www.facebook.com/events/1734733593222522

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Continue The Battle For Equality For All!

On August 26, 2017, LWVEA attended the ***Celebrate Her: Women's Equality Day*** celebration held at San Leandro History Museum. The celebration was to recognize the passage of the 19th Amendment that was ratified on August 26, 1920. Almost a century ago, women's right to vote finally became the law of the land thanks to those such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt, and many others who fought courageously for women to have the right to vote and laid the foundation for women's equality in our nation.

While we were celebrating that victory on Women's Equality Day, we know that women still have not achieved full equality in our nation. Each day, women face threats of violence, harassment, and discrimination at home, in public, and in the workplace. Women are still woefully underrepresented in our government. Women's healthcare is constantly under attack by unfair politics and policy. Women still only make about 80 cents per dollar made by men working in the same job. It's even worse for women of color, with African-American women making just 63 cents and Latinas making 54 cents for every dollar made by white men in the same job.

We, as members of LWV will continue the fight for women's equality and for the equality for all humankind. We should not only empower ourselves, but all people together to continue this battle because we believe that equality is not a female issue; it is a social and economic imperative. LWVEA will celebrate its 60th anniversary on September 24 and we will reflect on what we have accomplished towards a more equal world, and also how far we still must go for democracy for all. Please come and join us to celebrate and to continue the battle for equality for all of us together.

Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young, Co-Presidents

BOARD BRIEFS

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.

Also, on that date there will be an event at the Livermore Main Library, 1188 S. Livermore Dr., 4pm, where Penny Peck will give an overview on women's suffrage in the U.S. and the history of the League of Women Voters. There will also be volunteers registering interested voters.



Outreach: April Anderson and Norm Fobert are planning the first Sips and Civility discussion group for the Fall and will announce the date in September.

Education Forum: Rita Duncan and Lynda Foster are planning a “State of Education in the Eden Area” forum to be held on **Thursday, October 19, 2017, 6-8pm**, at the San Leandro Senior Center, 13909 East 14th St. Guest speakers include Dr. Maria Ochoa (formerly at Chabot College), Mercedes Faraj (Hayward Education Association), Patrick Walsh (Bay Area California Charter Schools Association), Norm Fobert (formerly San Lorenzo School Board and longtime school administrator) and moderator Jim Negri (former Superintendent Castro Valley USD).



Women’s Equality Day: As reported earlier, our League participated in an event celebrating women’s right to vote in the U.S. on Saturday, August 26, at the San Leandro History Museum. We had a voter registration table, but most of those who came by were already registered. Many were interested in what the League does, and possibly joining. The event had a great turnout and guest speakers, including Elaine Elinson, author of *Wherever There’s a Fight: How Runaway Slaves, Suffragists, Immigrants, Strikers, and Poets Shaped Civil Liberties in California* (Heydey, 2009).

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 jysunrunner@gmail.com; tickets are \$40 per person.

Penny Peck, LWVEA Secretary

Climate Change Team Report

LWVC Climate Change Team has made some progress in the last month. They analyzed the state’s environmental bills to determine whether or not we recommend support. Additionally, regarding SB 424, the LWVC is prepared to take action to help this bill move forward (will likely become a two-year bill) and perhaps undergo a rewrite. The LWVC is also working to bring educational trainings to leagues across the state to advance our progress in addressing climate change issues at the local level.

April Anderson

Membership Report

A big welcome to our new members Corrine and Henry Hansen who have been very active in the tri-valley and Barisha Spriggs, a former member who has re-joined our League. We hope to meet you at our 60th Anniversary and Member Recognition Event.

Reminder: It’s membership renewal time. Please renew if you haven’t yet. Your membership dues and active participation supports the League’s important work and is greatly appreciated.



From rural Illinois, new LWVEA member Zachariah Oquenda moved to California six years ago. Having experienced housing instability and homelessness, Zachariah specializes in local housing law and policy at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. He was the first in his family to graduate from college, earning his B.A. with honors in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics from Claremont McKenna College.

Passionate about public service, he works under the Berkeley Law Policy Advocacy Clinic to study and advocate elimination of anti-homelessness laws. He volunteers with the East Bay Community Law Center to connect community members to housing and social services. He also sits on the Hayward Community Taskforce, Sanctuary City Sub-Committee.

