



# League of Women Voters Eden Area

# VOTER

Vol. 57 No. 3 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* March 2014

## CANDIDATE FORUMS BEING SCHEDULED

It's the election season, and the LWV believes that candidates should have an opportunity to present their vision and qualifications for running for office and to answer questions from their constituents.

The LWV also believes that constituents become educated voters when they attend these candidate forums and have the opportunity to listen and ask questions if they like.

There will be many races on the June 3, 2014 ballot and the League has selected five of them that are contested and of local interest.

All the dates and venues have not been confirmed as of this date. However, we will update you in the next VOTER, by email and through the media.

Candidate forums will be held for:

- U.S. Representative, 15<sup>th</sup> District
- State Assembly, 20<sup>th</sup> District
- Alameda County Supt. of Schools
- Mayor of Hayward
- Hayward City Council (2 seats)

All candidates are offered free web-space on SmartVoter to help inform constituents. When the filing date is closed for all candidates, voters will be able to access information on SmartVoter about those running for office in their areas and something about the candidate if he or she has taken the opportunity to post information on the SmartVoter website. League member, Nancy Van Huffel is coordinating the league's candidate forums and can be reached at [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com).

## REVIEW OF LOCAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

Every year, each League meets for what is called "program planning" to review League positions for national, state, regional and local.

On January 25, 2014, LWVEA met and the consensus at the meeting was to form a committee to review Land Use, Boards and Commissions, and the Unincorporated Area positions.

To review our local positions, go to our website at [www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org).

On February 6, there was an initial meeting among members who participated in Program Planning to determine how to proceed, recognizing as a whole, we have good positions, but that they may need to be modified and/or updated.

First, however, we wanted to determine whether other League members would be interested in participating on a committee to review all or any of our selected three local positions covering Land Use, Boards and Commissions and the Unincorporated Area. If you missed the survey, please contact Nancy Van Huffel at [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com)

**SURVEY RESULTS:** Sincere thanks to the 42 members who took the time to complete our email survey on local positions. We totally appreciate the 20-24 members who have volunteered to serve on one of the three committees. With a few exceptions, most folks want to meet weekdays, half during the day half at night. We will send meeting times to those who volunteered.



## President's Report *Eden Area Demonstrates Its Priorities*

Hard to believe that it was in 2009 that the League of Women Voters Eden Area successfully welcomed close to 100 attendees to our climate change forum at Chabot College. At the time, our focus was SB 375, its practical applications and a clarification of policies on cap and trade versus the carbon tax. Many of the attendees inquired about future environmentally focused League forums.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, a collaborative forum with our co-sponsors, the Sierra Club and the Castro Valley Library, demonstrated Eden Area's interest in one critical area of our environmental position namely "...water quality standards that adequately protect people and the environment..." The forum was a pros and cons discussion on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan which proposed the creation of tunnels carrying water from the Sacramento River to farms in the Central Valley and urban areas in Southern California and the East and South Bay. This forum drew close to 100 attendees.

Communities in the Eden Area with its diverse composition of cities and unincorporated areas are clearly demonstrating their priorities. LWVEA members completed a survey and participated in Program Planning on January 25<sup>th</sup> overwhelmingly identifying the top 2 issues for the national League to prioritize in its education and advocacy: Campaign Finance and a Citizen's Right to Vote.

Priorities are important in guiding our League's focus locally, regionally and nationally. February was clearly one of the busiest months but our speakers and volunteers along with effective new partnerships have allowed us to keep our focus.

We appreciate our panel speakers from the water tunnel forum: Paul Helliker, Nick Di Croce, Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, Jill Duerig with a special mention to our moderator, Roberta Borgonovo. Our LWVEA team, Del Della-Dora, Sally Morgan, Evelyn Cormier and Rene' Besold partnered with on-site Sierra Club volunteers, Sonia Diermayer, Nancy Okada, Charlotte Allen and the set-up crew.

From the Program Planning Committee led by our Program Chair, Del Della-Dora, I also wanted to thank Nancy Van Huffel, Jewell Spalding, Suzanne Barba, Terry Guillory, Linda Morine and Al Murdoch. Please take every opportunity to volunteer at each of our upcoming events in any small way. Our LWVEA Board is able to accomplish much only through our joint efforts.

*Jennifer Ong*

## **Board Briefs – Feb. 19, 2014**

- **Forums** - Reviewed all upcoming February action and events.
- **Candidate Forums** – Discussed the various candidate forums and agreed to focus on the contested races.
- **Hayward Community Gardens** - Approved assistance with their election on April 27, 2014.
- Program Planning – Reviewed the results of Program Planning meeting for LWVUS, LWV Bay Area, and local positions. Agreement on letter to be sent out to membership asking for them to participate in reviewing three local positions.
- H&H Task Force – Del reported that the Task Force has received funds from Kaiser to plant a new community garden.
- Measure A – Received report that Board of Supervisors plan to put it on the ballot for reauthorization in June.
- Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber – Board approved renewing membership.

