



LWVEA SETS GOALS FOR 2007-08

The new Board met in July to plan the League's voter service activities, educational programs, calendar and assignments for 2007-08. The Board agreed to meet once a month on the second Wednesday at 5 p.m. at a room in the Hayward City Hall. Board meetings are open to all members and the public.

The following is a tentative calendar. Please pencil these dates in your own calendar to be sure you don't miss out.

2007

September 15 (Saturday) MEET THE LEAGUE GARDEN PARTY from 1 to 4 p.m. (See details in article on this page.)

September 29 (Saturday) State League Workshop, 9:30 to 2:30 p.m. – "21st Century League."

October 26 (Friday) Forum on Immigration, Luncheon 12-2 p.m., place TBA

November 16 (Friday) Meet Your Elected Officials reception 5:30 p.m., place TBA

December 7 (Friday) 5:30 p.m. Holiday Party and Auction at the home of Maria and Ron Palmeri in Castro Valley.

2008

January 16 (Wednesday) Combined Board Meeting and Program Planning, 5 p.m. Hayward City Hall.

February 5 (Tuesday) Presidential Primary, volunteers needed to work at polls.

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MEET THE LEAGUE GARDEN PARTY

There are some organizations that watch out for whales, or birds and endangered species. Others build homes for the poor, march for breast cancer research or AIDS. All these are wonderful and worthy organizations focused on important issues of our times.

Where does the League of Women Voters fit in? Our niche is spelled out in our Missionencourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

We consider the League the bedrock of democracy. We work hard, but we have fun, too. The Meet the League Garden Party is being designed to be a fun event where learning is painless and the food delicious.

All members are invited—but especially new members who are not sure what their dues are really supporting.

The Meet the League Garden Party will be held Saturday, September 15 at the home of Winnie and Gerry Thompson, 17764 Madison Ave., Castro Valley. There is no on-street parking, but there is parking for about 30 cars. Car-pooling is suggested.

RSVP to Winnie at 581-3162 or email winigerry@aol.com.

President's Report

This year, LWVEA is utilizing a team effort in its leadership. I am co-president with Alison S. Lewis, who was a Past President of LWVEA and experienced on League activities.

I've been involved on the Board for the past five or six years, although I've been a member since 1984, serving in Voter Services and Program Planning. I will carry out the President's duties through December and Alison will continue for the rest of our term. As this is my first experience taking the lead, I am glad that I have a number of excellent mentors to keep me on task, focused and working to accomplish the goals we've set.

In July the Board conducted a Goals Setting Session to set our Calendar of Activities and Events. This year, we have several past board members who will continue as Off Board members, which gives us a wealth of LWV expertise. We have set a calendar that continues to evolve as dates and venues are firmed up. Board Members have been active in planning public forums with topics that are current and pertinent to this community.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the Board accepted member direction. Supervisor Gail Steele requested that the Alameda County Family Court mediation services be reviewed. The Board determined that this request be referred to the Alameda County Council of Leagues (ACC) as the Family Court services are provided countywide. I attended the ACC on August 11th where this was discussed and where Ms. Steele presented a moving account of one child's dilemma. She recommended reading, "Scared to Leave, Afraid to Stay," by Barry J. Goldstein. Her request will be considered and was initially assigned to the ACC Juvenile Justice Committee.

The Board is optimistic that our membership will respond and participate in these forums. Visit our website to confirm dates and venues of all our events, activities and meetings. By the way, all members are invited to attend Board Meetings to be held the second Wednesday of each month at City Hall in Room 2A for the remainder of 2007.

Angelina Reyes, Co-President

BOARD BRIEFS JULY 28, 2007

Continuation of Goal Setting Meeting
Calendar in 2008

Feb. 22 – Bay Area League Day, time, place and topic TBA.

March 7 – Partner with City Clerks Association and AAUW for a program on Transparency in Government, Elections and Balloting, time, place TBA.

May 31 – LWV Bay Area Convention

June 7 – LWVEA Annual Meeting, time, place and speaker TBA.

June 13-17 – LWVUS Convention in Portland, Oregon.

- Reviewed past years activities and commended the Board who were responsible for a full and outstanding year.
- Reviewed the responsibilities of each officer and director for the coming year and made some changes on some of the assignments.
- Assigned Angelina Reyes to represent LWVEA at the LWV Alameda County Council meetings held every other month.
- Agreed that Jo Murdach needs a Membership Committee to help her with the various duties entailed, especially maintaining databases.
- Divided Director of Voter Services into three parts and will recruit for people to take care of this important job.
- Approved a budget of \$700 for the Immigration Study Committee to cover potential costs.