Zachariah is also a 2015 Harry S. Truman Scholar from California. He lives in Hayward with his spouse.

Two League Superstars

by Nancy Van Huffel



One of our Co- Presidents, **Aihua (Aiwa) Zelinsky**, is being honored at the Hayward Volunteer Dinner on October 10, 2017 as one of the Hayward-area's "Ruby Hearts of Hayward." Aihua was nominated by our Eden Area League.

Aihua joined our League in 2015 and assumed the duties of Co-President in 2016. This rapid rise within our organization is reflective of her and how she approaches her involvement in any organization lucky enough to have her as a member. Aihua consistently proves that she is not afraid to tackle any task that needs doing, and to do so with a positive, can-do attitude from constantly working to recruit new members to jumping in the truck to move boxes of League documents to storage.

As Co-President, Aihua constantly applies the lessons of her parents: to be active in leading one's community in order to fight corruption and ensure equality for the less fortunate. She is always working to find new ways to motivate her team. She exudes energy and a positive attitude in everything she does; and always seems to believe that people are good at heart. Her smile is infectious, as is her belief that the Eden Area League and our members can do anything we set our mind to do.

Aihua Yang Zelinsky was born in China. She completed her undergraduate education at Xi'an Foreign Language University in China and then

came to the United States to pursue her graduate education, She received her Master's Degree from Cal Poly; and her Doctorate Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University, where she has been an Adjunct Professor since 2007. She is bilingual in Chinese and English.



Al Mendall, Hayward City Councilman Co Presidents, Aihua and Joanne Young

Aihua treasures the ideas and beliefs of American culture and American democracy, and consistently exemplifies the values of civic engagement. She has always immersed herself in social causes including helping other foreign students and immigrant children. Her volunteer activities include being classroom mom in her children's schools, assistant teacher in Castro Valley Adult School with ESL classes, and supporting various sports clubs. Currently she is the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the APAPA East Bay Chapter, serves on the board of her homeowner association, and is Co-President of the League of Women Voters Eden Area. She is particularly proud of the accomplishments of the Eden Area League of Women Voters.

Aihua lives in Castro Valley with her husband, John. They have two children, Alex and Ashley, of whom they are incredibly proud.



René Besold, is one of our most active and dedicated members. She has been selected for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Hayward Volunteer Recognition Dinner

organization. René was nominated by Winnie Thompson and Paris Winter. The event will be held on October 10, 2017 in the “Big White Tent” at St. Rose.

We all know René – the first one to say “I will”, the last one to leave an event, making certain all details of clean-up are completed. She is a “doer” of the highest order. Need something done? Call René. Can’t find anyone else willing to do an unpleasant task? Call René. Not certain how to pull an event together? Call René. Need a positive force to greet new members? Call René.

René can always be depended upon to complete any task she is asked to do: no management needed. Assigned a task to René? Consider it done...and done thoroughly. She is a detailed editor, and one that always has positive comments or helpful suggestions to make something better. René is a doer...she doesn’t talk about it, she just does it; and often shuns the spotlight or any attempt to give her the credit she is due.



René joined the League in 2009, came onto the Board in 2010, and assumed her current position as Board Assistant in 2014. In cooperation with a team, she wrote lesson plans and developed an animated PowerPoint presentation for the new High School Voter Registration Program. She serves continually on teams presenting educational programs throughout the year, works Candidate Forums and Debate Watches during election season, and is currently writing a best practices manual on each. She also registers voters, writes

articles for the VOTER newsletter, and participates in League studies at both the state and national levels. In addition, she has volunteered in the office of her Congressman, participated on phone banks, done recordkeeping for past political campaigns in the greater Bay Area’ and she has written numerous letters to the editor on topical issues, many of which have been published.