*Next meeting, March 19, 2014  
@ 5:45 in Hayward.*

## ENDING HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER IN HAYWARD



The Task Force to End Homelessness and Hunger in Hayward meets

the last Friday of each month at Westminster Hills, 27287 Patrick Ave., Hayward (across from the Weekes Branch Library). The Task Force oversees and coordinates the work of five work groups (“committees”). Their names, functions, and contact person’s names are shown below. Task Force Chair is Sara Lamnin. ([saralamnin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saralamnin@sbcglobal.net))

The LWVEA has officially endorsed and supports the work of the Task Force.

**Increasing the Food Supply** (Delmo Della-Dora, [d3nd@comcast.net](mailto:d3nd@comcast.net)). Identifies current food providers and also finds new sources. Helps people register for “food stamps”, now called California Fresh. It assists in development of community, neighborhood, and home gardens. Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month from 9:00-10:00 AM at Westminster Hills.

**Access to Public Toilets and Showers** ([MarcyTimberman@gmail.com](mailto:MarcyTimberman@gmail.com)). Identifies what’s available now in our area and searches for successful practices carried out in other communities. Meeting dates TBD.

**Communications Internal and External** ([saralamnin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saralamnin@sbcglobal.net)). Examines various approaches for communication with the general public, for those interested in the work of the Task Force, and for communication among committee members, as well as methods of storing information gathered and making it readily accessible to others. Now meets after the meeting of the Task Force on the last Friday of the month, 10:30 AM, at Westminster Hills.

**Multipurpose Center, Assessment Planning, and Outdoor Meals** (Sara Lamnin). This is a function of CAN (Community Action Network). It is developing a business plan that will be used to locate and operate a building to help provide information and a variety of ways for assistance to the homeless and hungry people in Hayward. It is also examining ways to provide meals for those who were being fed outdoor meals previously.

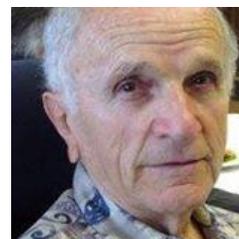
**Housing Access** (Daniele York, [bluenwhitedaisy@gmail.com](mailto:bluenwhitedaisy@gmail.com)). It is examining ways that other communities in the country are finding ways to house the homeless.

**New Developments.** South Hayward Parish has received a small grant to prepare the soil in a plot adjacent to Westminster Hills for a community garden. It will be tended by some of the people who come each week to the Food Pantry of the Parish.

**In addition, the Westminster Hills Church is now being used as a 20 bed facility for nights when the temperature goes down to 36 degrees (and lower) as well as when it rains. Paid help is there during the night to provide monitoring as needed.**

**There is no grant money or other funds currently available for the paid help for the overnight shelter or for developing the community garden. Individual donations are making it possible thus far. South Hayward Parish telephone is 510 432-7703 if you want to know more about how you can donate to this fund to help the homeless.**

*Delmo Della-Dora,  
VP for Programs,  
LWVEA*



## POWER PLANT IN HAYWARD BACK IN THE NEWS

by Rebecca Parr, Daily Review Reporter

*Although the local League did not take action to oppose the siting of the power plant in Hayward, in 2007, several members of the league did take action **as individuals** speaking at public meetings and attending meetings in Sacramento before air quality regulators.*



HAYWARD -- A hotly debated power plant may be violating its pollution limits and needs to fix the problem as soon as possible, air quality regulators say.

Russell City Energy Center's cooling tower is putting out almost 10 times the allowed amount of water droplets that could contain particulate matter, its operator's own tests show, according to a complaint filed by the staff of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

Calpine, which owns Russell City, has been violating its permit since it began operating the power plant in August, the complaint says. The power plant near the San Mateo Bridge was built over the objections of many residents, who called it an eyesore and polluter, but lawsuits to stop its construction were unsuccessful. The 619-megawatt natural-gas facility began operating in August and produces enough energy to power 600,000 homes.

Calpine said Tuesday that its own tests found that water droplets from the tower exceeded the permitted level, but the particulate matter in the droplets is within the allowed level. It blames the cooling

tower emissions on "design or construction defects," according to the air district complaint. The company is requesting temporary relief from enforcement until it can comply with emission limits.

The air district is trying to determine how much particulate matter is in the water droplets coming from the cooling tower. Under Russell City's permit, it was estimated the tower would emit up to 52.6 pounds of particulate matter each day. Calpine's testing showed the water droplets escaping from the tower is almost 10 times higher than the permit limit, "suggesting that the excess particulate matter emissions may be substantial," according to the air district complaint.

