



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



Serving Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, & Campbell

March, 2017

League of Women Voters

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“...and justice for all”

Silicon Valley Reads 2017

Police Chiefs' Panel Discussion on

Trust & Justice

Sunday • March 12 • 2:00 P.M.

Cupertino Community Hall

10350 Torre Avenue., Cupertino



LWVSWSCV

Luncheon

Wednesday • March 15

11:30 A.M.



15970 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos

Read more information inside this Voter on page 4.



President's Letter

This is an interesting period of history in which we are living. The League is facing so many challenges to its positions and is involved in serious efforts to address them. Among these, is the issuance of an Executive Order in regard to 'Immigration.' As you already know, the LWV was created to oppose discrimination. The League is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. Its path is to counter prejudice and discrimination by fostering more inclusive and kinder communities.

LWV president, Chris Carson, issued the following statement. "The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants. The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants."

These days, many immigrants are fearful for their safety and for the safety of their families. They are also concerned about the possible erosion or outright denial of their civil rights and religious freedom under the new administration.

"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists."—**Franklin D. Roosevelt**. This brings memories to many of us, of his Executive Order 9066, on February 19, 1942, ten weeks after the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. It authorized the removal of any or all people from military areas "as deemed necessary or desirable." The military in turn defined the entire West Coast, home to the majority of Americans of Japanese

ancestry or citizenship, as a military area. By June, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were relocated to remote internment camps built by the US military in scattered locations around the country. For the next two and a half years, many of these Japanese Americans endured extremely difficult living conditions and poor treatment by their military guards. Then US Major General Henry C. Pratt issued a *Public Proclamation*, declaring that, effective January 2, 1945, Japanese-American evacuees from the West Coast could return to their homes.

During the course of World War II, 10 Americans were convicted of spying for Japan, but not one of them was of Japanese ancestry. And In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill to recompense each surviving internee with a tax-free check for \$20,000 and an apology from the US government.

The League is working with allies to ensure that all Americans are treated with dignity and respect under the rule of law. Bigotry and fear shall be combated by embracing love and acceptance of differences. It is true that the size of the refugee problem confronting the world today is overwhelming. And according to the UN Refugee Agency, more than 30,000 people are forced to flee their homes every day because of conflict or persecution.

While others look at them as refugees, Carmen Bachmann, a finance professor at the University of Leipzig in Germany, saw them as humans with potential. Bachmann had heard that there were people in the refugee camps with advanced academic training. She decided to reach out to them. There are some 6,000 political refugees living in Leipzig, and the government is only able to supply their basic needs.

She said that one Syrian engineer she had met in the camp was just happy that she recognized him as a professor. He told her, "I feel like nothing here. In Syria I was a professor, and I come here—I can do much more than sitting around."

"I'm a full professor," she said "I thought my contribution to [easing] this problem is what my profession is." I know the

Continued on Next Page.

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 Voters Service
 Pros & Cons, T. Zacccone, E. Yick
 Voter Registration, Jackie Costanzo
 Web Site Pages
 Cherri Nelson, Barbara Lea

2016-2017 Elected Officials

United States

President Donald Trump
(202) 456-1414

www.whitehouse.gov

Senator Dianne Feinstein
(415) 393-0707

www.feinstein.senate.gov

Senator Kamala Harris
(415) 403-0100

<http://harris.senate.gov>

Rep. Anna Eshoo
(408) 245-2339
(650) 323-2984

<http://eshoo.house.gov>

California

Governor Jerry Brown
(916) 445-2841

<http://gov.ca.gov>

Senator Jim Beall, Jr.
(408) 558-1295

<http://sd15.senate.ca.gov>

Assemblyman Evan Low
(408) 446-2810

<http://asmcd.org/members/a28/>

Santa Clara County

Supervisor Joe Simitian
(408) 299-5050

supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Mike Wasserman
(408) 299-5010

mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org

Supervisor Ken Yeager
(408) 299-5040

supervisor.yeager@bos.sccgov.org

SCC Registrar of Voters

Locate your elected officials by your street address:

<http://www.sccgov.org/sites/rov/Pages/Registrar-of-Voters.aspx>



Board Bytes

Meeting of Feb 1, 2017

Treasurer: All is well!

A refund came from LWVC due to changing to an insurance carrier with lower rates.

Announcements: League name badges costs were discussed for the Board and members interested.

President Itani, Wendy Hendry and Meg Giberson will coordinate a luncheon or dinner with city leaders to celebrate **League-supported Sunshine Week** in mid March. Watch for details in the *Voter*.

Programs:

League members Eleanor Yick, Wendy Hendry, Tom and Danice Picraux, and Meg Giberson volunteered and are assigned for this year's **Legislative Interviews** of California's Senator Jim Beall and Assemblyman Evan Low.

