



## ENERGY THE HOT TOPIC



When we flip the light switch, we expect the lights to go on. We expect reliability. According to Loretta Lynch, former director of the California Public Utility Commission during the energy crisis two years ago, to understand the problem, we must understand the

three key elements of our electricity system—generation of energy, transmission of energy and distribution of energy. Generation is the creation of electricity. Transmission is the movement of the electricity from generation to a delivery system. The distribution system delivers the electricity to your home so that when you flip the switch, the lights do go on.

Lynch who was the keynote speaker at the LWVEA Annual Meeting on June 11, said that prior to 1996, all three elements were owned and operated by a utility. The utility had an obligation to serve the consumer with reliable, reasonably priced electricity. The state's electric industry changed radically in 1996. The State Legislature passed AB1890 which proved to be a deeply flawed attempt at deregulation by separating the pricing of wholesale and retail generation.

With the passage of the deregulation legislation, reliability and the utility's obligation to serve gave way to power shortages and spiking prices. The "perfect storm" occurred in 2001. Lynch indicated that nothing much has been done to correct the problem. The LWVC will be distributing information on energy for local study in August.

## BOARD RETREAT TO DISCUSS PRIORITIZING PROJECTS FOR 2005-2006

At the end of the Annual Meeting, attendees give "directions to the board" on what projects they think the local League should consider in addition to what normally is planned such as:

- Increasing membership
- Reconstituting Unit Meetings on local issues
- Recruit for a variety of portfolios such as education, healthcare, transportation, etc.
- Pros and Cons on special election initiatives
- Continue study on Unincorporated area.

### Some of the directions included:

- Take action on Boards and Commission with updated position.
- Unit meeting on Library services related to the Patriot Act.
- Look into Energy legislation being considered now.
- Review the Governor's budget and its impact on many things we care about.
- Have a forum on the upcoming special election and why it is happening.
- Determine if there is a threat to Measure D.
- Discuss increased growth of weapons brought to school.

One long-time member reminded attendees that "we can't do it all." We have to keep focused.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM—IS IT POSSIBLE?

Campaign reform is on the lips of everyone associated with the political process. Almost everyone wants some control on campaign spending, and to open the election process to the widest number of quality candidates. We continue to support reform efforts throughout our area such as our endorsement of the CA\$H amendment to the Hayward City ordinance.

However, from my perspective, I believe one major issue still does not get addressed in most reform efforts: the complex and harmful relationship between and among elected officials, candidates, and public employee unions. Until we successfully tackle this subject, true campaign reform is unattainable.

As almost any candidate running for local office knows, candidates with the endorsement of the unions representing firefighters and police have an enormous advantage in direct dollar donations, fund raising, and massive workers' support for phone banks, literature hand outs, etc.

Remember that the candidate, once elected, is the same elected official who has responsibility for approving employment contracts for the unions who supported them. Often, the same union individuals who worked out campaign support with the candidate are now the same employees negotiating working terms and conditions, including salaries and benefits, with the elected official.

"Working out campaign support" could potentially mean that the newly elected official is put in a position that they may have to support wage and benefit increases for union members during contract negotiations in exchange for the campaign support. This agreement may often be reached with little regard as to whether it is in the best interest of the taxpayer footing the bill, or a fiscally sound decision for the jurisdiction.

If we are to have true campaign reform, this cycle must be stopped. We must find a way to prevent this direct exchange of favors. We must correct the system that allows candidates to accept campaign contributions of any kind from the unions for which, once elected, they will have authority to approve contracts.

