



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol 52. No. 7 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* August 2009

YOU ARE INVITED TO HELP US WELCOME NEW LWVEA MEMBERS

During 2009, more than 20 new members joined the LWVEA.—some through National and most local.

New members bring new energy, new skill sets and new perspectives on how things are accomplished.

People join the League because its issues are their issues—education, health care systems, state and local finance, children’s mental health and many, many others.

People also join the League because of our Mission—“educating the public on important issues, encouraging voting and influencing decision-makers.”

SAVE THE DATE – everyone’s invited--

**Wed, September 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
SLZ Village Conference room**

Come help us welcome our new members. Refreshments, good camaraderie and relevant information.

Please RSVP to:
LWVEA@aol.com
or call
Suzanne @ 510-538-9678

LWVEA FUN-RAISER

You are invited to join us for a night of fun at a live performance of

**Sullivan and Gilbert
Saturday**

October 10, 8 p.m.

Douglas Morrison Theater
22311 N. Third Street • Hayward

This show is a warm and affectionate behind-the-scenes look at the tempestuous and hilarious relationship between the famous musical geniuses—Gilbert and Sullivan.

The cost is \$25 and every seat in the theater is fabulous.

This is one of the League’s fundraiser which allows us to keep our yearly dues some of the lowest in the country.

Support your League and have fun doing it. Invite your family and friends. It’s a show everyone will enjoy.

Please RSVP to Gail Lundholm by September 10 at 510-537-3730 or email her at gala05@peoplepc.com.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We're going to need a lot of help for the League's 2009-2010 year. Although we are starting off with a full, newly elected Board ready to roll up their collective sleeves and work on various tasks--it will take more than a committed Board to get the work done. We need other members to step forward to help with issues that they care about.

I have talked to members who are interested in what is going on in the health care field, state and local finance, clean elections, and the transparency of government agencies that make decisions that impact our lives.

It takes more than just being interested. It takes getting together with others who want to make a positive difference on the topic.

To assist members "who want to do something about some thing" we have off-Board committees on most of the important issues. Right now, we are recruiting members to participate on a committee to discuss what we can do locally to reduce global warming.

Other members have told me how upset they are about how the state is handling the budget situation. An off-board committee could be established to study the California Constitutional Convention as a way to knock down the barriers to efficient and effective government.

So let me know if you would be interested in joining or starting an off-Board committee to address important issues—suzbarba@comcast.net or call 538-9678.

Suzanne Barba

BOARD BRIEFS May 13, 2009

- AFFIDAVIT PROJECT – Pat Piras reviewed the new method for handling the recordkeeping for servicing the affidavit boxes which contain the voter registration forms (affidavits).
- SMART VOTER – The new Board will consider the amount to allot to help support LWVC's SmartVoter which all agreed does an excellent job of keeping voter's informed on elections.
- FUNDRAISING – Reviewed proposal to have another "night at the theater" to see Sullivan and Gilbert. Cost would be \$25 and food options will be discussed later.
- BYLAWS - Bylaws revisions were accepted by the Board. They will be sent to the membership before the Annual Meeting for approval at that meeting on June 25.
- LWVC Convention – Jennifer Ong was approved to attend the state convention in Long Beach in May.

SKYBOX FUNDRAISER

All members were sent tickets to purchase to win a Skybox donated by Supervisor Nate Miley, that will seat 24 baseball fans—family and friends. The game is Monday, September 21 at 7:05 p.m.—Oakland A's vs. the Rangers.

Skybox fundraiser tickets cost \$8 each or \$25 for four tickets. The drawing will be held on September 9th at Nate's office. Winner does not need to be present to win. But, don't delay in sending in your ticket money and/or request for more tickets to lwvea@aol.com.

NEW BOARD ELECTED FOR 2009-10 AT ANNUAL MEETING

The following members were elected to office for 2009-2010. They were sworn into office by Malca Chall, a life-time member, reading a “Charge to the Board” originally written by long-time member Eleanor Parker and amended several years ago by another long-time member, Alison Lewis.

Many who have heard it have asked for copies. It is indeed, inspirational for leaders.

