



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol. 57 No. 1 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Jan 2014

JOIN US

***Setting the League's
Education & Advocacy Priorities for 2014-2015***

Saturday, January 25, 2014 from 9 am to Noon

**St. Rose Hospital, Sherman Balch Center
27200 Calaroga Avenue, Hayward**

(The Balch Center is the two-story building attached to St. Rose and is off Calaroga)

WHAT WILL WE BE DOING?

We will review the "positions" (the viewpoint on issues) of the National, Bay Area and Local Leagues to determine which to retain or update and which to prioritize for education and advocacy. We can also propose that the LWVUS conduct a study of a specified new topic.



WHY IS YOUR PARTICIPATION IMPORTANT?

We need grassroots opinions on what issues we want to retain and what issues we want to prioritize in 2014-15.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IF I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE POSITIONS?

Information on the National, Bay Area and Local positions is available now on our website, www.LWVEA.org. A summary and survey of the positions will be emailed to you shortly. You may also go to the LWVUS website to view *Impact on Issues* which has more detail on LWVUS positions (see page 5).

WILL IT BE INTERESTING OR WILL I FALL ASLEEP?

It will be interesting. Setting League priorities for the future is one of the most important tasks that local League members can do. We will be discussing issues that will impact you and your community.

The League will provide a continental breakfast. There is no cost, Please RSVP to suzbarba@comcast.net or call Suzanne at 538-9678.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Dr. Jennifer Ong

LWVEA Schedule of Events Not To Be Missed

This issue of the VOTER is filled with issues and updates of the LWVEA Board's continuing work to meet our mission to contribute to improving our government and keeping our communities engaged in decisions that impact their lives. To help meet these goals, we are collaborating with numerous groups on shared goals and directly work with the next generation on decisions that will change the trajectory of our youth's families and livelihood for generations to come.

As you can see with our very demanding schedule on the calendar of events, we are staying on course with meeting our bold directives. Cal State East Bay is coordinating efforts to better educate our future leaders to understand the role of dark money in politics for our tentatively scheduled forum in March with FPPC Chair and recently appointed Commissioner for the Federal Elections Committee, Ann Ravel.

For our February program, the Sierra Club of South Alameda County has collaborated with LWVEA to create an incredible panel of experts on a water issue that has re-emerged in the California discussions recently, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. BDCP involves the construction of the twin tunnels that would divert water to Southern California.

LWVEA Board member, Cossette Sun, was instrumental in building our coordinated efforts with the Castro Valley Library as a co-host for this event.

Also for February, the League of Women Voters Alameda worked directly with LWVEA in identifying the panel speakers for the human trafficking forum addressing both

sexual exploitation as well as labor abuses in trafficking.

Panel participants include Maia Sciupac of the Human Exploitation and Trafficking Program (H.E.A.T.-Watch) for the Alameda County District Attorney's office and Josie Camacho, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Alameda Labor Council, AFL-CIO and founder, Asian Pacific Labor Association (labor trafficking).



Outreach To Our Readers

Our Program Planning Director Del Della-Dora welcomes our membership and community's participation for our January 25th Program Planning meeting.

At this meeting, LWVEA will be educating our members about the priorities of the national League as we align those priorities with the schedule of forums and advocacy work for LWVEA in the coming year. Our schedule of events also includes other issues such as the method of funding the new Hayward Library, upcoming pros and cons on ballot measures, candidate forums and advocacy/education forums on fracking are also included in our collaborative efforts.

As always, the activities that we provide to our membership are only made possible by the direct continuing efforts of our LWVEA Board so please consider serving on our Board. We thank Linda Morine who has been a consistent contributing member to our LWVEA Board meetings.

We meet every third Wednesday of the month at 5:45-7:45 pm at the Eden Area Multi-Service Center in Hayward located on the 3rd floor. **I personally welcome all members and non-members to attend.**

A Personal Note from Jennifer Ong, LWVEA President

Recently, my uncle, at 79 years old, who was a veteran deployed for 2 tours to Vietnam passed away receiving military honors for his service. He was a Filipino recruited from the Philippines in his youth for service in the American military. His unconditional patriotism spoke loudest in his actions- he always bought American cars and proudly supported everything American!

