



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDEN AREA**

**V O T E R**

*Vol. 50 No. 6 Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation*

*October, 2007*

**You are Invited to Attend a Luncheon Forum**

## **Immigration: Facts and Myths**

**A discussion of the impact of immigration on  
individuals, businesses, the economy and the nation.**

**Friday, October 26 -- Noon to 2:30 p.m.**

**San Leandro Library – Estudillo-Karp Room  
300 Estudillo Avenue San Leandro**

**Panel of Experts include:**

- **Melissa Michelson, Professor of Political Science  
CSU Hayward**
- **Jonathan Wong, Immigration, Nationality & Employment Attorney**
  - **Yolanda Baldovinos, Interim Director,  
Alameda County Social Services**
  - **Johnson Lazaro, Immigration Attorney**

**Panel presentations to be followed by Q & A from the public**

**The Luncheon cost is \$10.**

**Forum Program without lunch is free to attendees at 12:30 p.m.**

**Make \$10 check payable to LWVEA and mail to Treasurer, LWVEA, P. O. Box  
2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546. Those who will pay at the door or do not wish to  
have lunch, please RSVP to Trish Taylor—510-886-1711 or email to  
Taylorfm@sbcglobal.net**

**Hosted by League of Women Voters Eden Area  
in cooperation with**

**The American Association of University Women – Hayward/Castro Valley Branch**

## CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On September 14, several League members and I attended a breakfast hosted by AC Transit's Board of Trustees and officials for an informative presentation on AC Transit's accomplishments to provide public transportation throughout this County that included routes between major public venues. There was a lively discussion regarding ridership, bus size and a presentation on new routes in areas that connect to BART.

Thanks to Winnie, Marian, and Trish for planning and hosting the annual New Member Orientation, "Know Your League" that was held at Winnie's home. This year, it was held as a Garden Party that included Genie Lester and Leona Nichandros, members of the Hayward Arts Council, who presented interesting talks on the influence of government on art.

I explained how the League positions are developed and used for advocacy. New members were present and asked questions about our activities. Thanks to all who participated to make this a worthwhile event and in particular, Trish for presenting the League's need for volunteers. Winnie your home is beautiful and a great place for gatherings.

There are less than one hundred days before the New Year. Will we have a list of accomplishments or a tattered list of intents on our perpetual "to do" list? Will we say that we accomplished much at the end of this year?

We will have much to do next year! Depending on where you reside, two and even three major elections are facing us. What does that mean to us as League members? There is a definite need for volunteers in registering voters, presenting the Pros and Cons and conducting candidate forums.

Currently, a most important task is to verify that we have affidavits (voter registration forms) in locations within our LWVEA boundaries. If you are able to assist us in this very important task, please call so that we can assign you locations to check out.

Let's make a positive difference now!

*Angelina Reyes*

## BOARD BRIEFS September 15, 2007 Meeting

- Reviewed items from Goal Setting meeting.
- Approved by consensus, coordinating with AAUW on future events such as the Immigration Forum, voter registration, and the Observer Corps.
- Accepted the resignation of Board Secretary Maria Palmeri and thanked her for her excellent service to the League.
- Reviewed a report that showed that there are still 50 members who have not renewed and discussed a plan for contacting them.
- Discussed openings on the Board and general recruitment proposals including updating the membership brochure.
- Received a report from Trish Taylor regarding working with Chabot College on their Student Service Learning Program.
- Reviewed plans for the LWVEA Meet Your League Garden Party to be held at Winnie Thompson's home on September 15 from 3 to 5 p.m.
- Received an update on the progress of the LWVUS Immigration Study group that is meeting monthly and has planned a luncheon forum on Oct. 26.

**Next Board meeting is Wednesday, October 10 at 5 p.m. and is open to the public.**

## **LWVEA SUPPORTS “PUBLIC’S RIGHT TO KNOW” REGARDING ENERGY PLANT IN HAYWARD**

*(The following is an excerpt from a letter recently sent to the chair of the California Energy Commission regarding the siting of the Russell City Energy Center and Eastshore Energy Center in Hayward.)*

Dear Mr. Kramer, Madame Chair and Members of the CEC:

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of the public in government and works to increase the understanding of the public concerning major public policy issues.