Calpine notified area and state regulators when it found the higher droplet rate, a spokesman said. "We are actively working on addressing this issue at Russell City, and we remain committed to operating our facilities within their permitted emission levels," said Brett Kerr.

Even though the tower appears to exceed its allowed limits, total particulates from the plant are still lower than the limit set in its license, said Matthew Layton of the state Energy Commission. Emissions also come from turbines, an emergency generator and other areas, he said. "What it's emitting is a very small amount," he said.

The district's board will take up matter at its **March 13** hearing, which starts at 9 a.m. at 939 Ellis St., San Francisco. Calpine also will be meeting with state Energy Commission staff members, said Christopher Marxen, the agency's compliance office manager. The state agency could fine Calpine if the problem persists or the company is found negligent, but the focus is on fixing the problem, he said. "We plan to work with the owners' representatives to get them back into compliance," he said.

## WELCOME TO TWO OF LWVEA'S NEWEST MEMBERS



**Deborah Rusk Cox** and her husband moved to the Bay Area in 1979. She strongly believes that it is important to be involved and engaged in all aspects of her local community. She has been

driven to participate in her community as fully as possible, most often in a leadership role.

Some of her honors and activities include:

- Recognized by Assemblymember Rob Bonta as Woman of the Year for her work on the San Leandro Education Foundation.
- Served as President of the Estudillo Homeowner's Association
- Member and VP of the Board of Directors for the California Conservatory Theatre
- Served on the PTA Board as President at Roosevelt Elementary and Bancroft Middle School.
- Completed the San Leandro Chamber's Leadership Program and served on their Steering Committee for the next seven years.
- Served as chair on three campaigns for the San Leandro USD: Measure A Parcel, Measure B \$109 million Bond and Measure L Parcel Tax
- Appointed to the San Leandro Human Services Commission in 2006, currently serving as Chair, and was also appointed to the SLUSD Citizens Bond Oversight Committee in 2007. Served as Chair of that committee since its inception.
- In 2008 she formed the San Leandro Education Foundation with two others. She serves as the President of the Board of Directors and during the past year the SLEF donated over \$155,000 for programs and services to the public schools.

- Currently works part-time as a Field Rep for State Assemblymember Bill Quirk.

“Joining the League of Women Voters is a natural transition for me to continue to be involved in and stay informed about our local candidates and issues. I look forward to spending time with all of the members and know that I will learn and grow through my participation with this remarkable group of people.”

**Melody Appleton** has lived in Castro Valley since 1995. A Texas native, she has also lived in southern California, Florida, Kansas, but she enjoys northern California above all. Melody works in product marketing at Adobe Systems in San Jose.



She has a Bachelor of Arts degree and is currently earning her MBA from the University of California, Davis. Melody is married to Christopher Appleton, a civil trial attorney with his own practice in Castro Valley. They have two grown children who graduated from Castro Valley High School.

Melody is on the board of directors for the Castro Valley Sanitary District. Time permitting, she provides pro bono marketing consulting for non-profits that she is passionate about. One such non-profit is FESCO, the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition in Hayward. She is a member of the Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church in Hayward.

Melody joined the League to support its efforts to educate voters and encourage greater civic involvement. She looks forward to spending time with all of the members. “I know that I will learn and grow through my participation with this amazing group of people.”

## LWV MAKING HISTORY IN WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

As a champion of women's suffrage and a key player in civic affairs, the League is calling on the public to recognize *Women's History Month*, an annual commemoration in March to remember the achievements of women in the past and celebrate the successes of women today.



The LWV Eden Area is proud to honor the work of generations of women this month. We are particularly grateful for the incredible work women in the Eden Area have done to improve our community, educate voters, and make our democracy work for us all. Today's League draws on the strength of all of our members—a group that includes a diversity of volunteers representing different genders, ages and ethnicities.

League members work year-round to assist all voters by providing fact-based information about important community issues, and improving the quality of life in the Eden Area. The League has recently conducted or co-sponsored forums on the "Water Wars" and the building of the Twin Tunnels, Rising Sea Level Impact on Communities, and Human Trafficking—a New Form of Slavery. In May, the League will be conducting a forum on Dark Money in Politics.

In April and May, the League will be conducting candidate forums and making Pro and Con presentations on the ballot propositions.

The League is the place where active women and men community leaders are bringing about positive change. Celebrate Women's History Month and join

the League and get involved in the hands-on work to strengthen our community.

## MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK— TAKE ACTION - Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

The IRS has proposed very significant changes in the regulations that govern what kind of political activity and how much of that activity a 501(c)(4) organization can carry out. This step is our best chance to rein in the secret "dark money" that has been polluting our elections since the Supreme Court's terrible decision in *Citizens United*. At the same time, the current proposal would undermine the League's ability to conduct truly nonpartisan voter service activities across the country.