His patriotism ignited my commitment to serving this country any way I could. I have been feeling additionally grateful for our country and its generosity in assisting the Filipinos after the devastating typhoon.

Every member of the LWVEA Board has a story like this that compels them to keep believing in our country's democratic government-- because we owe so much for what we have. Our role is to do all we can to maintain our vision of this ideal democracy.

Thank you again for the men and women in 1920 who created the League of Women Voters, we owe very much for their efforts. I hope each of you had a healthy and happy holiday with your loved ones.

BOARD BRIEFS

Dec. 18, 2013

- **Collaborations** - Reviewed calendar containing many upcoming forums in collaboration with various groups. In February we will co-host a forum on the Bay Delta Twin Tunnels Water Project with the South County Sierra Club. Also in February, we are co-hosting a forum with the LWV Alameda in Human Trafficking. In March, we will co-host a

forum on "Dark Money in Politics" with CSU-East Bay. (More information on all these items in this VOTER)

- **Legislative Interviews** - We will be collaborating with the Fremont, Union City, Newark League to interview legislators that represent both our League areas.

- **State Initiatives** - Board heard a report on some of the initiatives that were being circulated now for signature which could be on the November 2014 ballot. The topics range from Marijuana, Abortion, Bible-related Speech, Increased Oversight of the Timber Industry to Nuclear Power.

- **Funding for New Hayward Library** – Additional community education events are being planned for times when more community members can attend to hear information on the pros and cons of how to fund the construction of a new Hayward main library.

- **Hunger and Homelessness in Hayward Task Force** - After a successful forum in November, the Task Force is continuing to meet to work on short and long-term goals regarding this problem. (See article page 4.)

- **Membership** - Our League has been successful in recruiting new members, but still lags in encouraging present members to renew. Board members will be making calls.

LWVEA Board meetings are open to the public and are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:45 p.m. at the Eden Area Multi-Service Center, Hayward.



Progress Report, Task Force To End Homelessness and Hunger in Hayward

The Task Force on Ending homelessness and hunger is moving quickly into the action stage. It needs all the volunteers it can get in order to make good things happen, so **now** is a good time to join if you want to be part the action.

All you need to do is contact Sara Lamnin at saralamin@sbcglobal.net and/or come to the next full Task Force Meeting. It will be held on Friday, January 31, 9:00-10:30am at **Westminster Hills Outreach Center, 27287 Patrick Avenue, Hayward, CA 94544. (Opposite the Weekes Branch Library)**

In the two meetings the Task Force has held since the November 16 Conference, the following Work Groups have been established. Everyone is not only welcome, but is encouraged to participate and to bring others you believe might be interested in helping.

Increasing the Food Supply (Gleaning, "Food Stamp" enrollment, and other short- and long-term actions to increase the food supply for those who are hungry.) - Meets third Monday of each month, 9:00-10:00 am, Westminster Hills Outreach Center.

Increasing Access to Public Bathrooms and Showers - Next meeting is January 3, 8:00am. For location, contact Marcytimberman@gmail.com

External Communications and Advocacy (Messaging, publicity, education of voters and elected officials, seeking financial support from individuals and agencies, and similar work) - Friday, January 31, 11:00am at Westminster Hills Outreach Center.

Multiservice Center Planning - This is carried out by CAN (Community Action Network) and it also welcomes all who are interested. Tuesday, January 21, 1:30 pm at 22841 High Street, Hayward.

Outdoor Meals Coordination (Identify indoor locations for meal and other services provided outdoors) - Tuesday, January 21, 3pm, 22841 High Street, Hayward.



Housing Access (Identify models of affordable housing and opportunities to connect individuals to permanent housing) - Second Thursdays, 8:15-9:15 am, 22841 High Street, Hayward.

