



LWVEA Program Planning Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2009 @ 9:00 am

Start the year out right with your fellow league members discussing the state, Bay Area and local positions. Be prepared for lively discussion as we decide which positions we want to retain, revise, study or drop. Offer new suggestions for areas of emphasis or issues to study. Our league recommendations will be presented to our membership at our annual meeting.

This is one of the most important meetings of the year. Come be a part of this grassroots process and make your voice heard and impact the League's advocacy work in the coming year. We hope you decide to attend. A continental breakfast will be provided.

Supervisor Nate Miley's Office
20993 Redwood Road
Castro Valley

RSVP @ maddk9@dimicklaw.net or 510-581-9326

Water: California's New Gold

Bay Area League Day, January 31, 2009

Metro Center Auditorium
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

9:00 am to 9:30 am Registration

9:30 am to 2:00 pm Program

Faced with a changing climate and a drought cycles in California, the bay Area has a critical opportunity to plan for future use of water, a finite resource. The demise of a healthy Delta system has raised the question of water use, diversion and storage. Can the Delta fisheries be restored while th farmers continue to use 80% of the water supply passing through the Delta? Is there a conveyance system that can provide protection for the fisheries and an adequate supply of water for the farmers? Can the choice of crops affect the water usage? Should all water users be required to have meters?

Register on-line at www.lwvbayarea.org or call 510-839-1608
\$25.00 with lunch or \$15.00 without

State President's Message

By Janis R. Hirohama

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for such a year!

This year the power of the League's mission was electrifying. We have long understood and appreciated the value of voting, democracy and civic engagement. The practical programs we run every day - registering voters, educating the public on the issues, getting out the vote-empower citizens through their exercise of the basic, precious right to vote.

We know that voting is the practical stuff of which democracy is made, but it is so much more. Voting is power. Voting gives you a voice. Voting enables you to hold institutions of power accountable.

It was thrilling to see Americans rise above the indifference, the cynicism, and laziness that all too often plague the voting process. Despite a grueling series of elections in 2008, Californians discovered the passion and the power of civic engagement. Thanks to you, our community was able to rise to this challenge.

Together we served more Californians than ever before. This would not have been possible without the incredible grassroots network we all share. You are a part of a strong community of hard working Leagues, collegial individual members, enthusiastic e-newsletter subscribers, generous donors, far-sighted funders, and thousands of inspiring partner organizations. Together we form the most effective, exciting, respected network for positive change in California.

The success of the Easy Voter program, (Guide, Web site, and other resources), in depth, Pros and Cons, Smartvoter.org and other election-related programs is because of you. Whether you contribute content or funds, whether you distribute materials or promote their use with the local media, your support is essential for the strength and vitality of our trusted nonpartisan, unbiased voter service programs.

As you look ahead to 2009, I hope you'll take time to reflect on the value and the meaning of the vote. Let it strengthen us in our resolve to awaken in as many people as possible a sense of power they hold in their hands when they cast their ballots.

Best wishes to you, to your League, your family and your community for this holiday season and in the new year.

Board Briefs

November 12, 2008

- * We were lacking a quorum so no official actions were taken at the November meeting.
- * Voter registration drives, Pros and Cons Presentations, voter affidavit box servicing, Easy Voter Guide distributions kept members busy through the election season.
- * Discussion of members that have not yet renewed their dues and how to reach them and encourage them to renew will be handled by the membership chair by making personal telephone calls.
- * The President expressed her concerns about poor attendance at board meetings. She said she would contact those not attending about their commitment to the board.
- * The Board is looking for new Members At Large to join the board for experience in the league activities.

Board Briefs

December 10, 2008

- * With a quorum present, minutes from September 26, October 8, and November 12 were approved. Pat can now update the info the bank signature cards.
- * Gail said all forty tickets for the Holiday Affair have been sold.
- * Program Planning Meeting set for January 24, 2009 at Nate Miley's office.
- * The contract for the management of the Palomares Hills Homeowners Association vote was reviewed. Suzanne will recruit volunteers for stuffing envelopes and counting ballots.

League Member Cossette Sun Honored for Law Library Career

Cossette T. Sun, longtime League member, was honored after 41 years as director of the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library with a festive dinner this month. The award was given by the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL).

Sun, a 33-year resident of Castro Valley with her husband, Stanley, is a recent recipient of the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Law Libraries.



Cossette T. Sun

She has been an active member of state, court and county library associations, and her hallmark has been her work on diversity issues. She served as chair of the Diversity Committee of the AALL and has been a mentor and role model to many members during her career.

"The best thing about the job is that I can set my priorities and projects that I think will be of service to the community," said Sun. It's important to note, she said, that

half the library users are not lawyers, but ordinary residents including reporters and authors.

She oversaw the library's move into the computer age, and "the library started that kind of research from the very beginning," she said.

Sun was a member of Castro Valley's Municipal Advisory Committee for nine years. She has also been active in local library issues, and contributed \$10,000 to the Castro Valley Library, now rising on Norbridge Avenue. "I see it every day as I go to work," she said. "It's exciting the way it's progressing." She also contributed to scholarships granted by the AALL Executive Board.

She and Stanley are the parents of three daughters and six grandchildren. Congratulations on a job well done, Cossette.

LWVEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President <u>maddk9@dimicklaw.net</u>	510-581-9326	Marianne Dimick
Vice President - Membership <u>allisonnadjo@hotmail.com</u>	510-581-6794	Jo Murdach
Vice President - Program <u>mhanda@ci.san-leandro.ca.us</u>	510-918-3980	Marian Handa
Secretary <u>angelina.reyes@hayward-ca.gov</u>	510-792-9545	Angelina Reyes
Treasurer <u>piras@ix.netcom</u>	510-278-1631	Pat Piras
Social Policy <u>reliford@aol.com</u>	510-887-0671	Beverly Reliford
Voter Services <u>helenoertle@aol.com</u>	510-780-9047	Helen Oertle
Voter Registration <u>aslewis1215@yahoo.com</u>	510-538-3692	Alison Lewis
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Visit our website at lwvea.org and the state website @ lwvc.org.