*Nancy Van Huffel*

## BOARD BRIEFS, JUNE 1, 2005

- ▶ CA\$H Support –wrote a letter of support and read it at a Hayward Council work session.
- ▶ Eden Housing Project –will review on how to establish their governance protocols
- ▶ Annual retreat will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ LWVC Convention – a written report was submitted and a summary discussion of events was given.
- ▶ LWVC Democracy Dinner - A report that our auction basket sold for \$50 and that the speaker, Nancy Soderberg, was excellent.
- ▶ LWVEA Raffle -Reported we took in \$1800.
- ▶ Jennifer Thompson is resigning from the Board because her new job doesn't allow time for her to attend LWVEA meetings.
- ▶ Reported that Unincorporated Committee finalized survey questions and committee members were asked to interview various county government agencies.
- ▶ HAVA–reported that SMART VOTER is working to make itself the main resource for voter information. They are going to be able to use videotapes by candidates on the SV site.
- ▶ Reviewed bills RE: child care: AB72 which will provide funds for resource centers; AB124 states that anyone who works there must have fingerprints cleared by FBI; AB1697 states that a childcare center/provider cannot be closer than 650 feet from a transit corridor or intersection.
- ▶ LWV Bay Area Survey of Transit Hubs – We got some surveys back and will contact the Bay Area League to find out what the timeline is for getting the information to them.
- ▶ Next Meeting: Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup>

## In Memory of Helen Ketchum

Excerpts from Brian Foley, STAFF WRITER  
Inside Bay Area

Helen Ketchum a 35 year League member, died June 3<sup>rd</sup> in her son's Novato home after a brief illness. She was 82. Helen hosted "Transitions," a public-access television show that examined senior life, for more than 15 years. Ketchum was a recipient of the Hayward Lifetime Achievement Award, and served on the League's Board of Directors in the nineties and was past co-president.

Ketchum's enthusiasm for her show was reflected in its wide range of topics — everything from how to write a will to senior centers to health issues.

Her stepdaughter, Penny Meyer, remembered one particular episode about eye cataracts. "I was waiting outside to see my eye doctor and I could hear my mother's voice," she said. "It turned out she was interviewing the doctor about cataracts for the show."

Family and friends described Ketchum as ubiquitous, "knowing everything and everyone in the community," said friend Sharon Luther, who also had a public-access show. "Helen was very interested in aging and how roles change," Luther said. "She was one of the pillars of Hayward. She was so multifaceted. Her mind was always finding fun, creative ideas."

In addition to hosting "Transitions," Helen volunteered with numerous organizations, including the Chabot College Service to Seniors, Hayward Arts Council, Hayward Historical Society and the Family Emergency Shelter Coalition. "There is so much to say about Helen," said County Supervisor Gail Steele, who first met her 30 years ago at a League of Women Voters meeting. "She was always concerned for, not just me, but everyone. She was a mother figure and extraordinarily special. Everyone who knew her will feel like they have a big hole in them."

She began life in Steamboat Springs, Colo., as Helen Margaret O'Connor before she moved to Hayward at the age of 9. She was the student body president of Hayward High School class of 1940. "We were classmates, and we had a very friendly association," said Hayward City Councilman Matt Jimenez. "She always worked on our reunions. She was very loved by all people who knew her."

During World War II, she volunteered as a draftsman for the Navy. After the war, she worked as an executive secretary, where she met her now deceased husband, Russ Ketchum. "They were a very happy couple," Meyer said. "They loved doing the same things, gardening and entertaining. Family was very important."

She went back to school and earned a bachelor's degree in human development from California State University, Hayward, in 1978 and later a master's in public administration with a certificate in gerontology, the study of aging. "She was so proud of her show and her work for senior citizens," Meyer said.

Helen is survived by her children, Mike Ketchum and Margaret Krivoruchko; her stepdaughters, Trish Barnes and Penny Meyer; her sisters, Mary White and Dorothy Rickey; her brother, Tom O'Connor; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

After Helen's death, her family reiterated her philosophy: "People need people, whether it is family or friends; then everything else falls into place."

The family asks donations be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation or the local Hospice Center.



Helen Ketchum (seated 2<sup>nd</sup> to the right) attended the League's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May, 2002. She is pictured with several of the League's past presidents.



## LWVC CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The League of Women Voters of California held its 61<sup>st</sup> convention in May with

the theme, "It's a New Word." Delegates adopted the following issues for Education and Advocacy during 2005-2007: Redistricting, State and Local Finances and Healthcare.