Internal communications (Identification of and outreach to those who are not yet involved in the Task Force and the administrative and electronic support needed to keep those involved, engaged in the work) - Thursday, January 16, 10 am, 22841 High Street, Hayward.

All groups are trying to find out more about what other groups have the same or similar goals so that they can learn about what has been done and is being planned by those groups. They will also examine whether some form of collaboration/ communication might be mutually beneficial in each instance.

Please keep in mind that the Mission Statement of the Task Force is: To identify and eradicate barriers to ending hunger and homelessness in Hayward.

Delmo Della-Dora, VP Programs, LWVEA

PROGRAM PLANNING OVERVIEW

(Background Information for Page 1)



On January 25, we will be reviewing and possibly suggesting a topic for a new LWVUS study. We will also be reviewing the LWV Bay Area and our local

League's positions to recommend if any should be dropped, updated or selected for action and education for the coming year.

LWVUS

The position information can be found on our website <http://www.LWVEA.org>. You can also access the comprehensive booklet called *LWVUS Impact on Issues* to read the summary of the positions, the full text and the history of how each position has been used. The URL for *Impact on Issues* is: <http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues-online-edition>

If you cannot access the information through this VOTER or on our website, you can email suzbarba@comcast.net for an electronic copy of the summary or call Suzanne at 510-538-9678 and she will mail you a copy of the LWVUS position summary.

LWV BAY AREA

The Bay Area League has asked us to review its current positions, action highlights and what we think is "on the horizon for the Bay Area region" and let them know. Those positions are also on the www.LWVEA.org website. Highlights of actions taken by the LWV Bay Area League can also be viewed at www.lwvbayarea.org.

LWVEA

And finally, we will be reviewing our local positions with similar action in mind—are there any we should drop, update, or prioritize for action and education for 2014-2015. Local positions are also on the www.LWVEA.org website.

In the next few days, LWVEA will be sending out a survey on the National positions asking members to rank their top three position choices in each of the four categories. Those categories are: Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. The results will be tallied and used by the Program Planning group as a resource for making the final selections to forward to the LWVUS.

The LWV Bay Area Position topics include: Regional Government, Regional Planning, Environment (Air, Land Use, Water, Solid Waste), Natural Resources – CEQA Mitigation, Hazardous Materials Management, Social Policy (Housing), Transportation (Surface), and Transportation (Airports).

LWVEA

Our local LWVEA positions include: Board and Commissions, Unincorporated Areas, Land Use and Planning, Parks and Recreation, Mental Health Care Services, and Library Services.

Even if you are not one of the lucky members who are able to participate in Program Planning on January 25, reading through these summaries or the full text of positions will make you proud that you belong to an organization that takes action and educates on issues that have an impact on our lives and communities every day.



Bay Area League Day to Explore Open Space

February 1

Register Now!

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area invites you to attend its annual Bay Area League Day forum, this year entitled:

A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space

Topics will include the extent of lands now permanently protected and areas still at risk; the economic value of open lands in terms of agriculture, tourism, and public health; the role of natural areas in offsetting sea level rise; and the importance of linkages between open spaces.

The event will be on Saturday, February 1 in Oakland's MetroCenter Auditorium at 101 Eighth Street. Registration and breakfast begin at 9:30am with the forum to follow from 10am. to 2:30 pm. The cost is \$35 prepaid (\$20 without lunch) or \$40 at the door (\$25 without lunch).

Online registration may be completed by visiting the calendar section of www.lwvbayarea.org.

To **register by mail**, please write a check to the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area and send it to 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

For more details, call (510) 839-1608.

BAY AREA MONITOR

Once again we are urging you to go to the *Bay Area Monitor* site to view the full articles referenced below. The Monitor is put out by the LWV Bay Area League and provides informative and even provocative articles on regional issues. Go to the website and get "educated" on regional topics. You won't regret it.

Leadership Training Wheels – "People have to take control of what they're doing and inspire others. Species are going extinct and we are going to live to experience that," said Jasmine Jolly, a student at Windsor High in Sonoma County."

