



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol.62 #5 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation Summer 2019

LWV Bay Area Mini-League Day Event – Equity for Women

Saturday, August 17, 2019, 10am – 1:30pm

San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin St., San Francisco

Free to the public - <http://lwvbayarea.org/>

At the event you will learn:

- The difference between Equity and Equality
- Equity for Women Internationally, Nationally, and Locally
- The status of the Equal Rights Amendment and what we can do in California
- How to Celebrate the Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment

Join us for
Mini League Day Workshop

WOMEN'S EQUITY

Global, National & Local
Perspective

Event Includes:

- Celebrating Women's Equality Day Workshop
- The Status of Women Around the World
- The ERA & Women's Equality in the United States
- Women's Equity Issues in the Bay Area & California
- Taking Action: What Can We Do to Help Women's Equity Along?
- Spokesperson for each group summarizes their ideas



League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
Mini League Day Workshop

Saturday, August. 17, 2019
10 AM - 1:30 PM

Downtown San Francisco Library
100 Larkin | San Francisco

Free Ticket Reservations: <https://bit.ly/2VRJxPz> | LWVBayArea.org

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As we begin a new fiscal year, our league is already thinking ahead to this upcoming election year. Thanks so much to all of our board members (pictured above) who will be working diligently during the upcoming election cycle – registering voters, holding candidate forums and Pros & Cons presentations, and many other efforts to promote voting. But our board members are not our only volunteers! We could not conduct these important community events without the help of all of our members! Each upcoming issue of the VOTER will include information about events – many of which will need volunteers.

At our Annual Membership Meeting held on June 22, 2019 in Castro Valley, one major action was taken – we raised our dues. For the past few years, we have discussed the fact our annual dues do not cover the PMP dues we pay to the state, national, and Bay Area leagues. So the board recommended we raise our dues from \$60 to \$70 per year for individual members, and leave the membership for students and additional family members the same. This also makes our membership fee the same as Fremont, Oakland, and Berkeley. The dues increase passed, with a request that the board figure out a way to accommodate members who cannot pay that amount, because we want to encourage new members and a diversity of membership. Thanks to our treasurer Hank Hansen for his diligence on our budget and related proposals.

There are also some projects we will be working on over the next year, and volunteers are welcome to assist. For the 100th anniversary of the League (and the 19th amendment that gave women the right to vote across the U.S.), Rita Duncan will head up

the team to have banners in our local cities. Contact Rita at: freemyheart@yahoo.com. Penny Peck will lead the team, assisted by Sue Kleebauer, to construct library displays celebrating this centennial. Contact Penny at Pikly@aol.com.

Other efforts planned for the upcoming year, in addition to our usual efforts regarding voter registration, membership, and voter education programs:

- Transformation Roadmap
- Fundraisers (in addition to our annual Holiday party)
- Climate Change team
- Assist with the U.S. Census
- Criteria for Lifetime Member honorees – Jewell Spalding and Penny Peck

Shelia Young (former mayor of San Leandro and current Oro Loma board member) swore in our new board. We also gave a special thank you to Rene' Besold, who is going off the board after serving for more than a decade! We are deeply grateful for Rene's service to our league. Luckily, she will still be available for advice and information due to her deep level of organizational knowledge.

Penny Peck, LWVEA President

Upcoming Events of Interest



Castro Valley Fall Festival will be held on Sept. 7-8, 2019 on Castro Valley Blvd. in downtown Castro Valley - www.edenareachamber.com/fall-festival. Our league will have a booth and will be registering voters. If you can volunteer for half a day that weekend, please contact Richard at prmaurer3130@att.net.

International Peace Walk and Climate Crisis event: Saturday, Sept. 21, 10am at Lake Chabot. Sponsored by the Eden Interfaith Council and the East Bay Regional Parks.

Report from the LWVC Conference



April Oquenda, Rita Duncan, Jewell Spalding

LWV 68th State Convention May 31, June 1 & 2, 2019 - Westin Pasadena Hotel, Pasadena CA

Report from Rita Duncan:

I want to thank the Eden Area League of Women Voters for sending me as a delegate to represent our Chapter. The convention was very well organized and the speakers and Caucus were educational. There were 213 Voting delegates representing 53 local leagues. The total number of attendees was 243 including non-voting members and guest. A new Board was elected and voted to adopt new Issues for education and advocacy.

Delegates adopted the recommended issues for Education and Advocacy for 2019-2021: Making democracy work in California, Schools & Communities First Campaign, Climate Change, Housing and Homelessness, Criminal Justice Reform

I attended three Caucuses: Recruitment of New Members, Fundraising, and Criminal Justice Reform. One of the highlights of the event was a brief screening of an excerpt of a documentary which will be available for the 100th year anniversary of women winning the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The documentary "Just the Beginning: A century of Women's Political Power" is a feature length film exploring the past, present, and

future of women's political power through the lens of the 100-year history of the League of Women Voters and allied groups. The film is being produced by Beth-Pitton-August, Intersections TV & Conquered Visions. A preview of the documentary was shown at the Conference.