Delegates also approved three resolutions on:

1. **USA Patriot Act** which resolved that the LWVC communicate immediately with Senator Dianne Feinstein, urging her, as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, to do everything in her power to ensure that the process of deliberations concerning the USA PATRIOT Act be conducted in an open manner; the markup session not be held behind closed doors; there is no rush to the floor of the Senate for vote; and there is thorough consideration of the impact of the Act on civil liberties.
2. **Aquifer Protection** which noted that aquifer protection is critical for the sustainability of statewide water resources and resolved to determine where LWVC's water position and sustainability policy allows action to protect aquifers at basins of origin.
3. **California Environmental Quality Act** resolving that the LWVC issue a statement in support of the CEQA to provide local Leagues with the ability to take action to protect CEQA.

### UPDATE ON PATRIOT ACT

By ANDREW TAYLOR, AP Writer  
*SF Chronicle 6-15-05*

The House voted Wednesday to block the FBI and the Justice Department from using the anti-terror Patriot Act to search library and book

store records, responding to complaints about potential invasion of privacy of innocent readers.

Despite a veto threat from President Bush, lawmakers voted 238-187 to block the part of the anti-terrorism law that allows the government to investigate the reading habits of terror suspects.

The vote reversed a narrow loss last year by lawmakers complaining about threats to privacy rights. They narrowed the proposal this year to permit the government to continue to seek out records of Internet use at libraries.

The vote came as the House debated a \$57.5 billion bill covering the departments of Commerce, Justice and State. The Senate has yet to act on the measure.....

Congress is preparing to extend the Patriot Act, which was passed quickly in the emotional aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Then, Congress included a "sunset" provision under which 15 of the law's provisions are to expire at the end of this year.



Supporters of rolling back the library and bookstore provision said that the

law gives the FBI too much leeway to go on "fishing expeditions" on people's reading habits and that innocent people could get tagged as potential terrorists based on what they check out from a library.

In the meantime, a number of libraries have begun disposing of patrons' records quickly so they won't be available if sought under the law.

## LWVUS SIGNS LETTER WITH 28 OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations wish to express our opposition to the provisions of H.R. 2745, the United Nations Reform Act of 2005, introduced by Representative Henry Hyde on June 7th and narrowly passed by the House International Relations Committee on June 8th. We understand that the bill will be debated by the House of Representatives later this week.

While many of the reforms contained in the legislation may appear to make sense, the method by which they would be imposed on the United Nations—including mandatory unilateral withholding of U.S. assessed contributions—will ultimately make them impossible to achieve. The unrealistic nature of the peacekeeping provisions, for example, could essentially shut down UN peace operations. Passage of the Hyde bill risks discouraging the ongoing UN reform process and, in turn, harming U.S. national interests. Ultimately, the United Nations Reform Act is unlikely to result in reform; rather, it could lead to stalemate on reform of the United Nations.

We do not take issue with the need for UN reform. The tasks assigned to the UN by its member states since the end of the Cold War have grown and evolved in ways that the UN's founders could not have envisioned. Reform is an urgent priority. Indeed, UN member states are engaged in discussions that could lead to a transformation of the world body on the basis of proposals such as those advanced in Secretary-General Kofi Annan's landmark report, "In Larger Freedom: Towards Security, Development and Human Rights for All." Both the upcoming Group of Eight Summit and the mid-September summit of heads of state at UN headquarters will provide important forums where the United States can work with others to press for fundamental change in the way the UN works.

This illustrates the importance of substitute legislation offered by Representative Tom Lantos, which would ensure that the United States has the ability to play a leading role in support of UN reform. The substitute measure represents a more effective way of realizing the kinds of UN reform that we all agree are necessary. Rather than automatically constraining the Bush administration in negotiating with other countries, the legislation offered by Representative Lantos will ensure that that the U.S. has the flexibility and the tools with which to ensure that effective UN reform takes place.

During the past year, the United States has worked through the United Nations to resolve some of the world's most pressing problems. The world organization and related agencies have played indispensable roles in ensuring free and fair elections in Iraq and Afghanistan; conducting peacekeeping in Africa and in our own region (Haiti, for example); coordinating the tsunami relief effort in south Asia; addressing the grave situation in Darfur; working to promote a cleaner environment throughout the world; and reducing the threats posed by arms proliferation.

The Lantos proposal, we believe, will make it possible for the United Nations to continue to assist the efforts of the African Union in Darfur; contain the violence in Haiti; promote a cleaner environment; and assist victims of natural and manmade disasters, among other missions. The UN Reform Act sponsored by Rep. Hyde places in jeopardy the ability of the United States to work collectively toward solving global threats and challenges, and we urge you to vote against it.