A Natural Learning Environment – "Because they attract ample crowds, employ knowledgeable staff, and showcase abundant scientific wonders, parks serve as ideal sites for teaching ecological lessons — and not just to youth. For people of all ages, a park visit can make for quite the edifying field trip."

Prioritizing Conservation: Authorities Angle for Funding – "The goal is to retain and enhance the value the region receives from its rural areas, including agriculture and parks. Counties may also apply to have additional areas receive the designation. "

Moving Goods to Market: Streamlining a Complex System - "The call to action is driven, in part, by state and federal laws focused on improving transportation programs and policies to haul freight in cost effective and environmentally friendly ways."

Go to <http://www.bayareamonitor.org> to read the rest of the articles.

LWVEA CALENDAR IN REVIEW

Program Planning

Jan 25 – 9am to noon
(See pages 1 and 5 for details.)

Task Force on Hunger & Homelessness

January 31 – 9 to 10:30 am.
(See page 4 for details.)

Bay Area League Day Explore Open Space

February 1 – 9:30 to 2:30 pm.
(See page 6 for details.)

Bay Delta Conservation Plan Twin Tunnel Project – “Water War”

February 20 (Thursday) 5:30 to 8 pm.
Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley

LWVEA is co-sponsoring this forum with the Sierra Club South County and the Castro Valley Library to educate the public about the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the Twin Tunnel Project.

The forum will have two speakers in support and two speakers in opposition to the current plan for the twin tunnel project.

The moderator is Roberta Bornogovo, Chair of the Water Committee for the California League of Women Voters.

Other panelists include Paul Heliker, Deputy Director, Delta and Statewide Water Management; Jill Duerig, General Manager, Livermore/Amador Valley Zone 7 Water Agency; and Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla representing Restore the Delta.

Questions? Contact Frank Burton at frank.burton.now@gmail.com

What?! Sharks in My Backyard?” Effects of Climate Change in East Bay

Feb. 22 – 2 pm - Castro Valley Library
Mar. 22 – 2 pm - San Lorenzo
Community Center
Apr. 12 – 1 pm. - Hayward Shoreline
Interpretive Center

“The projected sea level rise in this area will be 16 inches by 2050 and 55 inches by 2100. At this level, portions of many East Bay areas, and 80,000 East Bay residents will be directly affected. “ More information at AdaptingtoRisingTides.org

These community discussions are co-sponsored by the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District; Social Justice Committee, Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, Hayward; MoveOn.org; and 350BayArea.org.

The LWVEA agreed to assist with publicizing these community discussions based on an LWVUS position which states, the League supports, “special consideration for the protection of areas of critical environmental concern, *and* natural hazards....” In addition, the position states, “special attention to maintaining and improving the environmental quality of urban communities.”

Questions to Jennifer Koney at KonJ@haywardrec.org

Detecting and Reporting Human Trafficking in Your Neighborhood

Thursday, March 27 from 7 to 9 pm
Alameda Library, 1550 Oak Street

The goal is to educate the public about human trafficking including labor and sexual exploitation and provide resources for reporting abuses.

**SAVE THE DATE, MORE INFO IN THE FEB VOTER . FOR MORE DETAILS ON ALL EVENTS, INCLUDING TIME AND LOCATION GO TO OUR WESITE:
www.LWVEA.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

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:
 League of Women Voters of Eden Area
 Treasurer, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Dues: Regular \$50,
 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.*

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CALENDAR

1	New Year's Day	JANUARY 2014						
15	Board Meeting-5:45	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
25	Program Planning 9am-noon				1	2	3	4
31	Task Force on Hunger and Homelessness 9 to 10:30am.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		26	27	28	29	30	31	

1	Bay Area League Day 9:30 to 2:30 p.m	FEBRUARY 2014						
17	Presidents' Day	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
18	FYI LWV Bay Area Mtg.							1
19	Board Meeting-5:45	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20	Bay Delta Conservation Plan Twin Tunnel Project "Water War" 5:30 to 8pm	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
		23	24	25	26	27	28	

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