Silicon Valley Reads, together with our League, will sponsor the March 12 Trust & Justice panel of local police chiefs, to be held at Cupertino Community Hall.

New member Gail Nishimura would like to coordinate a program on the issue of **Fake News**. The Board approved with details to be completed later.

Meg suggested our April program at the San Jose Clubhouse be on the topic of **Equality for All in Voting** and also requested suggestions for speakers.

The Board voted and approved the results from **Program Planning** after minor

natural resource adjustments made by Meg Giberson.

Studies: Tom Picraux presented the results report for the **Local Campaign Finance Study**. The Board will approve the Study by the March Board meeting. He'd like to present the results at the Sunshine Week luncheon for government transparency with city leaders.

Fundraising: Kathy Murtfeldt discussed ways to approach **businesses for donations** and will share the Rotary's list of donors for prospects. She has written a letter that that we can use as a model for soliciting donations and ads for the *Voter*.

Membership: Tom reported on work to add **PayPal to our web site** for donations and to join and renew League membership dues. A PayPal account or credit card could be used to join online. A mobile app could eventually be used at events for members to join on the spot. PalPay's fee could be reduced if and when our League becomes a 501c(3) according to IRS regulations. Once again, technology saves us effort and time. It is coming soon.

Public Relations: Eileen is gathering ideas for **enticing young members/students to join us** and would love more of them. She will work with Wanda Alexander to use West Valley College resources.

Nominating Committee: A new president for our League is still being sought. If you have any suggestions, please call a committee member?

Nancy Rucker, Secretary

President's Letter (Cont.)

special needs for people with an academic background, and this is what I can contribute. I thought, if they wait one year and they stop researching and stop studying, it's a big loss. It's a loss for the people who lost their knowledge. It's a loss for the society."

Bachmann's own life once resembled that of the refugees: isolated, with not enough to do. She was in her late teens and a single mother, living on welfare. When she needed a helping hand in those days, support came to her from a former high school teacher who reached out to

her and gave her books and made time to discuss them with her. This somehow gave her life meaning and direction, and helped propel her to the successful career she enjoys today.

This month, we'll be **celebrating Sunshine Week on March 15**. Please read more about it in this *Voter* issue on page 4. We'll be hosting a luncheon with several elected officials. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Hana Itani, President LWVSWSCV
408-lwv-1842, hana.lwv@gmail.com.

Leagues Co-Sponsor Silicon Valley Reads Panel Discussion on “Trust and Justice”

On Sunday, March 12, at 2 P.M. The Commonwealth Club Silicon Valley, The Leagues of Women Voters of Cupertino-Sunnyvale, San Jose-Santa Clara, and Southwest Santa Clara Valley will present a Panel Discussion on “Trust and Justice,” at the Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue in Cupertino.

Procedural Justice is a national initiative that focuses on the way police and other legal authorities interact with the public. It is based on four principles: treating people with dignity and respect, giving citizens “voice” during encounters, being neutral in decision making, and conveying trustworthy motives.

In this panel discussion, three local police chiefs with a combined total of more than 75 years of law enforcement experience in Santa Clara County will discuss how local police departments are using procedural justice to build trust with the community to ensure individuals are being treated fairly and without bias.

The panel will be moderated by Barbara Marshman, Editorial Page Editor of the San Jose Mercury News. The panelists,

who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge, will be

- Dennis R. Burns, recently retired Chief of Police for the City of Palo Alto who joined the department in 1982,
- David Honda, 25-year veteran of San Jose Police Department who in 2016 became Police Chief for the City of Watsonville, and
- Phan Ngo, 27-year veteran of San Jose Police Department and newly installed Chief of the City of Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety.

Come to this panel discussion to learn how police departments are changing and how Procedural Justice is the basis of that change. Admission is free!

Silicon Valley Reads is an annual community engagement program that asks everyone to think, discuss and share diverse perspectives. This year will celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2017 by exploring the theme “... and justice for all.” The centerpiece of the conversation will be two books—*Unfair: The New Science of Criminal Injustice* by Adam Benforado and *Writing My Wrongs: Life,*

Death, and Redemption in an American Prison by Shaka Senghor.

Unfair is a New York Times bestseller that uses dozens of real-life vignettes and research studies to show how innate bias about race, gender, appearance, education and economic status can influence fair treatment at every step of the legal system. The author proposes that technology and scientific advancements could be used to instill more equity into the system.

Writing My Wrongs, also a New York Times bestseller, is a powerful memoir of Senghor’s 19-year incarceration for homicide, seven years of which were spent in solitary confinement. He used this time to discover literature, meditation, self-examination and the kindness of others—tools he used to confront the demons of his past, forgive people who had hurt him and begin atoning for the wrongs he had committed.

