

LWV ALAMEDA COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – August 4, 2012 – Supvr. Nate Miley’s Office, Castro Valley

ATTENDING: Miriam Keller (FNU) Sherry Smith (BAE) Kathleen Cha (Oakland), Helen Hutchison (LWVC) Katherine Gavzy (Chair), Carole Levenson (Piedmont), Suzanne Barba (Alternate for Eden Area & substitute Secretary)

ABSENT: President or Representative from Alameda (excused), Livermore.

GUEST : Helen Hutchison, LWVC

1. A. **Roster** - Updated roster was emailed earlier. Katherine asked that any corrections needed be sent to her
- B. **Next Meeting** - October 6, 2012. Sherry said she would not be able to attend.
- C. **Secretary** - Suzanne volunteered to substitute as secretary for Alameda.

Special Presentation - LWVC Proposition Positions – Helen Hutchison distributed copies of the LWVC current positions on the propositions which will be on the November 6, 2012 ballot. She explained the reasons why the LWVC was “neutral” on several propositions—either earmarked funding (Prop 38 & 39) or lack of a studied position on the topic (Props 33, 35, 36 and 37).

2. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

A. **Minutes of June 2, 2012 meeting** – One correction, page 2—remove Bonnie Hamlin’s name from list of committee members to work on videotaping LWVC pros and cons. Kathleen made motion to approve minutes as corrected, Miriam seconded. MSP

B. **Treasurer’s Report** - No change in balance --\$636. Being held in Piedmont account.

C. **LWVC/SmartVoter.MGIK** –

Bonnie suggested Leagues order SmartVoter bookmarks now. Questions for candidates should be sent to Bonnie before the end of the month. Letters can’t go out until the candidate list is certified. Calendar on SV webpage. Local candidates can put information on around Labor Day. Candidates who had information up for the primary can make updates and changes without waiting. This information has been provided to every local Smart Voter coordinator.

MGIK is now called Membership and Leadership Development. There was a discussion about how some Leagues use incentives for getting members to renew on time. Miriam said that if dues are paid by annual meeting, the member’s name gets into a pool to win a free membership the following year. She said it has increased timely renewals. Suzanne said she prints the names of those who **have** renewed in the VOTER and this seems to have spurred some people to renew earlier (there is a comment “If you don’t see your name here, you need to renew”).

3. **NEW/SPECIAL BUSINESS/REPORTS**

A. **Oakland Zoo Ballot Measure for Parcel Tax** - Katherine reported that she received three “yes” votes in support of the measure—Oakland, Piedmont and Eden Area neutral vote from FNU. Sherry said she would go LWVBAE board at the Board meeting on

the following Tuesday. Livermore has not participated in this vote. Alameda does not have a representative at this meeting—their president and vice president have resigned in order to run for political office, and Kate Quick has assumed the presidency, but she is having knee surgery at this time. It was suggested that someone contact Ann Spanier of the Alameda League and see about their vote on the issue. Katherine said that according to the bylaws we need 6 of the 7 Leagues. We don't have that so far, so cannot go on record as supporting this measure.

There was a discussion about how Livermore, by not participating, is making it difficult to conduct business in cases such as this where 6 of 7 Leagues have to vote for or against an issue. Bonnie suggested we put some pressure on Livermore to take some position since this parcel tax will affect that area as well. Helen suggested that Katherine write them a letter and inform them they are holding ACC up on taking any action on this issue. Katherine said she would talk to Kathy Tyson the MTA for Livermore. Sherry suggested Katherine get on their agenda to talk about the situation.

B. ACC Bylaws Review and Update – Katherine said she would work on this project and Sherry “volunteered” Nancy Bickel to work with her. Local boards have to have a statement in their bylaws which allows their members to approve ACC bylaw changes at annual meetings..

C. Legislative interviews : LWVBAE was not able to coordinate an interview with State Sen. Loni Hancock. Carole said that LWV Piedmont would do it.

D. Get out the Vote Inserts and Ads in East Bay Express - Some discussion about using East Bay Express to get voting information out. Oakland League is using this venue.

E LWVC Ballot Measure Pros and Cons Joint Bay Area League Video - Miriam is coordinating this project. FNU is paying someone to write script for Prop 30 and 38, Judy Merrill from Oakland volunteered to have LWVO members do the write up for 34 and 40. Suzanne did the write ups for the rest of the propositions using the LWVC Pro and Con format and not script format. Miriam said that Susan Hough from Cupertino is handling the videotaping and needs presenters and scripts by August 24. Miriam said that a DVD of the videotape would be made available for all Leagues and that it will be up on You Tube and FNU website. Susan can produce DVDs for Leagues but will need some funds to cover handling and mailing expenses.

Miriam said that their league is getting two \$500 grants to put scripts in Farsi. Have been asked to have one in Mandarin, too. Group discussed finding a Hispanic organization to do the taping. Someone suggested Ana Chretien of ABC Security through the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The videotape should be under an hour and it should be formatted so it could be shown in sections. Bonnie hoped that visuals would be used to make it more viewer friendly. Katherine suggested that this could be a good project in the future for an intern from one of the colleges to work on.

F. LWVC SpeakerSource Website - There was a discussion indicating that some people were having difficulty getting on the SpeakerSource website. Miriam asked why LWVC couldn't send out emails to all 60 presidents instead of using a group list. Carole suggested that information from SpeakerSource go to both email groups. Bonnie said she would speak to Kathy Armstrong who is in charge of that ListServ.

G. **Oakland Zoo Pros and Cons** - Who will do the Pros and Cons for the Oakland Zoo Ballot Measure?

H. **Initiative and Referendum Study** - The Consensus from local Leagues on the Study questions is due to the state in March and the Study Guide will be out soon on the LWVC website.

4. **HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL LEAGUES** – Some Leagues emailed in their reports.

A. **LWVBAE** - Having Mark Paul, co-author of *Beyond the California Crackup* at August 16 luncheon. Dealing with 10 local ballot measures including opposing one having to do with “Sunshine” ordinance because it is too expensive and duplicates what they have already.

B. **LWVEA** - Had 16 people volunteer to help with pros and cons. Signed up at annual meeting in June.

C. **LWVFNU**
– Library has invited them to moderate a town hall after audience has watched presidential and vice presidential debates in October.

D. **LWVO** – Held annual meeting at Lake Merritt Hotel and it turned out to be a lovely place to have that kind of event. Nominating Committee did a great job in recruiting new board members. They will use East Bay Express to distribute their Easy Voter Guide insert. Kathleen said they would have focus groups review their English version of EVG to ensure it is accessible. Was invited and will do a voter registration for the Northern California Islamic Cultural Center.

E. **LWVP** - Had great participation in 4th of July parade.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Suzanne Barba, Substitute Secretary