We base our education and/or advocacy on our positions, which are developed after careful study and consideration and approved by consensus.

With regard to the current issue of siting one and possibly two power plants in Hayward, we draw on the following League positions:

**League Positions: PUBLIC’S RIGHT TO KNOW, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT, AND OPEN GOVERNMENT PROCEEDINGS**

We believe, after a review of the record concerning the matter of siting one or two power plants in Hayward, that the matter has not received adequate public input considering its regional impact.

We note that neither the Alameda County Board of Supervisors nor Alameda County Planning Commission has held public hearings on the matter even though the public health of residents in the County’s surrounding areas will be impacted.

We note that neither the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council nor the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association were notified of this important issue even though they share a boundary with Hayward and therefore, the pollution as well. Such notice to these organizations would then have alerted the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview and Hillcrest Knolls, which also are impacted by this pollution.

The League is not opposed to power plants as we recognize the need for additional energy to meet the needs of a growing population and growing economy. However, we do believe that there should be review by the public and more public input from the region that will be impacted by such a large fourteen-story plant involving 600 megawatts and thermal plumes.

Therefore, we urge the CEC to postpone its final decision on the Russell City Energy Center and the Eastshore Energy Center until Alameda County agencies and the public in those areas surrounding Hayward have had a chance to study the projects and be given an opportunity to voice their opinion and contribute to this process meaningfully.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Barba, Past President  
League of Women Eden Area

cc:  
Senator Ellen Corbett  
Assemblymember Mary Hayashi  
Hayward Mayor and City Council  
Alameda County Board of Supervisors  
Board of Directors, San Lorenzo Village Homes Association  
Members, Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council

## HEALTH CARE SYSTEM REFORM HIGH ON LEAGUE'S AGENDA

*(The LWVC supports SB840 a Single-Payer Health Care System Plan. The following is reprinted from OneCareNow an organization that is campaigning throughout the state for SB840)*

Governor Schwarzenegger previously announced he'd call for a Special Session of the Legislature to hammer out a "deal" to finance health insurance plan his way: via a so-called individual mandate (and a patchwork of other funding gimmicks). Of course, no one knows what that deal will be.

In fact, there is no guarantee that there will be any health care plan this fall except SB 840 which goes to the 2008 session.

AB 8 or a new version could fail flat out, it could end up as a ballot measure or it could be stopped cold by the courts. But the insurance corporations, lead by AARP, are pushing hard for any plan that keeps them in business, preserving their private insurance profits. They seem to think that our movement for the gold standard SB 840 plan will be stopped - or averted - with a fake substitute.

**So what's next for the campaign for SB 840?** We will continue Year Two of the [OneCareNow](#) 365 campaign to BUILD grassroots awareness of the ONE BILL THAT WILL WORK, SB 840.

We will generate commitments for SB 840 in the way of endorsements from 365 city councils, 365 school boards, 3650 churches, 3650 businesses, 3650 service organizations, etc.

We will introduce new strategies to WIN a 2/3rd's "super majority" in the legislature to pass and veto-proof SB 840 in 2008.

We will continue to ATTRACT more passionate supporters and donors, like the millions of supporters that helped

DOUBLE single payer awareness in California in just the past six months (according to a recent Field Poll).

We will continue to EXPAND the coalition that took us so far this past year. The great news with this AB 8 fight, like the "SiCKO" campaign, and the last six months of the 365 City Campaign, we've galvanized personal relationships with many organizations to give this movement enduring strength.

Our core group of colleagues are: the League of Women Voters of California, The California School Employees Association, the California Nurses Association, the California Physicians' Alliance, the California Council of Churches/Church IMPACT, the California Alliance for Retired Americans, the Consumer Federation of California, the California Federation of Teachers, the California Teachers Association, and the California Retired Teachers Association.