The national League has submitted comments to the IRS on the proposal but we need your help! Please contact the IRS and urge them to keep pushing to stop the dark money unleashed by *Citizens United* and to make sure that Leagues can continue our truly nonpartisan voter service work.

Reforming IRS regulations is our single best opportunity to respond to *Citizens United*, which allowed political operatives, left and right, to raise and spend unlimited amounts of secret money in candidate elections.

By stopping 501(c)(4) organizations from spending on "candidate-related political activity," the IRS can stop the abuse in its tracks. For 94 years the League has played a unique role in our elections by providing truly nonpartisan voter services and information to voters across the country. Unfortunately, the IRS proposal as it stands would jeopardize our work because it does not provide any exception for truly nonpartisan voter service activities like those carried out by the League. This is a terrible mistake, both for voters and for our democracy.  
(continued next page)

**Protect the League's voter service work and stop dark money from polluting our elections: Submit your comments to the IRS today.**

Submitting your comment to the IRS is easy. Here are instructions and a sample message: 1. [Click this link to be taken to the page for the IRS Regulation.](#) 2. Copy and paste the following message to the IRS into the comment box. *The IRS must stop the "dark money" polluting our elections. Don't back off. We have seen too much abuse by fly-by-night 501(c)(4) organizations and it is harming our democracy. We need real transparency and tough rules to stop "candidate-related political activity" by these organizations. At the same time, the current IRS proposal must be changed to make sure that truly nonpartisan voter service activities by the League of Women Voters can continue. The existing standards currently applied to 501(c)(3) organizations governing nonpartisan election activities should also be applied to (c)(4) organizations.*

**REVIEW & ACTION TAKEN ON LWV BAY AREA POSITIONS The following recommendations (excerpts) were sent to LWV Bay Area in February 2014)**

On Jan. 25, 2014, LWVEA held its Program Planning meeting, during which we reviewed LWV Bay Area positions. In identifying priorities for the Bay Area League, we agree with LWVBA's suggestion that water certainly is a priority. However, we recommend that instead of "regional planning" on climate change issues as a priority, our consensus was that "climate change" needs to be the priority and mitigating climate change, such as reduction of harmful emissions. We concluded that "regional planning" was too narrow, could be subject to focusing on procedure rather than needed substance and that the effectiveness of regional planning has been questionable depending upon the area. Instead, we recommend that "climate change" be a

priority, which is a broader term, like "water." We also recommend that all of the LWVBA positions last updated in 2000 be reviewed and updated as necessary. Moreover, although we have positions on the environment and natural resources/CEQA mitigation, we have no LWVBA positions on energy and the inter-relatedness of energy with the environment. We also suggest modifications of the Environmental position on air, land use, water and solid waste. For example, we have "Clean air through regulation of motor vehicle emissions," but nothing on stationary sources, such as industrial power plants, which are the largest contributors to pollution and are subject to our local and state land use laws.

**MEASURE AA (Healthcare Services) WILL BE ON THE BALLOT JUNE3, 2014**

A reauthorization of Measure A (half-cent sales tax for healthcare services) will appear on the June 3, 2014 ballot. This action was approved by resolution by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on February 11.

The amount of the tax (half-cent) will remain the same. The sunset date will be extended from 2019 to 2034 with annual fiscal oversight/review. The Measure will appear as Measure AA.

The purpose of the measure is stated as follows: ".....to provide trauma and emergency medical services and primary, preventative healthcare for local residents including indigent, low-income and uninsured children, families and seniors, to prevent closure of county clinics and hospitals and to recruit/retain highly qualified nurses and healthcare professionals."

A League prepared "pros and cons" of the measure will be in next month's voter, as will similar information on Measure B, a sales tax for transportation which will appear on the November 2014 ballot.

**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

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**Dues:** Regular \$50,  
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*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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[csun12@comcast.net](mailto:csun12@comcast.net)

Linda Slater—Secretary  
[slater@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slater@sbcglobal.net)

Victoria Del Rio—Smart Voter Coordinator  
[vcdelrio@yahoo.com](mailto:vcdelrio@yahoo.com)

**CALENDAR**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
March 13	6:30pm	Eden Area Livability Initiative (EALI) Topic: Governance CV Library
March 18	6 to 8pm	Com. Assoc. Palomares Hills Ballot Counting; Contact Suzanne 510.538.9648
March 19	5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting Eden Area Multi-Service Center Hayward
March 22	2:00pm	San Lorenzo Community Center, 377 Paseo Grande, SLZ Topic: Rising Sea Level
April 12	1:00pm	Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center 510-670-7270 Topic: Rising Sea Level
April 15	6:30pm	Candidate Forum: 15 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District—Ellen Corbett & Eric Swalwell Castro Valley Library

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events,  
 email: [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) or check out the calendar  
[www.LWVEA.org](http://www.LWVEA.org)**