Submit your story to the LWV Storybank

Be one of the next ten members of the League of Women Voters of California to submit your story to LWV Storybank and you'll win the LWVC's most popular gift: the California League Poppy Pin.

Just go to <http://www.lwv.org> and click on "For Members" and then share your story. Write about an experience you have had as a League member that epitomizes what the League has meant in your life. Write about how and why you joined or perhaps about the work you have done on a particular project, the friends you've made or the impact you have had as a league member on someone else.

Lighting the Way to a Greener Environment

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

It's on every Top Ten list of things-to-do to save energy and fight global climate change: Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

The benefits are compelling. CFLs use roughly 1/4 of the electricity of an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light. This means reduced electric bills for consumers, and less global warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

About 1/3 of global warming pollution in the U.S. is caused by coal plants generating electricity. Lighting accounts for 20 percent of the electricity used. For coal-using consumers, replacing a single incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep over half a ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb.

Those consumers whose electricity is supplied primarily by nuclear power can make an impact as well. Nuclear power plants typically sell their considerable excess base-load capacity to electrical distributors in nearby regions which otherwise depend on coal-fired power. Reducing demand for electricity in such cases, therefore, makes more emissions-free nuclear power available to replace carbon-intensive coal-fired power elsewhere.

Is Mercury a Problem?

CFLs do contain a very small amount of mercury—about 5 milligrams, enough to cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. The mercury is safe while the bulb is intact or in use, and even if the CFL should break, it poses little risk.

Far more serious are the 50 tons of mercury emitted annually from coal-burning power plants in the United States. To generate the average 10,660 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity used by the typical household each year, a power plant will emit about 245 mg of mercury (roughly 0.023 mg of mercury/kWh of electricity produced). By using CFLs, homeowners reduce their electricity use and cut mercury emissions.

Assessing the Impact

Let's compare a 23-watt CFL with an incandescent bulb that produces the same amount of light, namely a 100-watt bulb. Since ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs last five to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, we compare one 23-watt CFL with five 100-watt incandescents, equivalent to the minimum expected lifetime of the one 23-watt CFL.

	1 23-watt CFL	5 100-watt incandescents
Cost of bulbs (Home Depot prices)	\$4.00	\$3.15
Lifespan of bulbs	5,000 hours	5 x 1,000 hours
Electricity used over bulbs' lifetime	115 kWh	500 kWh
Cost of electricity (at 10¢/kWh)	\$11.50	\$50.00
CO ₂ produced	230 lb	1,000 lb
Mercury (electrical generation)	2.6 mg	11.5 mg
Mercury (in the bulb) *	5.0 mg	0

* With proper disposal, the mercury in the CFL will not enter the environment.

Making the Switch

- CFLs now come in many shapes and sizes—mini-spirals small enough to use in table lamps, sconces and ceiling fixtures; globes for bathroom vanity fixtures; chandelier bulbs; and recessed downlights.
- CFLs can replace incandescent bulbs in almost any fixture. Some are specifically designed for use with dimmers or in three-way fixtures.
- The amount of light that any bulb will put out is measured in lumens. A 100-watt incandescent bulb puts out about 1,600 lumens. Replacing that bulb with a 23-watt CFL also puts out 1,600 lumens, but it requires much less power.
- CFLs come in a range of color temperatures. For a warm (yellowish) light, look for a CFL labeled soft white, with a color temperature of 2,700K (degrees Kelvin). CFLs labeled bright white and daylight will have a cooler (bluish) light and higher Kelvin numbers (e.g., 3,500K or 5,500K).
- Look for ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs. These have been tested to meet stringent criteria; they use 75 percent less energy than an incandescent bulb and last up to ten times longer.

Disposing of CFLs

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, and proper disposal of CFLs is a must. The U.S. EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and major retailers to expand recycling and disposal options. Ikea, Home Depot and some hardware stores already accept used CFLs, and many states and municipalities sponsor regular household hazardous waste collection programs that include CFLs.

State and local recycling options can be found online at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling/ and at www.earth911.org.

If a CFL should break, scoop up the glass fragments and fine particles with stiff paper or cardboard and put them in a plastic bag. Do not use a vacuum or broom. Wipe the area with a damp paper towel and place that in the bag, too. Seal the bag, place it in a second plastic bag, and dispose of it properly. If weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.

Online Resources for Additional Information

ENERGY STAR comprehensive CFL web page: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls

Environmental Defense detailed guide to finding energy-saving light bulbs that work for you: www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagid=632

Earth 911 Web site with extensive information about recycling: <http://earth911.org/recycling/>

State-by-state listing of disposal and recycling options: www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling/

U.S. EPA information on cleaning up mercury spills: www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm

Produced by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force

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**League of Women Voters
of Eden Area**

P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley,
CA 94546 - 510-581-9326

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

www.lwvea.org

Calendar of Events

January 14 - Board meeting at 20993 Redwood Road

January 24 - Program Planning Meeting @ 9:00 am
20993 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

January 31 - Bay Area League Day, article pg.1

February 7 - Alameda County Council @ 9:00 am
20993 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

February 11 - Board Meeting @ 5:30 pm
20993 Redwood Road, Castro Valley

March 5 - The Big Read @ 12:00 noon
Location to be announced

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