And we will keep you at the cutting edge of real health care reform, with updates and events in your area in the next 12 months and hope that you become actively engaged in California's, and the nation's, most important social movement.



*According to public opinion surveys, health care is currently the top domestic concern for Americans. There are many reasons for this concern, but one of the most important is the relentless growth in the number of people without health coverage.*

*In California, 40.5 percent of the population, 12,987,000 people, were uninsured for at least one month in 2006-2007.*

## ELECTION UPDATE

The new early presidential primary date, February 5, 2008, shifted the League's schedule for review of ballot measures and preparation of the Action Guide. The LWVC Board will review the ballot measures at its September meeting and will provide the results of our deliberations in the October LWVC Leaders UPDATE.

The following are initiatives that have qualified for the February 2008 ballot so far:

- **Transportation Funding** – prohibits retention of funds earmarked for the Transportation Investment Fund by the General Fund after 7-1-08, and requires repayment of prior borrowings for other non-transportation purposes
- **Community Colleges** - Establishes a system of independent public community college districts and Board of Governors. Generally, requires minimum levels of state funding for school districts and community college districts. Allocates 10.46 percent of current Proposition 98 school funding maintenance factor to community colleges.
- **Limits on Legislators Terms in Office**  
Reduces the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years. Allows a person to serve a total of 12 years either in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of both. Provides a transition period to allow current members to serve a total of 12 consecutive years in the house in which they are currently serving, regardless of any prior service in another house.

A few legislative constitutional amendments are still pending and could be placed on the February ballot. The High Speed Rail Bond has been postponed until November 2008. Prison bonds are to be issued as lease-revenue bonds and do not need to go on the ballot.

The governor has proposed water bonds but these did not get out of their first committee,

*Linda Craig, LWVC Legislation/Advocacy Director*

**Here is a rundown of elections affecting the Eden Area in 2008:**

- **February: President Primary and state propositions.**
- **June: State Primary and federal legislative offices, including State Senate and State Assembly**
- **Alameda County Supervisorial District 4, seat now held by Nate Miley**
- **Alameda County Board of Education District 5, seat now held by Fred Sims**
- **Hayward City Council**
- **San Leandro City Council nom.**
- **November: State and Federal legislative offices**
- **San Leandro City Council runoff**
- **Chabot-Las Positas Community College District**
- **Castro Valley School District**
- **Hayward School District**
- **San Leandro School District**
- **San Lorenzo School District**
- **AC Transit District**
- **BART**
- **Castro Valley Sanitary District**
- **East Bay Municipal Utility District**
- **East Bay Regional Park District**
- **Eden Township Health Care District**
- **Fairview Fire Protection District**
- **Hayward Area Recreation & Park Dist**
- **Oro Loma Sanitary District**

**Candidates and voters should use the free services of the LWVC [www. SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org)**

## HELP NEEDED FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS

As you read on the proceeding page, there will be many elections in 2008. Our League will probably be asked to conduct some, not all, candidate forums. A few may be televised, some may be at luncheons held by various groups, and some may be done for community-based organizations whose members and the public want to know more about the candidates.

To do these forums, the League needs people who will act as moderators, question sorters, timers and monitors to make sure there is no campaigning during the forums.

If you would like to assist, the League will provide a brief training to do any of these tasks. It is fun, interesting and you will be contributing toward helping the public get the information it needs in order to be an "educated" voter.

For more information, contact Angie at 583-4405 or email [angelina.reyes@hayward-ca.gov](mailto:angelina.reyes@hayward-ca.gov).

## SALT PONDS RESTORATION PROJECT AT EDEN LANDING

The League was recently contacted to see if there was any interest by members in more information about the South Bay Salt Ponds Restoration Project and its plans for 5,500 acres of former salt production ponds in the Eden Landing area near Hayward.

The restoration project is the most ambitious wetlands restoration on the west coast of North America, with a 50-year vision to restore 15,100 acres of salt ponds to wetlands habitat. The project offers an opportunity to restore a huge percentage of tidal marsh lost in the Bay, and to provide a home for several endangered species, while improving flood management, public access and recreational opportunities for the South Bay's three million residents.