Events will be scheduled throughout Santa Clara County with activities for all age groups. For more information and a calendar of events, go to www.siliconvalleyreads.org.

Sunshine Week – Lunch with Our League

To Celebrate Open Government

In celebration of Sunshine Week, join us for lunch at:

Viva Restaurant
Wednesday, March 15
11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

You will get to know our members who are elected officials in local government—Cynthia Chang, Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint High School District Board; Liz Gibbons, Mayor Campbell City Council; Emily Lo, Mayor Saratoga City Council; and Rob Rennie, Los Gatos Town Council.

Sunshine Week is the celebration and promotion of access to public information.

Held the week of James Madison’s birthday (March 16), it’s a nationwide effort by the American Society of News Editors and Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press to open up dialogue on the importance of transparency in government, freedom of information and enhanced public participation in

Sunshine Week

It's Your Right to Know

March 12-18, 2017

government. Transparency and citizen participation are critical to ensure open

and accountable government. The League of Women Voters supports Sunshine Week. Learn more at <http://sunshineweek.rcfp.org>.

And don’t forget, this would be a wonderful time to bring a prospective member with you to get acquainted with our League.

There will be four choices for lunch, and the charge is only \$20. For payment use PayPal or send your check, made out to LWV-SWSCV, to Barbara Lea, 121 Strathmore Place, Los Gatos, CA 95032 or Hana Itani, 16367 Aztec Ridge Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95030. Call 408-354-2287 for any questions.

City & Town Council Observers

Campbell: Starting in April, Campbell will be powered by 100% carbon-free electricity. Customers with existing PG&E accounts will be automatically enrolled in Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) GreenStart electric generation service. The energy is sourced from 50% renewables (such as wind and solar) and 50% from large hydro. For a small premium residents may also choose to upgrade to Green Prime to receive 100% renewable and 100% carbon-free power. The extra cost is only \$3 to \$5 per month for a typical residential customer. The city will host a community meeting to answer any questions.

The City Council voted to set aside the accelerated minimum wage program and stick with the state's minimum wage becoming \$15 an hour by 2021.

Float Station is a new business in downtown Campbell (floatstation.com). It focuses on relaxation through sensory deprivation while floating in water. With more than 1,000 pounds of medical grade Epsom salt

in 10 inches of water at 93.5°, people can safely fall asleep in their private pod if they choose.

Jackie Costanzo, Observer

Los Gatos: Special Meeting held to review goals and voice strategic priorities for 2017-2019. Town residents gave their input during the public hearing. The following are some outcomes.

The parks and public works department will begin implementing a new California state mandated project, putting in place mechanical trash capture devices on storm drains.

Considerable discussion took place regarding the town's obligations to meet the unfunded pension liabilities of employees. The finance committee, currently consisting of 2 council members, will be adding as many as 3 town residents with expertise in finance matters to their committee.

The "age friendly community" proposal put forth by Tom Picraux, given support



by our league chapter president, Hana Itani, raised many questions. Town staff will assist as needed in applying for this designation.

Current projects for town staff to continue focusing on include North 40 development plan, summer beach cut-through traffic resolution, parking, and VTA/Measure B projects.

Town Council agreed on assigning their electricity accounts to the recently formed Silicon Valley Clean Energy, authorizing additional funding of \$18K/year for Green Prime service. The source of the electricity will be carbon free as well as hydropower free.

A proposal to add a staff position for a Senior Civil Engineer for the Parks and Public Works Department was approved. This need arose due to passage of VTA's Measure B, in anticipation of plans for future transportation projects.

Lynda Jandron, Observer

Saratoga: – No Report

Welcome!

New Members

Marilyn Basham
Lori Chaykin
Alan Giberson
Robyn McCreight

We're so glad you have
joined the League!

New Citizen Voter Registration

Thanks go out to the following volunteers who stepped in to supplement those sent by the San Jose/Santa Clara League at the three New Citizen Ceremonies held on January 26, 2017:

Sue Cooney, Lois Smallwood, Helen Athey, Chata Alfaro, Jackie Costanzo.

Many new citizen were eager to register to vote. If you are interested in helping at the next event, it will be on Thursday March 23. Contact Jackie Costanzo for more information.

Jackie Costanzo, Voter Registration jjc717@aol.com

*Thank You
So Much*

Volunteer Opportunities

Below are a few ways to participate and/or contribute to our League:

* **Voters Service**, Register voters at the New Citizen ceremonies. Contact Jackie Costanzo at jjc717@aol.com.