René also serves on the Board of Literacy Plus where she has served as President and Vice President. She has served on Castro Valley Relay for Life and is active in her homeowners’ association. She is actively involved with the Castro Valley Women’s Club. As a retired Director of Resources and Training and a skilled labor negotiator, René addressed a statewide audience in Nevada comparing and contrasting the traditional labor negotiations methods with interest-based techniques. Her presentation was extremely well received by both labor and management. René was invited to be a guest instructor at San Jose State University wherein she developed, facilitated, and critiqued an extremely successful stop-action, mock negotiation session for Master’s Program students. René tutors others both through formal tutoring programs in Hayward and one-on-one with friends and acquaintances as the need arises. In each case, she works diligently and positively with each student until they reach their goal. This includes assisting many job seekers with resumes and job interviewing techniques.

René’s volunteer philosophy and her approach to her dedicated work with our League can best be summed up in her own words: *“It is my belief that the issues facing the citizenry today have a direct bearing on our continued survival; and to this end, I want to do everything in my power to inform voters through the dissemination of accurate, unbiased information.”*

Website Revision Planned

The League of Women Voters California is rolling out a new platform for local league websites, called My League Online, or MyLO for short. This new version of the website will have several new features including shared media library, shared content, social media integration, and will be a better fit for those accessing the site on their smartphones. For more about this new web platform, check out: https://lwvc.org/sites/default/files/downloads/MyLOProductFAQFinal_0.pdf .

LWVC ARTICLE ON CAP AND TRADE

LWVC Success: Cap and Trade is Extended: The state legislature extended cap and trade until 2030, when it passed AB 398 on July 17. For the full story, see: www.lwvbae.org/league-news/cap-and-trade-is-extended/ .

SB54 CALIFORNIA VALUES ACT LWVC Position in Support of SB54

The California Values Act would limit state and local law enforcement agencies' involvement in immigration enforcement and it would ensure individuals can still engage with state agencies (such as schools, libraries, medical clinics, and courts) without regard to their immigration status.

This is critical to avoid any number of tragic situations including but not limited to a battered woman being unable to seek a restraining order or an injured child going without medical treatment.

League Immigration Position: Our support of SB 54 is based on League positions that support a path to citizenship and do not support the deportation of those undocumented immigrants who are otherwise law-abiding members of our community.

Passage of SB 54 will reassure many in the League, and in the larger community, that we are serious about addressing the recent stepped-up deportation activity and failures to provide due process.

Public Safety: SB 54 was amended several times in response to concerns about public safety before it was passed by the Senate 27-12-1. The bill clearly includes provisions for the deportation of undocumented residents convicted of violent or serious crimes, including those previously deported for violent crimes. There has been some discussion of this as a public safety concern. Is our fear of dangerous criminal immigrants based on data? Current statistics indicate that immigrants do not have a higher propensity for crime. Research shows that immigrants are less likely to commit crime than native-born persons, with a caveat that those studies do include both documented and undocumented immigrants.

Opposition Arguments: Arguments in opposition to SB 54 are sometimes difficult to respond to. They include little in the way of specificity or data. Instead they include the kind of

rhetoric that appeals to people's fears rather than the facts of the bill.

Under SB 54, ICE is prohibited from unfettered access to the jails—meaning they can't go in to the jails and start questioning detained people. The provisions for the deportation of those convicted of serious or violent crimes allow ICE to have access to exactly the people we all think should be deported, but not those who either have not yet been convicted or have committed less serious offenses.

Why Is SB 54 a Priority? Federal immigration policy and action are evolving quickly, and we are seeing accelerated rates of deportations and reports of law enforcement targeting those with protected status and forgoing due process. In that environment, we are weighing the real human cost of our immigration corresponding impact on human and civil rights.

Here is an anecdotal but very real world example of what is happening here in California. Juan Manuel Montes is 23 and undocumented. He has lived in the United States since he was brought here at the age of nine. He suffers from a cognitive disability due to a brain injury he sustained as a child. Despite having minor criminal convictions for shoplifting and driving without a license, he has been protected from deportation by DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

Earlier this month, he was approached by ICE officers at a bus stop, and because he could not immediately produce ID, he was immediately deported without so much as a hearing. Despite the fact that he has the necessary paperwork (just not with him at the time), they put him on a bus and dropped him off on the other side of the border—where he was subsequently robbed and assaulted. When the story broke about his deportation (as the first DACA protected deportee), homeland security initially claimed they had never deported him. Only days later did they acknowledge that in fact they did deport him and that, yes, his DACA status was current.