CHARGE TO THE BOARD

I charge you to resolve to wear your League status proudly; to take action on League positions boldly; to bring to our generation the League vision of informed citizens voting and actively participating in government.

And, to challenge elected officials; to care more about the human element of legislation; to place more value on getting the task done and worry less about show.

And, to caution elected officials not to view politics as a game and to be caught up in that game; to acknowledge and support elected officials who work hard and honestly to achieve good goals which benefit everyone.

And, to acknowledge and support elected officials who take the long view, and work hard and honestly on issues which take many years to complete or resolve, or which may never reach final resolution.

And finally, to remain focused on solving problems; to encourage all sectors of the public process—voters, advocates, decision-makers—to remember that politics is a service to county and community.

I now declare you duly installed officers of the Eden Area League of Women Voters.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2009-2010

President	Suzanne Barba
VP Program	Nancy Van Huffel
VP Membership	Jennifer Ong
Treasurer	Linda Slater
Secretary	Maria Palmeri

Director	
Voter Service	Helen Oertle
Director	
Social Policy	Beverly Reliford

At Large

Director	Gail Lundholm
Director	Jo Murdach
Director	Connie Rusk
Director	Patrishia Piras

Past President	Marianne Dimick
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From L-R Gail Lundholm, Patrishia Piras, Helen Oertle, Jennifer Ong, Nancy Van Huffel, Beverly Reliford, Suzanne Barba and Malca Chall, the swearing-in officer.

VISIT LWVEA ONLINE

LWVEA.org is the website where you can find valuable information about the League positions, archived VOTERs the calendar and connecting links to Leagues at every level—national, state and regional.

“ACT GREEN” THEME FOR CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM JUNE 6

“Act Green” was the theme for the recent successful Climate Change Forum put on by the LWVEA and AAUW with a grant from the LWVUS and OXFAM America.



The Forum was divided into three sections: (1) Cap-and-Trade vs. Carbon Tax, (2) Sustainable Communities, and (3) A Call to Action at the Local Level.

Dr. Joel Kinnamon, Chancellor of the Chabot/Las Positas Community College District, which hosted the Forum, welcomed attendees and described how the college is reducing its carbon footprint.

The first presenter, Doug Grandt, Air Resources Engineer, trained by Al Gore on Global Warming, discussed how the melting in the Arctic would negatively affect people and animals throughout the world. He shared predictions of the impact of climate change for the next 40 years if nothing is done to reduce greenhouse gas.

Other panelists were Elizabeth Morris, Planning for Sustainable Community, who also moderated, and Chris Bush, PhD, Policy Director, Center for Resource Solutions who discussed the Cap-and-Trade and the Carbon Tax—two distinct policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, each with a different approach.

The second panel, also moderated by Elizabeth Morris, featured Stephanie Reyes, Policy Director, Greenbelt Alliance; and Cheryl O'Connor, Executive Officer, Home Builders Assoc. of Northern CA. These panelists discussed the need for building homes near transit to reduce the use of

cars. The need for building “green” was also discussed.

The third panel featured Michael McCormick, AICP, Energy and Climate Change Services Coordinator, PMC and David Rizk, AICP, Senior Planner, City of Hayward. Each spoke about how various cities are implementing “green” policies to reduce their carbon footprint and encourage residents to do the same.

A representative from OXFAM also spoke and reminded the audience that there were many poor people in the world who did not generate great quantities of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, but nonetheless will be drastically affected by global warming.

Attendees had an opportunity to ask the panelists questions and many focused on *“How do we change community habits and attitudes to make a large scale difference in using energy, and bring energy conservation to the personal and tangible level?”*

The Forum also featured exhibitors who provided information on “acting green.” These included: Pacific Gas & Electric, Castro Valley Sanitary District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, BART, Alameda County Transit, Rising Sun Energy Company, Keep Hayward Clean and Green, Oxfam and the Sierra Club.

Portions of the Forum were videotaped by June Ann Cook, a Chabot College student, to be included in a film she is developing on Climate Change. So, at some time in the future, you may be able to view the Forum if you missed it the first time.