Next Board meeting is Wednesday, September 12 at 5 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Do you have a pile of papers on your desk marked “Things to Do?” Is the LWVEA dues invoice in that pile?

Well it’s time to move that invoice to the top of the pile before we miss our deadline of telling the state and national Leagues how many members we have.

So far only a little more than half our members have renewed. We would hate to have our renewal percentage look as back as the turnout of voters for elections.

Please send in your dues as soon as possible--\$50 for regular membership, \$25 for a second person at the same address and \$20 for students.

Our thanks to San Leandro Councilwoman Joyce Starosciac who paid for two student membership for two young women on the Youth Commission – Rachel Wyhte and Chelsea Barackman. We look forward to Rachel and Chelsea being active members.

Also, our thanks to Trish and Ron Taylor who paid for a student membership for her son Paul who will be attending law school back east. We will keep in contact with him via email and hope he will way in with an opinion or two.

Does that give you an idea? Yes, you can enroll a student in your life for just \$20 and he or she will receive our newsletter and other alerts on issues of importance.

In the future, we will be publishing a list of new members and hope some of our veteran members will find time to mentor them if they agree they would like that service.

Please mail your membership dues check to – LWVEA Treasurer, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

Donations to our League through the LWVC Education Fund are also appreciated and are tax deductible.

ARE YOU UP THE CREEK IN A GOOD WAY?

There is a new committee in town—the San Lorenzo Creek Task Force. The SLCTF will be working on policy measures to protect the many creeks running through our Eden Area communities.

They meet on the first and third Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the HARD headquarters, 1099 E Street, Hayward.

For more information contact Diana Hanna who is on the Task Force and is a League member. Diana’s email is

dalpha9@aol.com

POSITIONS OPEN ON LWVEA BOARD

Although we have a new, talented and hard working board, they cannot do everything that needs to be done to have another banner year without more help.

We know most people are strapped for time, but the League has on- and off-board positions that it can tailor to fit the time that you can spare. Some tasks are “one shot” and don’t require attending regular board meetings—registering voters, helping with the holiday party, or helping with a mailing.

Jobs that take a little more time would be newsletter editor, publicity for our events, working on the Membership Committee or the Voter Service Committee.

As a member of the Voter Service committee, you could select from presenting the LWVC Pros and Cons on ballot measures at organizations that request our services; or monitor and fill with affidavit forms Registrar of Voter Boxes we are responsible for in Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro and San Lorenzo; or you could schedule Candidate Forums and find people to moderate or time. If interested in devoting some time to the League, contact Alison Lewis at aslewis1215@yahoo.com.

BLACK WOMEN'S GROUP FOLLOWS UP ON PLEDGE

By Martin Ricard, Daily Review
(Reprinted DR article 7-15-07)

(Lillian Litzsey is a long-time League member, community activist and chair of BWOPA.)

A year after the organization pledged to lead local African Americans in taking charge of their independence, the Hayward-South County chapter of Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA) is following up with a new plan of action.

BWOPA's members vowed to contact ten local churches after Independence Day last year and, by using New York Times bestseller "The Covenant with Black America" as a guide, create "covenants" with each congregation to spread the message of empowerment to the larger black community.

The plan includes ten covenants — or social platforms — that African Americans across the nation can implement to help make their communities better. So far, BWOPA has gotten seven churches to sign onto the pledge, said chapter Chairwoman Lillian Litzsey.

"We all felt the need to take on a leadership role," Litzsey said. "The African-American community, even though small in numbers, has a lot of good leadership skills, so we know what to do. And we're taking the opportunity to try to make our own community better."

Now, BWOPA is riding the momentum from its pledge last year to call on black leaders to take more community action, particularly in two areas: health and education.

A collection of essays and a national tour spearheaded by talk show host Tavis Smiley, "The Covenant" examines issues African Americans consider urgent, and serves as a blueprint for how the black community can take charge of remedying racial disparities on national, state and local levels.

For years, BWOPA has been focusing on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS among black girls. But recently, the group has asked black leaders — local and national — to take more responsibility in driving the message of awareness home.

