



# League of Women Voters of Alameda

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LWV Alameda has been more than just busy this late summer and early fall. As with most of the local Leagues, we have been planning and setting up our candidate's forums and pros and cons meetings, as well as contacting all the candidates to encourage them to post on Smartvoter.org.

We will be holding three evening candidates forums and one community pro and con session – all on the Thursdays in October and all at our Mastick Senior Center. We have candidates for Council, School Board, Hospital Board and Assembly District 18 to cover, as well as the 11 State and 2 County measures and one local measure.

We have spent quite a bit of time developing our position on the local Measure D, which has to do with changing the way park land can be swapped or sold by the Council. It would delete some language from our City Charter that allows the Council to act, which would mean that all such actions would have to go to a vote of the people. While we are most enthusiastic about protecting our City parks, we had concerns about our stand on representative government, and after long deliberation, we decided to stay neutral on the issue.

Our Initiative and Referendum State Study committee got underway under the leadership of a member who is doing study leadership for the first time, and is proving to be well organized and most capable. For our sized League, we have a pretty large study group – about 8 people.

Our first Friday informal dinners at local restaurants have continued to prove to be popular, and we have two Friday night wine flight fund raisers scheduled for October at Angela's Bistro. We have asked our candidates to join us at the wine flights to give them an opportunity to meet the public in an informal setting. In addition, we have a "Last Chance Before the Election" Mojito Monday scheduled at Angela's on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Both the wine flights and the Mojito Monday are open to the public and are widely advertised. We make about \$400-\$500 on the wine flights and hope to make another \$400 on the Mojito night. The public is invited to the events at Angela's.

Our new communications committee is reworking the web site and has produced its first VOTER.

With three of our active members (the former President, Program VP, and Youth Voter Service person) running for office, we have had to move quickly to fill in for them as they had to leave office and the Board. I am now the President, as the former Admin. V.P. and our former Treasurer, Robby Kiley has agreed to take my place as Admin. V.P. There was a co-Program V.P., who has agreed to take the job on a solo basis.

Berkeley 10/06/12

- As you know, this year we're functioning with a "streamlined" leadership team approach, using a Board comprising just seven members (we really intended eight, but we'll be recruiting the eighth after the election is over). We're finding we're very collegial and all are stroking with their oars, but during this election season we're going especially nutty and we've not been able to do all we would like to do. Nonetheless, we're keeping our noses above water (Nancy Bickel in particular has been an absolute Energizer Bunny) and will survive.
- Our Fall Meeting, held September 27, featured "poster presentations" by four of our committees, with the goal of signing up a few more members on each. Perhaps close to a dozen people signed up, so we thought it was worthwhile. The main event (aside from the wonderful dinner planned by our "League caterer" Rainey Sykes) was a forum featuring the candidates for our three Council districts up for election this year, where there are challengers to the incumbents. We used an "outside" moderator, Veda Florez from Marin, who is on the LWV Bay Area board. Things worked well and we had over 60 people attending, which is from our perspective a very good turnout.
- We will conduct a "Conversation with the League" forum on Tuesday, October 9 at the Albany Public Library conference room, where four of our members will present Pros/Cons on the State and County ballot propositions and measures.
- We are participating in a number of voter registration activities (some in cooperation with the AAUW), and we have members who especially like to hand out our "League Recommends" broadsides at BART and other locations. These are very popular and we're printing a few thousand of them.
- We like the idea of having a "joint" approach to the LWVC Initiative and Referendum Study, and we have a number of members who are joining up with the Alameda County study group headed by Helen Hutchison.
- Within the next few months, we will have a new Website, and will let y'all know when that launches.
- Nancy B. will be attending Saturday's meeting and will let you know what I've forgotten to include here.

## LWVEA REPORT TO ACC FOR OCTOBER 6, 2012 MEETING

August – September 2012

1. Candidate Forums - Spent considerable time schedule candidate forums, arranging partners, venues, and getting League forum policy forms signed by the candidates, and arranging for videotaping forums.

Sponsored the following forums: 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly district, San Leandro City Council, Castro Valley, Hayward, & San Lorenzo School Boards, Alameda Co Board of Supervisors, Dist 2, and BART Directors, Dist 4.

2. Videographer - Sent out and RFP and got two videographers who are local and can meet our needs to tape our pros and cons forum and the candidate forums. All are or will be posted on our Eden You Tube Account and LWVEA website.

Weblink is: <http://lwvea.org/elections.html>

3. Spanish Version of Pros and Cons – Had the script that the Cupertino League did for a TV show, translated into Spanish and are videotaping it today at the San Leandro Library. We will share it with other Leagues if they want it. It should be up on our website in a week.