Experts in the field have provided information on ways the public can cut greenhouse gas emissions, develop healthier and sustainable communities, and advocate for the change that scientists say must happen in order to reverse global warming. If we need “change” to solve this problem, then we all have to be the change-makers.



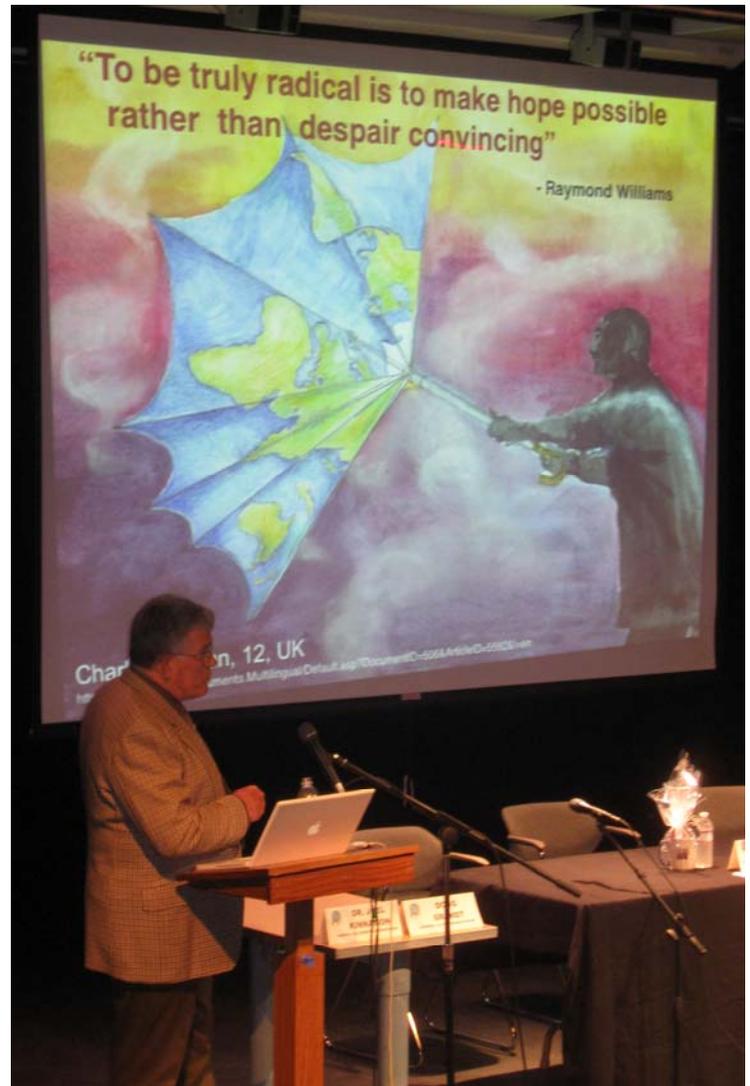
Dr. Joel Kinnamon, Chancellor, Chabot-Las Positas CCD



Dennis Waspie, Castro Valley Sanitary District Board Member at exhibitor table



L to R: Stephanie Reyes, Policy Director, Greenbelt Alliance, Elizabeth Morris, Planning for Sustainable Community, and Cheryl O'Connor, Ex Officer, Home Builders Assoc. of No. California.



Doug Grandt, Air Resources Engineer, trained by Al Gore.



Elizabeth Morris, Planning for Sustainable Community and Chris Busch, Policy Director, Center for Resource

LWVEA NOMINATES MALCA CHALL FOR HAYWARD VOLUNTEER HEART

Just as humans do, organizations need “hearts” in order to function. Fortunately for the Eden Area League of Women Voters, Malca Chall was



that heart transplant who started out with the Oakland League and later was instrumental in starting and taking leadership roles in the Eden Area League. Malca earned her 50-year pin for dedicated service to the League in 2005.

