



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 58 No 2 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* February 2016

MENTAL HEALTH AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LAURA’S LAW HOW WILL IT HELP THOSE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS?



Date: March 18, 2016 (Friday)
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Place: San Lorenzo Library
395 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo

Mental Illness has become a crisis across our country. It has become an overwhelming problem for local communities as well. Recently, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved implementing Laura’s Law as a pilot program. If it is successful, they will expand the program to treat more seriously ill patients.

The League has invited a panel of “experts” to discuss this important issue and how it impacts our communities.

Wilma Chan, Alameda County Supervisor
Diane Urban, Hayward Police Chief
Rebecca Gebhart, Acting Director,
Alameda County Health Care Services Agency
Gail Steele, Former Alameda County Supervisor

11:30 – Registration Noon – Luncheon 12:30 – Program Speakers

No charge for those who want to come to the program without lunch, but please RSVP
Deadline for RSPVs and Luncheon Checks—Monday, March 14

Name: _____ Lunch (\$12) Yes ___ No ___
Guest: _____ Lunch (\$12) Yes ___ No ___
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Checks may be made out to: LWVEA and mailed to Treasurer, LWVEA, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546. If you would like to pay by Pay Pal, send request to lwvea@aol.com.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Nancy Van Huffel

Kudos to our Program Planning Team led by Aiwa Zelinsky for a wonderful Forum to discuss National, Bay Area, and local positions of the League of Women Voters.



Over 25% of our members participated and we had informative presentations by Suzanne Barba, Minane Jameson, Penny Peck, Norman Fobert, Marian Handa, and Jewell Spalding. Many thanks to our speakers and the committee members.

Member Input Needed

Jewell Spalding, Chair of the Local Position Committee is in the process of updating the League of Women Voters of the Eden Area's Local Positions on Government and Social Policy.

There are several different areas under LWVEA's Government Positions: Boards and Commissions, Unincorporated Areas of Policies, Land Use and Planning, Parks and Recreation. Social Policy covers Mental Health Care and Library Services. As we just updated Library Services this year, we will not be revisiting that topic. Please email her if you are interested in attending any of these meetings. jewellspalding@mac.com

Voter Services Volunteers Needed

Joanne Young, is asking for volunteers to work 2 hours at a BART station to register voters these next few months. We also need folks to help with our Youth Registration High School Program. Contact us if you can spare some time: jysunrunner@gmail.com

BOARD BRIEFS 1-25-16

- **Voter Registration** – Joanne Young reviewed schedule for upcoming voter registration at BART on Feb. 24.
- **Candidate Forums** - Reviewed the two candidate forums we will conduct and two pro & con issue forums (see page 3 for dates).
- **Presidential and VP Debate Watch** – CV Library has invited our League to moderate a discussion following screening of the presidential and VP debates (see page 3 for dates)
- **Program Team** – Discussed upcoming forums on Mental Health, March 11 or 18. Awaiting confirmation on which date from Supervisor Chan.
- **Annual Meeting** - Assemblyman Rob Bonta has accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker at our Annual Meeting on June 18 (Sat.)
- **Membership** – We have 131 members, but 17 still unpaid for this fiscal year. Calls will be made.
- **Local Positions** - Jewell will set a meeting to convene a committee to review and update local positions. A sign up sheet will be available at Program Planning meeting.
- **Candidate Ballot Statements** - A request will be made to County League to review and follow up with local concern about the unfairness of the costs charged candidates to have their statement published with ballot.
- **Community Assoc. of Palomares Hills** - The CAPH group has asked us to count ballots for their Board of Director Elections on March 15 at 7 p.m.
- **Legislative Interviews** - A team of three members is needed to interview our local representatives in February.

LWVEA Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 4th Monday at 5:45 p.m. Contact LWVEA@aol.com for agenda.

IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 24 (Wed) – Voter Registration
at BART 4:30 to 6:30 pm

Feb 28 (Sun) afternoon – Wine
Tasting and League Presentation for
New and not so new members at
Doc's Wine Shop in Hayward.