* **Observers**, Volunteer for the Monte Sereno Council Meetings. They can also be watched on TV. Contact Raquel Durand at sra_durand@yahoo.com

* **LWVC Convention**, mcox@lwvc.org

Water – Those Dam Problems

The threat to people caused by a potentially-failing dam is now grabbing attention. Problems with aging infrastructure will continue to affect California's approximately 1,400 – 1,500 reservoirs, however. As the American Society of Civil Engineers noted in its 2013 report card on dams, the "average age of the 84,000 dams in the county is 52 years... and the number of high-hazard dams is on the rise."¹ The ASCE gave dams a "D" grade in its report.

Reservoirs are not panaceas for drought, two analysts from the Public Policy Institute of California said, speaking of two new proposed reservoirs in a 2015 Sacramento Bee op-ed piece². As they noted, "increases in storage capacity do not translate to equivalent increases in supply, because reservoirs can't always be kept full."

It's not always easy to empty necessary amounts either, as some 180,000 people who had to flee potential inundation from Oroville Dam discovered recently.

Closer to home, Santa Clara County's Anderson Dam, completed in 1950, reached 99.2% of capacity as of February 16. However, 68% of capacity was established as its safe storage limit by the Division of Safety of Dams, because of seismic fault traces newly identified in 2015. A previous 2011 study had found the dam could not withstand the maximum credible earthquake in the area.

Flood control manuals that govern storage and releases compound aging dams' structural problems. Some dams' manuals haven't been updated for 40 or more years, and don't reflect newer climate change data. (Folsom Dam operators were criticized early last year,

for instance, for releasing significant amounts of water during the drought because they were following the mandates of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' manual created decades earlier—which didn't take drought and 21st-century weather patterns into account.)

Along with retention/release and infrastructure issues, dams' problems include water degradation (such as oxygen depletion and excessive algae growth), evaporation, siltation and construction expense. With preliminary cost estimates of Oroville Dam repair reported at \$200 million, we can now add expensive maintenance repairs to the list.

Over the years, dams have been promoted for flood control, hydropower and water storage. Yet, some serious consequences need to be considered in weighing their costs against their benefits.

Meg Giberson, Natural Resources Director

¹ <http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/a/documents/Dams.pdf>

² <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article25812187.html>

Climate Change Update: A Revenue Neutral Carbon Tax?

A Proposal to Eliminate Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Implement a Revenue Neutral Carbon Tax

In last month's article, I indicated that I would address some further ideas for addressing fossil fuel subsidies and the climate challenge that we are all facing. I had planned to write up a proposal to eliminate the **direct** US subsidies to oil, gas and coal producers (over \$20 billion annually in the form of tax and royalty breaks) and to initiate a revenue neutral carbon tax (i.e. a carbon tax that results in no increase in amount of revenue taken into government coffers by returning the funds collected, back to taxpayers in the form of carbon dividends).

However, I recently came across a report dated 4/7/13 which was titled, *Why We Support a Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax - coupled with the elimination of costly energy subsidies... would encourage competition.* This report below, by George

Schultz, former Secretary of State, Labor and Treasury and Gary Becker, Nobel Laureate in Economics, essentially states my thoughts:

"Americans like to compete on a level playing field. All the players should have an equal opportunity to win based on their competitive merits, not on some artificial imbalance that gives someone or some group a special advantage.

We think this idea should be applied to energy producers (i.e. fossil fuel vs. solar, wind and hydropower). They all should bear the full costs of the use of the energy they provide. Most of these costs are included in what it takes to produce the energy in the first place, but they vary greatly in the price imposed on society by the pollution they emit and its impact on human health and well-being, the air we breathe and the climate we create. We should identify these costs and see that they are attributed to the form of energy that causes them.

...we should seek out the many forms of subsidy that run through the entire energy enterprise and eliminate them. In their place we propose ...a revenue-neutral tax on carbon, a major pollutant. A carbon tax would encourage producers and consumers to shift toward energy sources that emit less carbon. We argue for revenue neutrality on the grounds that this tax should be exclusively for the purpose of leveling the playing field, not for financing some other government programs or for expanding the government sector. And revenue neutrality means that it will not have fiscal drag on economic growth.

A revenue-neutral carbon tax should be supplemented by a reasonable and sustained support for research and development in the energy area. However, we would eliminate any program (loan guarantees, etc.) that tempts the government to get into commercial activities. Clearly,

Groundwater Awareness Week

March 5-11 is National Groundwater Awareness Week this year. Why be aware? As the National Groundwater Association says: "Life as we know it would be impossible without groundwater. It is the world's most extracted natural resource, and it supports our ecosystems."

The Santa Clara Valley Water District calls groundwater "our most critical local asset for ensuring adequate water supplies now and in the future." The SCVWD notes further, "about half of the water used in Santa Clara County each year is pumped from local groundwater basins, and the groundwater basins are our best protection against droughts."