In 1949, she was asked to join the League by a colleague on the staff of the Council of Social Agencies in Oakland. The League was doing a study on some aspect of social welfare. Soon, Malca quit work about five months before her first child was born—this was more than a decade before Betty Friedan. After the baby was born, Malca would attend the study meetings at someones home, putting her infant beside her chair in his car bed and take part in the meeting. After her second child was born, she continued her activity with the League—she was hooked!

During her tenure on the Oakland Board she was responsible for two national studies. The first dealt with the Federal Budget Process. The second was called the “Freedom Agenda.” This was a program to educate Leaguers and the community about the Bill of Rights during the time when Senator Joseph McCarthy was making a mockery of that cornerstone of American democracy. As a result of the League’s study, television and radio commentators, and newspaper columnists were excoriating the League

daily, accusing members of everything short of being card-carrying members of the Communist Party. A strong National League President kept local Leagues from faltering.

Malca said that, that League campaign was the most difficult project she had ever undertaken. She learned first-hand that the price of liberty is indeed eternal vigilance, and in a hostile community, vigilance is not easy.

In 1956, Eden Area became a provisional League and Malca became Vice President. She was involved with many important studies, including an international study during the worldwide chaotic days in 1957—uprisings in Europe, assassinations in Egypt.

Malca also took a leadership role in conducting massive voter registration drives in Hayward. The League was a pioneer in the organization of candidates’ nights and in organizing open houses where citizens could meet their city and county officials.

The Eden Area League gained a reputation for unbiased service and dedication to “good” government. In 1960, the Hayward City Council asked the League to undertake a study of the City Charter and recommend revision. With Malca’s leadership and based on that study, the League, in 1964, mounted a successful election campaign to revise the Hayward City Charter to include the election of a mayor.

Malca has also found time to serve on the Board of Directors of the Emergency Shelter Program, Audubon Society and founded a Hiking Group in Hayward.

Over the past 55 years, Malca has continued to support the League and served on the Eden Area League’s 50th Anniversary. She still attends League functions and is always available to give sage advice. Like the energizer bunny, Malca’s service to the League, keeps going, and going, and going—like a heart beat.

WE HELPED PASS PROP 11 ON REDISTRICTING—NOW WHAT?

Redistricting—establishing new boundaries for state legislative districts--will not happen until after the 2010 census is completed. Applications to be one of the Redistricting Commissioners will not be available until January 1, 2010.

Right now the regulations are being drafted. Public comments are being taken at meetings throughout the state. The best way for the public to keep current on what's going on and when the form will be up on the web is to sign up for news bulletins on the State Auditor's website. Here's what to do.

Click on this link votersfirstact@bsa.ca.gov Tell them you want to be put on the list of Interested Person for notice of the process. You will need to give them your name, email address at which you want to receive news, your mailing address, and phone number. You should get an acknowledgement that they have received your email within a couple of days.

The basic timeline is: the regulations are drafted, the office of the State Auditor receives public comment, and the regulations are certified by the Secretary of State.

Then applications go to the Department of Justice for pre-clearance; they have a 90 day period in which to act (if they have concerns).

The League is a part of a broad coalition that is working with the State Auditor's office to write the regulations and do outreach. When the regulations are finalized and certified, then the coalition decides upon a joint strategy for public outreach

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Carson, LWV CA Government Director at govt@lwvc.org

LWVEA ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 25, 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

The keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting on June 25, 2009, was Lynn Suter, long-time lobbyist and respected figure in state politics. She spoke on how the Legislature and Governor were working on the budget to avoid a financial crisis in the state.



She also noted that the budgeting procedure was very complicated and that as the result of term limits, some of the newer members of the legislators were having difficulty with the process. She included the Governor in that group of people who were inexperienced with complex budgets.

During the business meeting, the membership took the following actions:

- Approved the proposed budget for 2009-2010.
- Approved the amended bylaws as submitted by the Bylaws Revisions Committee.
- Approved the recommendations from the Program Planning on the LWVC positions, recommending emphasis for education and advocacy on State and Local Finance, Child Care and Redistricting.
- Approved making no changes to the LWVEA positions.
- Approved the Nominating Committee's report listing the nominations for 2009-10 Officers and Directors. No nominations were made from the floor. The VP Membership and Treasurer will be serving two-year terms. The other officers will be serving one-year terms in order to align future elections with the Bylaws.
- The new Board received "Directions to the Board" made by the membership.