Feb. 29 (Mon) – Pro and Con Forum
sponsored by Supvr. Nate Miley on
"Should the Castro Valley Municipal
Advisory Council (MAC) members be
elected or remain appointed?
Castro Valley Library 6:30 pm to
8:30 pm

Mar. 18 – League Forum on Mental
Health and Laura's Law featuring
outstanding panel of experts. (See
page 1)

Mar, 30 – Candidate Forum for
Hayward City Council Election, 6:30
pm to 8:30 pm, Hayward City Hall.

April 13 – District 4 Board of
Supervisors Candidate Forum,
Castro Valley Library, and 6:30 pm
to 8:30 p.m.

April 20 - Pro & Con Forum on
Changing the date of Hayward City
Council elections from June to
November AND Hayward Utility
User's Tax - 6:30 pm to 7:30 p.m.,
Hayward City Hall.



September – October

The League has also been invited to moderate discussions after the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidate forums which will be held at the Castro Valley and San Lorenzo Libraries: Sept. 26, Oct. 4, Oct. 9 and Oct. 10. More information on these events will be in a future VOTER and on our website: www.LWVEA.org.

HERE'S ANOTHER DATE AND EVENT TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

March 8 at 12 noon - "Daughters of Freedom Summer" with Freddy Davis and Carol Ruth Silver - Chabot College Event Center

Ms Davis is the President of the Hayward-South County NAACP; as a teenager growing up in Alabama, she was deeply affected by the activism of Dr. Martin Luther King and became involved in the Movement. Ms. Silver was a college student in New York and participated in the Freedom Riders mobilization. She was arrested and jailed in the infamous Parchman Prison. They will each speak of their experiences as young people who heard the calling of social justice activism, and have sustained their involvement these many decades. Silver's book *Diary of a Freedom Rider* will be available.

WELCOME NEW LWVEA MEMBERS!

**Dolly Adams
Parvin Ahmadi
Ellen Corbett
Stan Dobbs
Deirde Fennessy
Pamela Fobért
Rick Hatcher
Ronald Moore
Mark Salinas
Lety Salinas
Elizabeth Sanchez
Ursula Seifert
Helen Sowers
Linda Tangren
Marvin Tangren**

Please join us for a fun afternoon of wine tasting and getting to know one another, on Sunday afternoon, February 28th, from 1:00-3:00. We did this last year and found that both new and continuing members enjoyed themselves, and even discovered some good, affordable wines.

**Sunday, February 28
1:00-3:00pm
Doc's Wine Shop
22570 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward**

Doc's Wine Shop is in Hayward and there is ample parking on B Street and Foothill Blvd. as well as across Foothill, in the Cinema parking garage or behind Buffalo Bill's.



Darren Guillaume, owner of Doc's and friend to the League, will pour 3-5 wines, provide palate refreshers, and talk about the wines he will choose to share. There is no cost, and Darren doesn't "push" his wines, though he will sell them to you if you like. We do ask that you RSVP by February 25th as the shop can only hold 25-30 people comfortably.

Spouses and continuing members are invited too - just be sure you include them in your RSVP. Reservations can be made by emailing Gail Lundholm at: gala05@peoplepc.com with your name, phone number and email address as well as the names of the people coming with you. New members, then continuing members and spouses get preference.

Hope to see you there, Gail
RSVP to: gala05@peoplepc.com
by Thursday, February 25



SUMMARY OF LWVEA PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

On January 23, the LWVEA held its Program Planning meeting with a focus on the LWVUS positions to recommend for Education and Emphasis in 2016-17.

Suzanne Barba explained how the Program Planning (PP) procedure was different from previous PP meetings. This year, the national League requested that local leagues let them know if they agreed that they should continue their work on Voter Rights, Campaign Finance Reform and Redistricting.

Our local league agreed that hearing presentations on eight of the LWVUS positions would be an excellent as an educational exercise. Each presenter spoke on two positions in each of the four categories.