To obtain more information about the convention access the LWVC and click on [Convention of the League of Women Voters of California](#).

Report from April Oquenda:

Convention 2019 was much different than Convention 2017. The LWVC took to heart the concerns expressed regarding a lack of diversity in its membership, and in response to that, the LWVC Board formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee. This committee implemented changes by diversifying leadership representation, by making DEI the theme of Convention 2019, and by committing to continuing this important work to increase and to value the differing perspectives that comes with a diverse membership.

Another highlight: the League approved a resolution to declare a climate emergency. As the legislative analyst for the state's committee on climate change, I was able to present in a workshop on climate change that ended up being standing-room only. It's exciting (and gives me hope!) to see so many leagues increasing their advocacy and action on this very important topic. If you're interested in joining the Climate Change Task Force to bring more action to your league, please email climatechange@lwvc.org.

Talking Points: LWVUS Engagement with the Green New Deal Letter to Congress

LWVUS provides these talking points to Leagues about our engagement with a possible "Green New Deal" and climate change policy more generally. These points are meant to inform Leagues of the activities of LWVUS and can be used by individual Leagues in their messaging on this subject.

LWVUS joined a January 10th letter with more than 600 organizations urging Congress to hold hearings and openly debate legislation about climate change in response to the momentum across the country to address this important issue.

This letter is a request to hold hearings that will help educate the public on the subject, a process that is critical to democracy and aligns with the League's longstanding support for a transparent process.

As with any omnibus legislation, we will work to elevate and protect the components that align with our positions. On the parts that do not align, we will work to negotiate separately and in a way that supports the League's work.

It is important for LWVUS to be at the table as this process begins to make sure the important work we have done for many decades is included in any comprehensive climate change package that is developed.

Being part of this initial conversation around the subject positions us to influence the outcome of the potential legislation on this issue.

Being at the table is the only way we can advance the work our organization has done on climate change. We can't stand by silently and wait for the legislation to be crafted.

Currently there is no bill, but LWVUS stands ready to negotiate when the time comes.

As with all legislation, we will examine final language before supporting or opposing a bill publicly.

LWVUS staff continues to consult the LWVUS Climate Change Taskforce, a group of dedicated and trusted League leaders, regarding legislation around climate change issues. We will continue to look to our long-standing positions to guide our engagement on this topic.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE UPDATE

On May 14, 2019, the Maine Senate passed the National Popular Vote bill 19-16, thus becoming the 39th state legislative chamber to do so. The bill now goes to the Maine House. Maine has four electoral votes.

The House-passed bill in Minnesota is now in a conference committee. Minnesota has ten electoral votes.

On May 24, 2019, the Nevada Senate passed the National Popular Vote bill 12-8, thus becoming the 40th state legislative chamber to do so. The bill (which passed the Nevada Assembly earlier this year) now goes to Governor Steve Sisolak.

In Oregon, the House Rules Committee held a hearing on May 23, 2019, on the bill. Four of the seven committee members are sponsors of the bill, and the committee is expected to vote on the bill shortly. The bill passed the Senate earlier this year and has passed the Oregon House on four previous occasions. If the bill passes the House, it will go to Governor Kate Brown, who is a long-time supporter.

The National Popular Vote bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

CENSUS MOVES FORWARD WITHOUT CITIZENSHIP QUESTION -- FOCUS MUST BE ON A COMPLETE COUNT, NOT CITIZENSHIP DATA



WASHINGTON – The League of Women Voters board president **Chris Carson** and CEO **Virginia Kase** issued the following statement in response to President Trump's Rose Garden announcement that he will seek a citizenship count through existing government data, and not in the 2020 Census:

"Now that the threat of a citizenship question on the Census appears to have ended, the focus must turn toward ensuring the 2020

Census is conducted appropriately and comprehensively. It's even more important to concentrate resources on reaching hard-to-count communities now, and to combat the fear mongering created by this debate that intended to decrease participation.

"We have deep concerns about the president's suggestion that states can exclude non-citizens from the district map drawing process. The Constitution directs redistricting to be based on the Census – a process mandated to count all persons living in the United States, regardless of citizenship status. The administration's forthcoming citizenship report poses real concerns about how that data could be used to exclude immigrants.

"The Census is about much more than political representation. Census information is used to distribute funding for disaster relief, ensuring communities have the right resources in place to protect all living persons. Census data is used by businesses for investing and local governments to fund hospitals, school systems, and infrastructure. An inaccurate Census count will impact every community, whether counted or not.

"The League is focused on providing resources and education nationwide, working through Complete Count Committees to ensure that in 2020 the United States compiles the most complete count possible. We call on the administration to do the same."



League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/826-6674
Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and
unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

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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 \$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.

For our Calendar of upcoming events, go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/eden-area>

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