Phase I of the project calls for construction of new and expanded trails, kayaking, access and viewing platforms at



the Eden Landing ponds complex.

For more information, contact Ariel Ambruster, Center for Collaborative Policy 510-843-7624 or email [aambrust@yahoo.com](mailto:aambrust@yahoo.com). The website is <http://www.csus.edu/ccp>.

## FOSTER CARE LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT

Two Foster Care bills that have the support of LWVC - AB 298, Maze and AB 1331, Evans - are now on the Governor's desk.

AB 298 will enable children placed with relatives to remain in a stable, supportive and permanent home through a legal guardianship. According to Harriet Chase, LWVC Foster Care consultant, some relatives are willing to adopt, but others prefer to become legal guardians without severing the child's ties to the birth parents and/or putting themselves in conflict with the birth parents.

The bill changes the "order of preference" used by juvenile courts in permanent planning hearings so that adoption by a current caregiver remains first, legal guardianship by a current relative caregiver is second and adoption by an as-yet unidentified family his third.

AB 1331 would eliminate the gap between the time eligible foster youth age-out of foster care and the time they begin receiving a SSI benefits grant. It would require counties to screen all foster youth who are 16 -1/2 years old to determine their potential eligibility for federal Supplemental Security Income and to make application for their benefits prior to emancipation.

Youth who age out of foster care with serious disabilities are particularly prone to homelessness, unemployment and pregnancy. Despite their eligibility for SSI, most of these youth leave the system without their benefits due to lack of consistent screen and application protocols throughout the counties.

*Jean F. Cohen,  
Chair, Working Party for Children, LWVC*

## WHERE ARE YOU ?

You are about to fall off our LWVEA roster and mailing list. Your membership is or has expired and we are perplexed.

Obviously you joined the League because you wanted to be part of a national organization that was taking action on issues in which you felt deeply—health care, immigration, the environment, open government, transportation, air quality, mental health, voting rights, campaign finance reform—and many more.

The League is still “fighting the good fight” but we can’t do it alone. What’s the problem? We are the same organization that encourages your participation in governmental policy-making that impacts your life and your community.

We are still one of the few organizations that have a sterling reputation for “doing the right thing.” Though we are non-partisan, we are political, in a good way, when it comes to issues.

Even if you can’t be active in our League, your dues can. All of it goes to National, State and Bay Area League to continue doing the good work for which our organization is recognized. We raise funds locally for our operation, and we have been successful at that thanks to people like you who have supported us in the past.

Your dues payment shows your support for the hard work we do. If you can’t find your dues invoice, just write a check for \$50 for yourself, add another \$25 to sign up someone at the same address, or \$20 for a student, and mail to:

LWVEA Treasurer, P. O. Box 2234,  
Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Questions? Call Jo Murdach,  
Membership Chair at 581-6794.

## POSITIONS STILL OPEN ON LWVEA BOARD

Can you spare an hour a week? How about four hours just once time? The League has many tasks—some short term like registering voters, or helping to set up for a luncheon forum.

Other opportunities take more time, like chairing a committee on one of our many issues. We need three people to conduct our important Voter Services activities: someone to schedule and recruit speakers for our Pros and Cons, someone to make sure that each of our 86 sites have voting affidavits for people to register to vote; and someone to help with candidate forums and contact candidates regarding the advantages of using Smart Voter.

If you would like to help and/or learn how to put out a newsletter, we have just the person who can provide the training. If you are a people person, our Membership Chair could use some help.

If interested in devoting some time to the League, contact Alison at [aslewis1215@yaoo.com](mailto:aslewis1215@yaoo.com).



## AND THE WINNER IS.....

League member Crystal Hishida Graff's husband won the Skybox raffle donated by

Supervisor Gail Steele. Crystal works for the Alameda County Administrative Office.

Thanks to all who bought ticket for this LWVEA fundraiser and thanks to Supervisor Steele for donating this outstanding prize for the event. The League took in approximately \$1600 which will support our programs this year.