Natural Resources, was presented by **Minane Jameson**. She described the LWVUS positions on **Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**, and **Air Quality**. Audience members raised concerns that:

- the current laws are not being enforced
- our local league should be more active on Community Choice Aggregate CCA (energy) which is being considered by Alameda County. *A CCA system would allow the county to establish a separate energy system that the public could choose instead of buying energy from PG&E.*

Social Policy, presented by **Penny Peck** – Penny described the LWVUS positions on **Gun Control**, and **Immigration**. The Gun Control policy has not been revised since 1998, so we may want to suggest it is time for it to be revised. Audience members asked about:

- the actual definition of Assault Weapons – what does that entail?

- importance of mental health sufferers and guns – should this be added to the position?
- what can local residents do to advocate for more gun safety laws?
- the need for a Local or County position regarding undocumented immigrants who are unaccompanied minors, since local agencies are having to address their needs

International Relations, presented by **Norm Fobert** – Norm described the LWVUS positions on **Trade**, and **U.S. Relations and Developing Countries**.

Audience members were concerned about:

- developing countries position has not been revised since 1986
- some trade agreements are actually “power grabs” by large corporations
- the phrase “promotes legitimate U.S. interests” is too vague

Government – Making Democracy Work, presented by **Marian Handa** – Marian described the LWVUS positions on government which included concerns about **voter suppression, campaign finance, redistricting**, and superpacs.

Audience members suggested:

- adult voter education programs to increase interest in voting (and registering to vote) – forums, debate hosting programs, and other events that will help motivate people to vote
- expansion of our high school voter registration program to include private schools in our area, and to have more events at Chabot College and Cal State East Bay
- advocate for the Denver, Colorado voting procedures which helped increase voter turnout (voting two weeks before the election, voting anywhere and not just at your local precinct, etc.)

(continued next page) ►

In addition to reviewing LWVUS, our PP also included a review of Bay Area Positions and Local Positions.

Bay Area Positions, presented by **Suzanne Barba** – Suzanne described some of the positions and action taken by the Bay Area League. The audience was surveyed, and their top two areas of interest that they would like the Bay Area League to continue to focus on are **Transportation** and **Local Climate Action**.

Local Positions, presented by **Jewell Spalding** – Jewell described the new committee being formed which will look at many of our local positions, and see which need revising. She passed around a clipboard, encouraging people to sign up for this committee. Some possible updates to local positions could include:

- adding families and consumer interests to some positions, such as the Mental Health Care Services policy
- considerations for the Land Use and Planning and Parks and Recreation positions, and how they often overlap
- The Eden Area has a large population living in unincorporated areas, so the committee may want to look at this position and revise the portions discussing MACs as well as the governance aspect of our Unincorporated/Incorporated policy.

This summary was prepared by Penny Peck and René Besold.

HERE'S HOW THE LWVUS IS WORKING FOR US

As you know, half of the dues we collect locally goes to LWVUS. The other half goes to the state league.



We thought you might like to know how LWVUS is using your dues. In the area of voter protection:

- delayed or defeated over 400 state laws throughout the country aimed at suppressing the vote;
- Participated in 10 lawsuits involving voting rights;
- Sent 60,457 messages to Congress regarding the Voting Rights Act Amendment;
- Sent 27,705 messages to the FEC/IRS regarding regulations restricting money in politics.

While direct advocacy is critical to LWVUS core democracy issues, the work the League does every year in the area of voter service constitutes the front line of voter protection especially since the US Supreme Court's latest decisions.

- Registered well over 75,000 new voters in hundreds of communities;
- Successfully focused registration activities at high-yield venues such as naturalization ceremonies and high schools;
- Held over 650 candidate forums;
- Provided nearly 2 million people with comprehensive election information.