My article that featured groundwater in our Voter this month has been bumped to April's Voter to make room for my article on the super-timely issue of dams. Meg Giberson, Natural Resources Director

Climate (Cont.)

a revenue-neutral carbon tax would benefit all Americans by eliminating the need for costly energy subsidies while promoting a level playing field for energy producers."

It is interesting to note, as reported on February 18, by the *Washington Post*, that a recently formed Climate Leadership Council, which included prominent senior GOP statesmen, James Baker, George Schultz and Hank Paulson, have proposed to White House officials to replace much of the Obama administration's climate policies with a revenue neutral carbon tax. It's a long shot to get through Congress... but this is a proposal worth thorough consideration!

Dave Yick, Environment Chair

LWVSWSCV co-sponsors with LWVPA
to present:

Navigating Information in a World of Fake News & Alternative Facts

Wednesday • March 15 • 7:00 – 9 P.M.

Cubberley Theatre

4120 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

This is a panel discussion of experts who will be discussing this timely topic, to include:

Matthew Gentzkow

Stanford Economist and co-author, Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election;

Sarah McGrew

Researcher, Stanford Graduate School of Education, and co-author, Evaluating Information

Reporter Daisuke Wakabayashi

of the New York Times, formerly of the Wall Street Journal.

Moderator – Dan Russel
search expert at Google.

This event is free and open to the public and the entire community. **Please join us!**



Online payments are now available for LWVSWSCV

Increasingly, people are switching to credit cards and online payments to complete their financial transactions.

We are happy to announce that it is possible to pay or renew your League membership dues and to make donations

to the Southwest Santa Clara Valley League online. All major credit cards, as well as PayPal account payments, are accepted. Check it out at our web site: www.lwv-sw-santaclara-valley.org/index.html.

Tom Picraux, Finance Drive

BAY AREA MONITOR



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area Education Fund

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund publishes the *Bay Area Monitor* six times a year. The publication covers policies, plans, programs, and legislation that affect quality of life in the Bay Area and beyond.

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Memories of Marilyn Beulteman



50-year League Member & 2009 Helga Ruby Award Recipient

When I joined the League in 1966, Marilyn was Secretary of the Board. Over the 50 years since then, she was a special friend, and I miss her. As she became older and frail in the last few years, many of us may not realize what a power-house she was when it came to studies of finances. She participated (and perhaps led) in all of the examinations of government finances that the League undertook. Even after she stopped driving, she was eager to participate and particularly enjoyed Clip 'n Come.

Dale Hill

Marilyn was a dependable worker who never let us down. She took criticism well, and you could always count on her to do what she said she would. She was so competent that nothing was too big a

job for her, and she was really a wonderful League member.

Marge Bunyard

My Friend Marilyn—I have known her for as many years as she has been a member of our League. Marilyn was a mentor and a dear friend to me. One of the last activities that we participated in together with other members was meeting in her home every month for several years, to prepare our League's monthly *Voter* for mailing. I will miss my friend Marilyn.

Zina Lou Dyer

How do I remember Marilyn? I remember her as a League member who was admired by all of us. She had a great attitude. Once a long time ago when we were both visiting Helga Ruby who was very ill, I turned to Marilyn and said, "Well how are YOU, Marilyn?" And she said, "I'M fine; the structure isn't too good, but I'M fine!" And, of course, SHE was! I also remember one afternoon in her living room when she told me about what happened to her when she was in college. Her father had died, and the family wanted Marilyn to drop out of college to come home and run their retail stores. Who but Marilyn would have solved the problem by doing both—finishing college WHILE she ran the company? There are many good role models for younger members

in the League, and Marilyn Beulteman was one of the very best!

Barbara Lea

Marilyn was one of the first people I met when I joined the League. I was at a function at Anne Stewart's house when I met Marilyn. She came up to me and introduced herself. She told me how glad they were that I joined the League and then started asking me about myself. Where did I live? How long? Was I retired? What about my family? It was all about me. Then she introduced me to some other members and told me that if I had any questions that I should call her. I had no doubt that she meant it. It was a great introduction to the League. As years went by, we carpoled and sat by each other at events. I got to know her and she got to know me even better. I do miss her.

Ann Roberts

Marilyn was a long-time member of our League and served as Co-President in 1987-88 with Helga Ruby & Elizabeth Ansnes. She was a very active part of a state study concerning financial legality. She was a generous member, paying all our League's rental cost for the Unitarian Church when we held big meetings there for a number of years. She was a faithful member, assembling a committee each month to mail out *Voters*. She was a fun-loving person and very easy to spend time with.