***Signed by 28 organizations,  
including LWVUS 6-05***

## ACC LETTER RE: MAY GRAND JURY REPORT ON ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

Dear President Carson and  
Members of the Board of Supervisors:

We, the Alameda County Council, composed of the seven Leagues of Women Voters in Alameda County, write to support the recent Grand Jury criticisms and recommendations for reform of the Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC). This is our second letter on this topic. On August 10, 2004, we wrote to the County Board of Supervisors supporting the earlier Grand Jury recommendations regarding the operations, financial condition, and governance structure of the Alameda County Medical Center (ACMC). That letter is attached for your reference.

The Alameda County Council and its member Leagues supported Measure A. Our goal was that ACMC recover stability and continue its delivery of essential health care to those County residents least able to afford medical care. We supported Measure A because we trusted that the taxpayers' money (both Measure A and other County funds) would be appropriately spent and that the deficiencies within the ACMC system - organization, financial management, governance, and long-term sustainability - would be directly and immediately addressed.

The Grand Jury's recent report finds that the ACMC Board of Trustees has not acted effectively to repair the ACMC system and has mismanaged its funds. The Grand Jury lists many particular failures, including that the ACMC has been "preoccupied with infighting," "made no progress in balancing the ACMC budget," and "broken Measure A's promise of long-term financial stability." Attachment A is a more extensive list of failures cited in the Grand Jury report of May 25, 2005.

The Grand Jury report notes that the continuing failures of the ACMC Board will lead quickly to the collapse of the ACMC "crushed by the weight of its own debt." The ACMC Board has broken faith with Alameda County voters and supporters of Measure A. The Board of Supervisors is responsible for appointing members to that Board.

Therefore, we call on the Board of Supervisors to immediately replace the current Board of Trustees with competent, committed members who will act responsibly and expeditiously to balance the ACMC budget and develop a reasonable plan to meet the coming reductions of County General Fund money in the next five years.

We refer you to the recommendations noted in our August 10, 2004 letter and emphasize that the Board of Supervisors must ensure that ACMC immediately (1) develop and implement a viable strategic plan involving all stakeholders and (2) implement and monitor performance measures for the Board of Trustees, ACMC executives, and all divisions of ACMC.

The process for replacing the Board of Trustee members should be done in an open and transparent manner. The Board of Supervisors should publicly recruit and appoint candidates who will not be influenced by special interest groups and who have the skills, background and commitment to correct the problems of the ACMC, including those cited by the Grand Jury.

Further, the Board of Supervisors must act to clarify lines of authority and accountability within ACMC and between the Supervisors and the Trustees. The Board of Supervisors must take responsibility for ensuring prudent management of taxpayers' money, stewardship of County assets, and delivery of critical services to a vulnerable population.

We continue to support an independent Board of Trustees. However, there must be regular public reporting from the Trustees to the Supervisors; the Supervisors must require diligent accountability from the Trustees. There are no alternatives to this model. Similarly, ACMC and County staff must be required to cooperate and work collegially and to provide verifiable evidence of effective collaboration to the Trustees and, through the regular reports from the Trustees, to the Board of Supervisors.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to act immediately. We agree with the Grand Jury report that, if this does not happen, the ACMC will collapse, a vulnerable population will go without critical medical services, and the County itself will suffer a severe financial crisis well beyond its current problems. We request that the Board of Supervisors respond to this letter by August 2, 2005 by putting the ACMC's financial and governance problems on your agenda for public discussion at the earliest possible date. Once this discussion has taken place, we urge you to act immediately to replace the current ACMC Board members with members who will act to promptly correct its financial and management problems.