They are still refusing to allow him to return to the US and to his family. Why? Because after he was mugged, he tried to return to the U.S. without permission. That was illegal, despite his having a lawful right to live and work in the U.S.

In closing, while deportations are not new, the capricious implementation we are seeing now is new. SB 54 will help ensure local and state resources aren't used in a way that hurts California communities or our economy.

(Excerpted from LWVC Action Alert)

LEAGUE BAY AREA MONITOR

Round up of Latest Articles

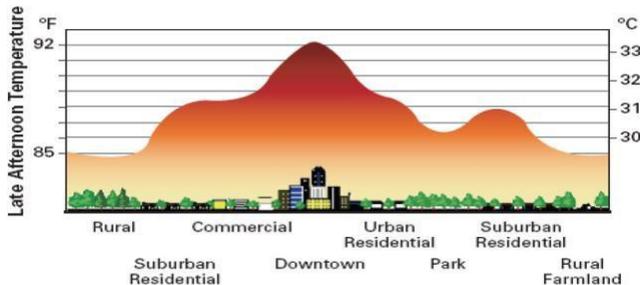
The following important articles can be accessed online from the Bay Area Monitor. These are in-depth, researched articles on topics that affect each of our communities. To read this information go to: www.bayareamonitor.org



Layering Landscapes with Bay Area Greenprint

By Aleta George

There's a new tool in town. The Bay Area Greenprint is designed to help transportation agencies, water districts, and the conservation community in their work. It is an online mapping tool and data cruncher that measures natural and agricultural resources, and quantifies the importance of those resources in our lives. Planners and policymakers can use this information to better understand the costs and benefits of possible land use decisions. www.bayareamonitor.org



Summer in the City: Seeking Relief from Urban Heat Islands

By Leslie Stewart

Hot enough to fry an egg on the pavement? The pavement itself may be partially to blame — and the buildings around it as well. In a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect, the roofs, streets, and sidewalks in a built-up area absorb heat during the day and re-radiate it, sometimes well into the night, so that heat lingers and accumulates. Building patterns that reduce wind flow, while beneficial during colder seasons, can trap hot air in urban “canyons” and add to the problem. www.bayareamonitor.org

Travel Rewards: Incentives Aim to Shift Commute Behavior

By Cecily O'Connor

When it comes to commuting, what would prompt you to change your routine? To nudge commuters toward new options, a few public transit providers are experimenting with pricing strategies like cash rewards and free rides.

Such incentives allow agencies to manage transportation demand while addressing bemoaned issues like crowding on trains or roadway congestion. “Incentives do work — some better than others,” said Dr. Elliot Martin, assistant research engineer at UC Berkeley’s Transportation Sustainability Research Center.

www.bayareamonitor.org

Neutralizing Nutrient Pollution

By Robin Meadows

Nutrients — such as nitrogen — are essential to life, but an overabundance can mean trouble for waterways. These dead zones are caused by nutrient pollution, which makes algae grow too fast. The resulting algal blooms ultimately kill fish and other aquatic creatures by us. Nitrogen is high in the San Francisco Bay as well, but so far it has escaped the catastrophic effects of nutrient pollution. That may be about to change, however. Nutrients are one of the more substantial problems the

San Francisco Bay may face over the long-term.

Besides causing dead zones, some algae produce toxins that kill fish and other aquatic life directly. These harmful algal blooms can also cause health problems in people —including rashes, respiratory issues, and liver illness — who swim in or accidentally swallow the water. Why has the Bay been immune to nutrient pollution? www.bayareamonitor.org



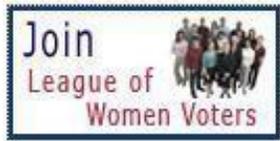
League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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

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Dues: Regular \$60,
 2nd member same Household
 \$25, Student \$20



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALENDAR

Sun., Sept. 24, 2017 2:00-4:00pm	Member Recognition and 60 th Anniversary	Home of Jo Loss 18003 Center St., Castro Valley
Mon., Sept. 25, 2017 5:45-7:30pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Historical Society 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward
Tues., Sept. 26, 2017	National Voter Registration Day	Various Locations
Tues., Oct. 10, 2017	Hayward Volunteer Recognition	St. Rose Hospital

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