Patty Weber

Local Election Finance Study Nearing Completion

Our SWSCV League's "Local Election Finance Study" is nearing completion. The objective of the study is to understand best practices, educate our membership, and identify processes to encourage participation in elections and improve transparency to voters. The idea for the study emerged from the survey of local election finance regulations that our League conducted last year as part of our League's participation in the national LWVUS Money in Politics study. Our new study has reviewed and analyzed local

election financing and reporting laws in Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. We have also studied the election practices in the other cities in Santa Clara County. To gain additional understanding, the committee has analyzed the November 2016 local election results. We also conducted interviews with ten city council and school board candidates who stood for election in either 2016 or 2014. Preliminary findings were discussed with League members at our annual January Program Planning meeting.

The results of the study will be used to craft suggestions for best practices to encourage local election transparency and participation. Major findings will be compared to current laws in Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga, and presented for consideration by our local elected officials. The study committee members are Meg Giberson, Kathy Murtfeldt, Pat White, Eleanor Yick and co-chairs Tom and Danice Picraux. Completion of the committee report is anticipated in March.

Tom and Danice Picraux

Bay Area's Housing Affordability Crisis

Our League Attends 2017 Bay Area League Day

On January 28, our League had a big showing at Bay Area League Day, which was held at the Camden Community Center in San Jose. The following members attended the event: Vivian Ajlouny, Margaret Bard, Lori Chaykin, Meg Giberson, Natalie Heling, Dale Hill, Hana Itani, Barbara Lea, Janis Maurry, Cherri Nelson, Danice Picraux, Tom Picraux, Lois Smallwood, Patty Weber, Eleanor Yick, and Judy Zacconi.

The following topics were subjects for the four Panel Discussions:

- Measuring the Affordability Gap and Its Impacts
- The Relationship between Housing Production and Affordability and The Effects of Displacement
- State, Regional and Local Roles in Addressing Affordability
- The Agenda Moving Forward

An eye-opening story was the one we heard about the woman in Palo Alto who couldn't afford housing in the Bay Area so she moved to Merced and commuted

to Palo Alto everyday for a training class so she could get a job. She completed the class and got a job, but she still could not afford housing here so she had to continue that four-hour-a-day commute.

The Keynote Address was given by California Assembly Member Tony Thurmond who represents District 15. He was a good speaker who told his own story of being orphaned at six. Fortunately, a compassionate relative took him in; and his life ultimately led him to dual Masters Degrees in Law and Social Policy and Social Work. In the Assembly, Thurmond plans to focus on improving local and state economies, improving education, protecting our environment from the effects of climate change and protecting our communities from crime. The bills Assembly Member Thurmond said to watch related to these problems are AB45-Teacher Housing, SB2-Housing Safety, and SB 3-Minimum Wage and Paid Sick Days.

We need to remember that one of our local positions reads as follows:

Social Policy - Affordable Housing: Supports changes in local government

regulations to reduce the cost of housing in the following ways: streamlining the building approval process, continuing requirements to provide open space and parks, encouraging residential units above commercial uses, considering rezoning some commercial land to residential use, considering zoning changes which preserve the neighborhood character and address parking and traffic impacts, preserving the current housing stock, encouraging the building of rental units; and increasing the amount of housing available for moderate- and low-income residents.

I think all of those in attendance were aware of the terrible problem we have in this area with providing affordable housing, but attendance at this event made the subject something we understood better and about which we now feel stronger. Some of what we heard was startling. For example, 30% of renters pay over 50% of their income on housing. California has 12% of the population in the nation, but we have 22% of the homeless. Anything the League can do to work on the housing crisis will be time very well spent.

by Barbara Lea



LWVSWSCV tables. President Itani 2nd from the left



Patty Weber, Lois Smallwood & Natlie Heling



Tom Picraux



Dale Hill



Barbara Lea & Judy Zaccone

Legislative Interview 2017; California Senator Jim Beall

Every year local Leagues interview their respective state senators and assemblypersons. Since senatorial and assembly districts overlap with some local Leagues, our League teamed with the San Jose/Santa Clara and the Cupertino/Sunnyvale Leagues to interview Senator Jim Beall who represents the 15th Senatorial District. Below is a summary of that interview:

Funding of Elections: What legislative measures would you support to ensure adequate and stable funding of election administration in California?

"The funding of campaigns is very expensive and has become heavily influenced by independent expenditures and outside

Public Higher Education: How can Californians meet the challenge of enrolling more students, including students with greater needs, at the UC and CSU? Is more state funding needed? Where does this issue rank in your legislative priorities?