4. Pro and Con Presentations - We have more requests this year than previously. Interestingly, three sororities have requested forum and several have indicated they would like to have a closer relationship with the League—membership and partnership on specific forums.

We conducted a luncheon community forum with outside speakers for Prop 32 & 32 and the three legal propositions. Had over 85 folks attend much to our surprise.

5. Electronic Timer – Because we have so many forums, we purchased an electronic timer with a green, yellow, & red lights so that speakers can see and hear the warning to wind their speeches down.

6. Voter Registration—Staffed a table at CSUEB, but only registered a few students. Will be going in to more high schools between now and Oct 22.

7. Endorsed a local college tax measure. If we had more money, we would ask Helen Hutchison to do some TV ads for it.

8. New Member Orientation in November - We haven't had a new member orientation for several years so we will invite those who have been members for a while, but have not "experienced" an orientation.

We helped the Cupertino League produce a pro/con video of the initiatives.

We held 10 Candidate Forums. We ranged from 150 people attending the Fremont Mayor and Council members evening (a Friday evening) to there were 3 people present for an interview of Evelyn Li and the moderator reading a statement from Mike Honda at a forum on the Ohlone campus. We are trying to convince our members that their presence at a candidate forum is beneficial. We used the candidate forums to bug candidates to get on Smart Voter.

Using the script from the Cupertino pro/con, we had the script translated into Mandarin and videotaped. It is on our website. We ended up using Easy Voter translated into Farsi. It will be on our website in a few days.

We connected with the Associated Students of Ohlone. On national Voter Registration Day and the next day from 10 to 1 pm we registered over 60 young people. The Associated Students Organization arranged for an Ohlone employee to come to our Sept. Kickoff meeting and tape it. They were going to edit it, play it on the Ohlone TV station and send it off to the State Associated Students. We secured a copy before editing and have it on our website.

We have started our pro/con talks.

We produced a Voter Information Book to go to all ? Voters in Fremont, Newark and Union City. Each candidate gets two pages to do with as he/she wants. It costs them a lot less than a two page mailing on their own.

Our October meeting will feature one of the Sisters of the Holy Family discussing Human Trafficking. This is also extending our network with other organizations in Fremont.

We have invited all our members to attend the BART subway walkthrough on Oct. 26. In Fremont's Central Park.

The speaker at our November meeting will be Alex Briscoe of the Alameda County Health Dept. Exact topic has not been decided.

10/06/12

LWV Oakland

Our September kick-off meeting was on Money and Politics. Local journalist Bob Gammon talked about investigative journalism and web sites that help find out the sources of funds for political campaigns. Helen Hutchison of LWVC talked about Flackcheck and deceptive TV ads. At the September Hot Topics round table discussion we presented Vote with the League – LWVC recommendations on the ballot measures.

Candidate forums are going on pretty much 24/7, with half the City Council, School Board, City Attorney and various special districts running for election. Occasional controversy over candidates and campaigns trying to do their own videotaping. We registered voters at an EID (end of Ramadan) picnic organized by the Islamic Cultural Center and at the first Friday art crawl.

Oakland Easy Voter Guide is out, in English, Spanish and Chinese. This year for the first time it is inserted in the East Bay Express : 20,000 copies distributed all over the city.

## **Piedmont Report for ACC October 6, 2012 meeting**

Since the gala Fourth of July Parade (during which we handed out Voter Reg. forms and Berkeley's Occupy the Voting Booth bumper stickers) --

July Board retreat

Sept. 19 advocacy forum on School Funding: What Prop. 30 means to you. 40-50 attended, great presentation by Damon Smith, Asst. Superintendent for Business Services for Ala. Co. Piedmont Superintendent Connie Hubbard provided local slant. Also info on Prop 38. Really a good program.

Sept. 26 distribution of Pros and Cons to every Piedmont household via Piedmont Post. (Cost \$1300+ for printing, \$450 for distribution.) We also gave 250 Easy Vote Guides to PHS.

Oct. 11 Pro & Con forum on local tax measures (County Zoo and Transportation proposals, plus Measure Y Municipal Services parcel tax). Televised from City Hall, with reruns on KCOM.

Oct. 24 program, speaker Cliff Gardner, criminal defense attorney, make presentation on Prop 34, eliminating the death penalty. This sudden opportunity to have him speak will replace our normal November program.

Voter Registration: Conducted voter registration at Piedmont Harvest Festival. We are staffing up for the next three Saturdays at the Grand Lake Farmers Market and Sundays at Ace Hardware. October 3 Board Meeting at the Ala. Co. Food Bank and we will encourage our volunteers to help register voters at distribution points around the County. We are inviting PHS students to join us at our tables.