**JOIN LWV EFFORTS TO SECURE
QUALITY, AFFORDABLE
HEALTH CARE FOR ALL**

Date: July 16, 2009

**To: Members of the House of
Representatives**

**From: Mary G. Wilson,
President, LWVUS**

**Re: Comprehensive Health
Care Reform Legislation**

The League of Women Voters welcomes the introduction of America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 in the House of Representatives and we urge you to support quick action on this essential legislation. We believe that it is imperative for Congress to send real health care reform to the President for his signature as soon as possible.

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. According to a study reported in The New England Journal of Medicine, 70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health care system needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul.

All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable public insurance plan. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. We believe that health care reform legislation must guarantee access to comprehensive and essential benefits to all U.S. residents.

But coverage is not enough. We need to provide for quality and safety in the health care system. We believe that health care legislation must establish a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families. It is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done to control costs, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016.

The League believes that cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care. Offering everyone the choice of a government administered health insurance plan like Medicare that would compete with private health insurance plans will be key.

To achieve this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. The League of Women Voters is ready to work with you to reach this goal.

Follow the LWVC on Legislation



Do you know what bills the LWVC is supporting and opposing in this legislative session? Committees are busy hearing bills that have moved into their second house. Proposed constitutional amendments, which are not bound by the same deadlines as bills proposing statutes, are also being considered in their first or second house.

Reform of the state budgeting process is a major LWVC legislative priority for 2009. We are supporting several proposed constitutional amendments that would reduce the two-thirds vote requirement for revenue or finance measures to a simple majority or 55 percent vote.

Many bills on the League's agenda have to do with the rights of voters and the smooth conduct of elections. Others cover important topics in League program areas, from children and family issues to water.

A high-priority bill, SB 810 (Leno), which would establish a single payer system of health care coverage in California, fell victim to the state's budget woes and has been held over until 2010.

Another bill of note, AB 999 (Skinner), would shift policies at Division of Juvenile Justice facilities by giving credit for performance in educational, rehabilitation, and other programs when parole dates are considered — a shift from the current system of extending parole dates as punitive sanctions for misconduct.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-- PARTISAN No! POLITICAL You Bet!

This is the season when we need to be most careful to guard the nonpartisan reputation of the League. The League as an organization does not support or oppose any political party, candidate for elected office, or any group that supports candidates. But, we are a political organization. We encourage members to run for office. And, we are proud that many do.

Being non-partisan doesn't mean that the League can't advocate on issues on which it has a position. Positions are developed after long and careful study—sometimes years. Each level of League has positions national, state, regional and local.

But when the League is in its "educational mode" such as when presenting the pros and cons on issues or during candidate forums—we are non-partisan—we are not biased—we are educating.

MEMBERSHIP DUES DUE

Recently you received your Membership Renewal Invoice for FY 09-10. Hopefully you've written your check and returned it to the League. If you haven't, and it is in your pile of "things to do" please move it to the top and send in your renewal as soon as possible. The LWVEA Board voted not to increase dues but to keep them low. They felt it was important that there were no barriers to join for anyone who supports the League's mission.

The dues that you pay to our local League are passed through to support the League at the National, State and Bay Area levels. Dues are like the life-blood of the League—it enables every level of League to do the job that the League does best—educating the public on issues that impact their lives and influencing decision-makers on important issues. Please send in your renewal today.

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, Hillcrest Knolls and San Lorenzo

**IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE
 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

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 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.

CALENDAR UPDATE

Aug. 4@6pm	Retreat for New Board	SLZ Village Conference Room
Aug. 12 (Tentative)	Board Meeting	TBA
Sept.9 @11:30am	Drawing for Skybox	Supervisor Nate Miley's office
Sept. 30@6 to 8pm	New Member Welcome	SLZ Village Conference Room
Oct. 10@8pm	Sullivan & Gilbert Musical	Douglas Morrison Theater Hayward

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