The budget for education is a top priority for Senator Beall. He said state universities and community colleges need to focus on graduation rates and increasing enrollment for in-state residents. He emphasized the importance of community colleges because students are able to attend at a much lower cost and are able to transfer to four-year universities. Senator Beall supports the expansion of community colleges as well as more CSU campuses. He believes the state should look into doing a bond to update facilities at CSUs. He also thinks that there is a need for more full-time tenure track professors rather than part-time adjunct professors to improve graduation rates and time to completion. Additionally, Beall supports more community colleges offering four-year degrees and finding ways to make college more affordable.

Water Resources: What kinds of legislative proposals would you support to ensure that enough water of adequate quality is available for municipal and industrial uses, agriculture, and the environment in the face of over-stretched surface and groundwater resources and climate conditions different than those California has experienced in the last century?

California has faced one of the most severe droughts in the state's history in the last two years and Beall has worked extensively with state and local leaders to find solutions for conservation and recycling of water. "Conservation is vital in our state," said Beall. "It is everyone's responsibility from a homeowner to a farmer to smartly conserve water."

Beall is no stranger to helping cities get assistance for conservation. He authored legislation to get the city of San Jose the approval to fast-track the expansion of

drought-proof ground water storage. The Purple Pipe project replenishes drought-exhausted ground water tables with recycled water that is naturally cleansed through percolation. When finished, the project will save enough potable water for 175,000 people a year. He also has ideas about how to lower the usage of water on farms. "We need to find ways to incentivize agriculture crop owners and encourage a metering system state-wide," said Beall. Beall also believes that the state needs to repair and upgrade our levee system and consider what to do with the Delta.

Local issues in our district:

Beall emphasized the need for more affordable housing, locally and statewide. The high cost of living in Silicon Valley has caused people to move out of the area or to travel long distances to work. Beall introduced Senate Bill 3 to generate more affordable housing throughout the state. The bill proposes to put a \$3 billion housing bond before voters to assist the homeless as well as create more homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income earners.

Beall also stressed that housing a chronically homeless person is far less expensive than using government resources. Housing studies show that they are then better able to get the services they need and to get a job that results in a better life.

What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2017? What are your personal priorities?

As the chairman of the Senate Transportation and Housing committee, Beall has been working to fix the state's aging transportation infrastructure. Beall introduced SB 1 this session which will add more than \$5 billion annually for road repairs and mass transit.

Another issue that the legislature must deal with is immigration. Not only is immigration a moral issue but it is an economic issue in California and could have a major impact on our interdependence. San Jose is home to over 100,000 undocumented residents that contribute to the well-being of our state.

Eleanor Yick, Action, Education & Action



2017 Legislative Interview with Senator Jim Beall 15th District with LWV members: L-R, Mary Collins (SJ/SC), Danice Picraux (SWSCV), Senator Beall, Trudy LaFrance (SJ/SC), Eleanor Yick & Tom Picraux (SWSCV), and Tracey Edwards (Cupertino/Sunnyvale).

money," said Senator Beall. As a strong supporter of campaign finance reform, Beall has been a supporter of the DISCLOSE Act. He also supports overturning Citizens United at the federal level. Beall also focused on the high cost of holding special elections. He suggested studying whether they should be consolidated with regularly scheduled elections, such as primary or general elections. Ensuring that the community has proper representation is something that the state needs to continue working on. Senator Beall said he would also like to see a larger push to keep special interest groups from influencing elections at every level of government.

LWV Statement on Immigration

The League is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.

The LWV supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration's orders are of dubious legality.

It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.

The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations.

We would like to remind all our members that we are faced with many challenges to our positions and the League is involved in serious efforts to address them. Among these, we spent last weekend anticipating the issuance of an Executive Order investigating 'voter fraud'. We continue to monitor this situation and are ready to issue a statement if that occurs. We also continue our efforts to lobby on ACA in Congress. Everybody in the country is scrambling to keep up.

Chris Carson, LWVUS President/Chair

LWVUS is sending letters to Congress and issuing press releases on many issues,—the ACA, SCOTUS and the Dakota Pipeline,—that our country is having to face during this month of the new Presidency. Go to LWV.org for more!

Directory Correction

Please Note: Member Directory Correction

Gail Nishimura C (408) 425-3590

First Call to LWVC Convention

The 66th State Convention of LWVC.

A Capitol Connection

10 A.M., Friday, June 2, – 3 P.M., Sunday, June 4, 2017,
The Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel, Sacramento, CA

Attendance at Convention is open to everyone; we encourage all members to attend and are eager for the public to come learn about the League. We ask that you extend invitations to your friends and contacts. LWVSWSCV can send three voting delegates, but others can attend as non-voting members.



The purpose of Convention is to inspire and empower Californians to increase their active and informed participation in civic life. A range of activities is available to suit any schedule or budget, from investing in a full three-day registration to treating yourself to a special pre-Convention event. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work! Check out your options and register today, lwvc.wordpress.com/2017-registration.