BWOPA also is now asking the churches that supported its pledge last year to hold forums on HIV/AIDS in the coming months. Afterwards, churchgoers could all get tested, Litzsey suggested.

The organization met recently in Castro Valley to discuss its latest venture that stems from "The Covenant," a mentoring program that helps black girls in the foster care system.

Vanessa Cormier, a special programs and services manager at Chabot College and BWOPA member, is spearheading the effort. She said the group is looking to develop a five-year master plan designed to mentor black girls ages 13 to 18. As the program progresses, she said, it will bring in black boys and other races as well.

"We want to fulfill a need not being addressed," Cormier said. While BWOPA has definitely taken the lead on many of the issues, local black churches have been taking their own measures to support "The Covenant."

The Rev. Willie Anderson, pastor of New Bethel Community Church, with the participation of Hayward City Councilman Olden Henson, recently founded a new alliance with several other black churches and social justice organizations in Hayward to get advocacy groups that work with the black community all on the same page.

"Clearly, BWOPA has taken an even stronger stand to get us to live up to those principles in a more practical way," he said. "And I think we are."

IMMIGRATION STUDY COMMITTEE PLANNING COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Immigration Study Committee is chaired by Trish Taylor and has about a dozen members—more are always welcome. The following are notes from the July 26th meeting.

This meeting focused on giving each member a chance to lay out and explore their personal current state of thinking and feeling about our topic: immigration. Each spoke without interruption. In previous meetings we have challenged ourselves to stay to facts and statistics and the logical ramifications thereof, a process which did not eliminate compassion.

However, at this meeting, we refrained from challenging one another, and rather, each took the opportunity to put into words our personal holistic sense of it. Below, then, an uncensored list of topics which came out, some of which are new to our local discussion.

Random List of Comments Not in any Particular Order

- Economic needs of the country vs. worker's needs and individual's needs.
- The need for a legal flow sufficient to meet the demands of the business, or illegal flow will continue.
- Prior to the 60's it was easy to get a Social Security number compared to now. Thus, it was easier to become a documented immigrant previously.
- The California State Department of Employment used to work as an employment agency. They have almost dropped out of the picture as pay-for employment services came into being. The loss of the Dept. of Employment disadvantages the immigrant and black work force.
- Computer skills need to apply now, as applications often are done on-line.
- Language is a binder of people. Without the main language (English), individuals fall behind in jobs, education, housing, access to services and even shopping.
- Language barriers increase tendency to segregate. Individuals stay close to, do business with, those who understand them. But this

isolates the two language groups. The isolation prevents cultural understanding.

- Currently a backlash going on, which states that "our country is being taken from us."
 - Day Laborers (been going on for decades) are organizing. They are easily victimized, as they have no contract, thieves know they carry cash and where to find them coming home at end of the day.
 - Deportation doesn't work.
 - Many who overstay their visa need the better income they can get in the USA and send home. They risk being forever "illegal" for the advantage of having a better life and giving a better life to their family in their home country.
- Don't split families up. It's inhuman. That happened to the slaves in the USA south and we all think it is appalling. How could we accept it, then, for immigrants?
- We need to address the economy of Mexico and other "donor" countries.

* * * *

The committee still likes the idea of taking the consensus questions to a range of local well-established organization to obtain their feedback on the questions. The questions could be processed with the groups as a survey, simplifying the process. A LWVUS video may be available also

We favor a panel of experts for an October public event and a public viewing of the LWVUS Panel (from LWV.org website).

PLEASE! Remember to go to the LWV.ORG website occasionally, as they update material for the immigration study regularly.

**Next Meeting August 23 -- Thursday 5:30
-7:00 Room 1C at the Hayward City Hall
Parking in the basement.**

Chairperson Trish Taylor
Immigration Study Committee
taylorfm@sbcglobal.net,
510-886-1711 and 707-495-9440

LWVC REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Oakland and Piedmont Leagues
invite you to attend an exciting
LWVC Workshop

September 29 - Registration 9:30 am
Workshop ends at 2:30 pm

First Unitarian Church of Oakland
685 14th St (14 th St. at Castro St.)
Oakland, CA 94612

Price: \$25 per person (\$15 without
lunch)

Classes: "Using Voter Service to Attract
Membership &
Raise Community Visibility"
LWVC Director Sharon Wallace

"How to Conduct a Study" LWVC
Director Linda Craig

"21 st Century League" NEW!
LWVC President Janis Hirohama

Please register (and pay by credit card)
at the LWVC website: www.lwvc.org by
September 21 If you have questions or
need additional information please phone

LWV Oakland office at (510) 834-7640 or
e-mail at info@lwvoakland.org
Open to all League members.