In addition to the raffle, some of those who renewed their membership also made a contribution to the League--\$315. Thanks to everyone who renewed on time, who bought raffle tickets and especially those who made a contribution to the League because they value what we do.

## IMMIGRATION STUDY--PREVIEW OF CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

The following questions are being discussed now by the Immigration Study Committee and may be helpful to you in framing this very complex topic. At the conclusion of the study, the committee will try to reach consensus on these questions. The results of the study will be sent to LWVUS so that they can develop a League position on Immigration. Leagues at every level will then be able to educate, advocate or oppose future legislation on the issue. *(All committee and membership meetings are open to the public.)*

1. a & b. Which of these criteria should Federal Law consider? How high of a priority is each? Which are your top 3 priorities?

- Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- Employment Needs
- Environmental Impact/Sustainability
- Families: Spouse/Children Joining Authorized Immigrants in U.S.A.
- Criminal Record
- Humanitarian Crisis/ Political Persecution
- Health/Age
- Worker Rights to Safety/Fair Wages
- Rights of Families to Remain Together
- Rights to Fair Treatment and Justice
- Education/Training

2. How should unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. be treated?

- Deported?
- Deported & Fined Prior to Re-Entry?
- Fined & Allowed to Earn Legal Status?

3. For which of these categories of immigrants should Federal law provide efficient, expeditious entry systems? How high of a priority is each?

- Family Members Joining Authorized Immigrant Currently Residing in U.S.
- Workers to Meet U.S. Labor Needs
- Students
- The Persecuted

4. a. For the sake of effectively dealing with unauthorized immigration, how high of a priority is it that Federal law requires S.S. cards or other national ID cards with secure identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S?

4. b. Which of these methods should be utilized to deal with unauthorized immigration? How high of a priority is each?

- Physical Barriers/Border Surveillance
- Increased Personnel at Land, Air and Sea Entry Points
- More Effective Tracking of Persons with Non-Immigrant Visas Until They Leave the U.S.
- Document Verification Utilizing Secure Identifiers
- Facilitate Employer Verification of Employee Visa Status with Technology
- Improved technology for Sharing Information Among Federal Agencies
- A Program to Allow Immigrant Workers to Go In and Out of the U.S. to Meet Seasonal and Sporadic Labor Needs
- Significant Fines on Employers Who Fail to Verify Visa Status of Workers

5. Should federal law address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations?

6. Should Federal law be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations?

**PLEASE BRING THIS LIST OF  
QUESTIONS TO THE LUNCHEON ON  
IMMIGRATION OCT. 26**

**League of Women Voters Eden Area  
P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley 94546**

*Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and  
unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,  
Cherryland, Fairview and San Lorenzo*

**IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LWVEA**

Just mail this form with your check to  
League of Women Voters Eden Area, Treasurer,  
P.O. ox 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DAY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EVE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: Regular \$50, Same Household \$25, Student \$20

*MISSION – The League of Women  
Voters, a non-partisan, political  
organization encourages informed  
and active participation in  
government, works to increase  
understanding of major public  
policy issues and influences public  
policy through education and  
advocacy.*

**CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS**

<b>DATE &amp; TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Oct. 10 – 5 to 6:30 p.m.	LWVEA Board Meeting, Maria Palmeri's House 2851 Eugene Terrace, Castro Valley
Oct. 25 – 6 to 9 p.m.	Hayward Volunteer Awards Dinner, Centennial Hall LWVEA Award Nominee to be honored: Beverly Reliford
Oct. 26 – noon to 2 p.m.	LWVEA Luncheon Forum on Immigration (see pg. 1)
Nov. 7 – 5 to 6:30 p.m.	LWVEA Board Meeting, Room 2A, Hayward City Hall
Nov. 16 – 5:30 p.m.	LWVEA Meet Your Election Officials Reception
Dec. 7 – 5:30 p.m.	LWVEA Holiday Party SAVE THE DATE

**Please visit our website for up-to-date event info.  
[www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org)**