COMMUNITY CHOICE ELECTRICITY PROGRAM

Alameda County started a process in 2014 to determine whether to undertake a Community Choice electricity program which would set up local control and increased green power generation, in competition with PG&E. A Steering Committee composed of one representative from each city, one of the County Supervisors, and representatives of the public from each of the County Supervisorial Districts has been appointed and functioning for several months. Here's a timeline for the next several months of the program:

First quarter, 2016:

- Technical study is underway by contractor engaged by Alameda County, to determine if a Community Choice power program is economically feasible
- County is drafting the document which will create a new governmental entity to administer the program, assuming it is feasible. The generic name for this kind of entity is a "Joint Powers Authority" or JPA. In Alameda County, the name of this entity will be "East Bay Clean Power" or EBCE
- County begins to brief staff of Alameda County cities on what our Community Choice power program will look like
- County is drafting a model ordinance which each city will adopt if it decides to join the program.

Second Quarter, 2016:

- Technical feasibility study to be finalized and released; remaining timeline assumes a positive report
- County to hire marketing firm and begin public education
- ~June, Board of Supervisors meeting: Present feasibility study report and other documents which have been developed.



Discussion, and, hopefully, decision to proceed.

Third Quarter, 2016:

- Set deadline for cities to join the program; ~ Sept 30, 2016.
- Ramp up public education campaign
- Flesh out plans for going live with the program

Fourth Quarter, 2016

- First meeting of Board of Directors of East Bay Community Energy
- Submit Implementation Plan to California Public Utilities Commission
- Hire CEO and key staff
- Continue public education campaign

First Quarter, 2017:

- EBCE Board finalizes initial rates
- Send initial customer Enrollment Notices
- Continue to flesh out staff
- Continue public education campaign
- Complete regulatory requirements

Meetings of the County Steering Committee are open to the public, and occur on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Castro Valley Public Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave., which is two blocks from Castro Valley BART. [Next meeting February 3.](#)

Many aspects of the Alameda County Community Choice power program are documented on this website: <http://acgov.org/cda/planning/cca/index.htm>

*Frank Burton, Member, Eden Area LWV
Member, Alameda County Community Choice
Steering Committee*

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.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Eden Area League of Women Voters 2015-2016

Nancy Van Huffel –President
lwvea@aol.com

Penny Peck—Secretary
pikly@aol.com

Norm Forbert—Treasurer
Fobert8@aol.com

Rene’ Besold, Board Assistant
rbesold@sbcglobal.net

Suzanne Barba—VOTER Editor
suzbarba@comcast.net

Evelyn Cormier—Nominating Team Chair
evcormier@comcast.net

Cimberly Tamura –Outreach Team
Cengtam@gmail.com

Marian Handa—Youth Registration Chair
marian@roble.com

Gail Lundholm, Membership Team Chair
gala05@peoplepc.com

Jewell Spalding—Local position Team Chair
jewellspalding@mac.com

Cossette Sun—Holiday/Fundraising Team
csun12@comcast.net

Joanne Young – Voter Services Team Chair
jysunrunner@gmail.com

Aiwa Zelinsky, Program Team Chair
aiyz@comcast.net

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
Feb. 22 (Mon) 5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	HAHS Hayward (see page 2)
Feb. 24 (Wed) 4:30- 6:30 pm	Voter Registration at BART	BART
Feb 28 (Sun) 1-3pm	Wine Tasting (see page 4)	Doc’s Wine Shop Hayward
Feb. 29 (Mon) 6:30-8:30 pm	Pro & Con Forum re CV MAC should be elected or appointed.	CV Library
Mar. 18 (Fri) 11:30an-1:30pm	Mental Health Forum (see page 1)	San Lorenzo Library
Mar. 28 (Mon) 5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	HAHS Hayward
Mar. 30 (Wed) 6:30-8:30pm	Candidate Forum Hayward City Council	Hayward City Hall
Apr, 13 6:30-8:30p.m.	Candidate Forum District 4 Board of Supervisors	CV Library

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events, email:
lwvea@aol.com or check out www.LWVEA.org**