The Sheraton Grand Sacramento is offering a special room rate of **\$169 per night**—but you must **book by May 8** to secure this rate. Visit the Convention blog to book online, or you can call the hotel and mention the LWVC Convention.

Read more about speakers, workshops, special activities, and more on our blog: lwvc.wordpress.com.

Correction

Please Note: The author's name at the end of the quote, in the February *Voter*, on page 3, was misspelled. It should have been credited to Correta Scott King, Martin Luther King's wife.

Join the League of Women Voters or Give a Gift of Membership

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Membership year is from July 1 to June 30. Members joining after January 1 shall pay one-half the annual dues amount. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Joining at

the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Financial assistance is available; please address questions regarding membership to Sharon Graham at sharona.graham@gmail.com or call 408-204-2585.

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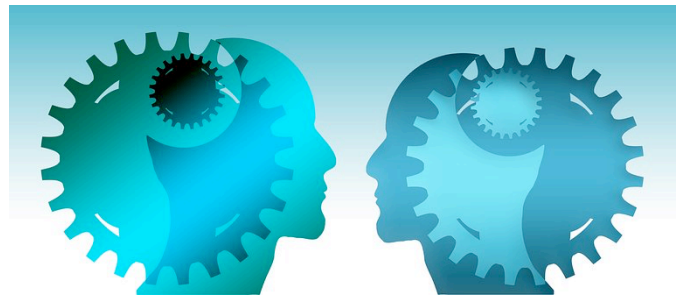
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League Leadership Academy: Strengthening & Building Leaders & Community Partnerships: Next Level Communications

**Saturday, March 11, 2017, 9:30am – 4:00pm at
SEIU Local 521, 2302 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA 95131**

This Workshop is especially for Leaders & Community Partners to learn to tell powerful stories and deliver persuasive messages to **move your audiences to action**. You will practice new techniques and approaches to presentations and outreach to:

| | |
|---|---|
| • Identify & understand your audience | • Use imagery & videos |
| • Learn the elements of appealing stories | • Frame messages to motivate your community |

Workshop Agenda

| Morning Sessions | Afternoon Sessions |
|--|---|
| Networking & Continental Breakfast | |
| Personality Compass: Understand Yourself; Understand Others <i>Understand yourself & others to be a better communicator</i> | Crafting a Presentation that Inspires <i>Eliminate the dread from Powerpoint presentations – learn how you can make a more effective presentation and add the power to the point</i> |
| Break | Break |
| Connecting with Audiences through Story <i>Why is story important to move your audience & trigger action – you need story to motivate change</i> | Framing Your Message to Advocate & Educate <i>Learn techniques to develop a strong & persuasive message framed for YOUR audience to motivate your community & move them to action</i> |
| Lunch | Wrap-up & Networking |

Our Co-Sponsors:

The LWV Leagues of: Cupertino/Sunnyvale, Los Altos/Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose/Santa Clara, South West Santa Clara Valley

Our Partners at Press Time:

Asian American Community Involvement (AACI), Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Cupertino Chamber of Commerce, Cupertino Rotary, SEIU, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

For more information and to Register <http://sclaraco.ca.lwvnet.org/>

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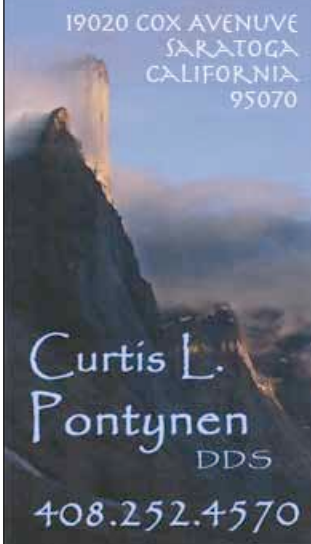
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❧ Event Calendar ❧

- Mar 1 Wed **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station
- Mar 9 Thu **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share Home of Dale Hill, 150 Robin Way., Los Gatos
Call (408) 356-7679 • **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**
- Mar 11 Sat **Leadership Academy**, 9:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. **See flyer (page 12)!**
- Mar 12 Sun **Trust & Justice – Silicon Valley Reads**, 2:00 P.M.
Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino
- Mar 15 Wed **Sunshine Week Luncheon**, 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Viva Restaurant, 15970 Los Gatos Blvd., Los Gatos
- Mar 15 Wed **Navigating Information in a World of Fake News**, 7:00-9:00 P.M.
Cubberly Theatre, 4120 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto

❧ Save the Date ❧

- Apr 19 Wed **19th Amendment - The Equal Rights Amendment**, 2:00 P.M.,
Representative Anna Eshoo, Historic San Jose Clubhouse
- Apr 25 Tues **Campbell Special Elections**, Observers Needed

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