*Nancy Bickel, Chair, ACC Committee*  
*June 17, 2005*



**Membership Renewal Statement July 2005 — June 2006**  
**Please complete and mail this form by July 31<sup>st</sup> to:**  
**Eden Area League of Women Voters**  
**P. O. Box 2234 • Castro Vallev. CA 94546**

Phone (510) 538-9678 • E-Mail: [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) • web: [lwvea.org](http://lwvea.org)

Name:	Wk #	Hm #
Street:	City:	ZIP:
E:Mail:		FAX:

**Check  best ways to keep in touch with you**

<input type="checkbox"/> Home phone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work phone	<input type="checkbox"/> E-Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> FAX
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**Best Meeting Times:**

<input type="checkbox"/> lunch time	<input type="checkbox"/> early evening (5:30)	<input type="checkbox"/> evening (7pm)	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday mornings
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**I enclose a check made out to LWVEA for:**

Student membership \$20.00	\$	Single membership \$48	\$
Name(s) of additional household member \$24			\$
Additional Contribution for educational activities	\$	<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

**Let us know how you want to be involved:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping format our newsletter<br><input type="checkbox"/> Telephone Tree<br><input type="checkbox"/> Writing letters or Voter articles<br><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring/observer for meetings<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising activities<br><input type="checkbox"/> Be on the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary committee<br><input type="checkbox"/> Help to register voters | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute Voter information<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pros & Cons Speaker<br><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring community elections<br><input type="checkbox"/> Help with candidate forums<br><input type="checkbox"/> Membership/community outreach<br><input type="checkbox"/> Database maintenance<br><input type="checkbox"/> Helping update the WEB |
|---|---|

<p><b>Officers 2005-2006</b>          President – Nancy Van Huffel          1<sup>st</sup> VP Program/Adm.. – Patricia Taylor          2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership – Jo Murdach          Treasurer – Marianne Dimick          Secretary – Suzanne Barba          Historian – Eleanor Parker</p>	<p><b>Directors 2005-2006</b>          Action/Local – JoAnn Martinez          Action/State – Melody Kearney          Program Planning– Evelyn Cormier          Voter Registration – Jean Gaylord          Voter Service – Angelina Reyes          Communications – JoAnn Martinez</p>
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## League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546, Phone: 510/538-9678

E-Mail: [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) MONTHLY PUBLICATION

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

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Treasurer, Marianne Dimick, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546  
Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:  
Local, County, Bay Area, State and National.

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Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Eve Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Regular \$48 Same Household \$24 Student \$20  
Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible.  
Contributions to the LWVEA Education Fund ARE deductible.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

*All members and the public are welcome.*

### July

6 LWVEA Board Meeting 12:00pm -1:30 pm  
San Lorenzo Village Community Hall

9 Board Retreat—9 to 1pm

### August

3 LWVEA Board Meeting 12:00pm -1:30 pm  
San Lorenzo Village Community Hall

### September

5



7 LWVEA Board Meeting 12:00pm -1:30 pm  
San Lorenzo Village Community Hall

24 Know Your Bay Area Day

### HAVE A QUESTION?

#### CONTACT A LWVEA BOARD MEMBER

- Nancy VanHuffel – President  
562-4473 or [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com)
- Trish Taylor – VP Admin  
886-1711 or [taylorfm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:taylorfm@sbcglobal.net)
- Jo Murdach – VP Membership  
5816794 or [allisonandjo@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonandjo@hotmail.com)
- Suzanne Barba – Secretary  
538-9678 or [suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net)
- Marianne Dimick – Treasurer  
581-9326 or [maddk9@earthlink.com](mailto:maddk9@earthlink.com)
- Evelyn Cormier – Program Planning Meeting  
471-0475 or [evcormier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:evcormier@sbcglobal.net)
- JoAnn Martinez – Communications  
[JMM\\_JADE@peoplepc.com](mailto:JMM_JADE@peoplepc.com)
- Melody Kearny – State Action  
583-8818 or [melody.kearny@asm.ca.gov](mailto:melody.kearny@asm.ca.gov)
- Jean Gaylord – Voter Registration  
537-6722 or [gaylords51@aol.com](mailto:gaylords51@aol.com)
- Eleanor Parker – Historian  
925-837-2905 or [eliparker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eliparker@sbcglobal.net)
- Beverly Reiford – Social Policy  
**887-0671** or [relifordb@aol.com](mailto:relifordb@aol.com)
- Angelina Reyes – VP Program  
583-4405 or [andier@cihayward.ca.us](mailto:andier@cihayward.ca.us)

For more details on Calendar of Coming Events items, visit us at [www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org).