WHAT TEACHERS MAKE

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

To stress his point he said to another guest; "You're a teacher, Bonnie. Be honest. What do you make?"

Bonnie, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, You want to know what I make? (She paused for a second; then began...) Well, I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of class time when their parents can't make them sit for 5 without an I Pod, Game Cube or movie rental.

You want to know what I make?" (She paused again and looked at each and every person at the table.)

I make kids wonder. I make them question. I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them have respect and take responsibility for their actions. I teach them to write and then I make them write. I make them read, read, read.

I make them show all their work in math. I make my students from other countries learn everything they need to know in English while preserving their unique cultural identity.

I make my classroom a place where all my students feel safe. I make my students stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, because we live in the United States of America. Finally, I make them understand that if they use the gifts they were given, work hard, and follow their hearts, they can succeed in life.

(Bonnie paused one last time and then continued.) "Then, when people try to judge me by what I make, I can hold my head up high and pay no attention because they are ignorant. You want to know what I make? I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make?"

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

This past Independence Day marked 40 years since the landmark Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) went into effect—yet some communities are still struggling with government secrecy today.

FOIA established our right to access government records and codified our right to know what our government is doing. In recent years, however, this presumption has been eroding. In the name of homeland security, opportunities for citizens to gain access to information have been limited.

FOIA and related state and local laws are only as good as we demand that they be. They are fundamental to the health of our democracy and require vigilance.

So exercise your right to know. Ensure the transparency of our government by seeking records, attending a governmental meeting, or educating others about the importance of our right to know.

As members of the League of Women Voters, we are always working to keep our community strong, healthy and vibrant, and that all starts with having an open government.

HAPA Looks to Smarter Growth in Hayward

The Hayward Area Planning Association (HAPA), a citizen organization, advocates for green, sustainable neighborhoods. Since 1978, HAPA has worked for better local planning. For example, HAPA helped stop the proposed Hayward Bypass Freeway, scheduled to cut through Hayward neighborhoods. as well, it sued developers to win over \$1.5 million for

East Bay Regional Park District open space.

Now, HAPA is launching a public information campaign on Quarry Village (QV), a smarter form of smart growth. QV demonstrates the advantages of a new neighborhood living system based on affordability, walking, transit, and car-free mobility to achieve environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic productivity.

Last November the Hayward City Council voted unanimously to study Quarry Village as part of the land use plan for surplus Caltrans property liberated from the Bypass Freeway. When built, Quarry Village, located at the old quarry site between Cal State and downtown Hayward, will be the most sustainable, environmentally friendly, mixed-use development ever built in the Bay Area.

Sherman Lewis, President, HAPA
LWVEA Member

CRISIS IN THE CALIFORNIA FAMILY COURTS

Supervisor Gail Steele recently issued a special report by Chris McCoy regarding what she calls a “crisis in the California family courts” regarding the lack of appropriate mediation services for children involved in custody situations.

She has asked the LWV Alameda County Council for assistance. The Council indicated it would refer the matter to its Juvenile Justice Committee to do more fact finding, and use the League’s multiple positions on Juvenile Justice and Children’s Mental Health if advocacy is indicated.

Supervisor Steele, a long-time League member, said she wants the Courts to develop a new plan “that is truly in the best interest of the child.”

More information will be published in future VOTERS.

**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

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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
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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

DATE AND TIME	EVENT
Aug. 30	Drawing of winning raffle ticket for Skybox
Sep. 12: 5 to 6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting, Rm 2C, Hayward City Hall
Sep. 15: 1 to 3 p.m.	Meet the League Garden Party, Thompson home.
Sep.29: 9:30 to 2:30 p.m.	LWVC Workshop (see article in VOTER)
Oct. 10: 5 to 6:30 p.m.	Board Meeting, Rm 2C, Hayward City Hall
Oct. 19: noon to 2 p.m.	LWVEA Luncheon Forum on Immigration – Video and Panel
Oct. 25: 6 to 9 p.m.	Hayward Volunteer Awards Dinner, Centennial Hall

**Please visit our website for up-to-date calendar event information.
www.lwvea.org**