



# League of Women Voters Eden Area

# VOTER

Vol. 57 No 7 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* August 2014

## FORUMS, PROGRAMS AND HOT TOPICS FOR 2014-15

During our LWVEA Retreat on July 19, the Board discussed and tentatively set the calendar items listed below. So, mark your calendars in pencil because changes might be made in dates or venues depending on when our proposed speakers can make the dates.



It was agreed at the Annual Meeting in June that our League would try to include the “education and advocacy” priorities established by the LWVUS—Campaign

Finance Reform and Voting Rights. It was also agreed that we make an effort to hold “Hot Topic” sessions on current issues of interest to our local communities. These would be coordinated and led by interested League Board and/or non-Board members. These sessions will be added to the calendar if enough interest is shown.

LWVEA will also be co-sponsoring many of these events with AAUW, PTAs, Libraries and other groups who would be interested and have compatible Missions and meet our Non-Partisan Policy.

Our Board changed its monthly meeting date to the fourth Monday at 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Hayward Area Historical Society 22380 Foothill Boulevard, Hayward. Meetings are open to the public, and if you would like a copy of the agenda, email Nancy at [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com)

## LWVEA CALENDAR for 2014-15 (Tentative)

**September**– Vote60by50 at Chabot College to educate students and others about why voting matters and increase the voting rate of students and others to 60% by the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Keynote speaker who has been invited is Christine Pelosi, well-known author on leadership and voting rights.

**October (or November)** - Luncheon featuring the four school district superintendents (Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, San Leandro and Hayward) speaking on how they are implementing the new Common Core Standards and Assessment and the Local Control Accountability Plans with parent and community outreach. This will also be a busy month for holding candidate forums for the November elections and pros and cons on ballot measures.

**Nov or Feb** Campaign Finance Reform.  
**December 5**– Holiday Party and Auction  
**January 17 (Saturday)** Program Planning – Review State League positions and make recommendations for new studies. Also review of LWV Bay Area and Local positions.

**February** TBD **March** TBD

**April** Meet Your Elected Officials and possible forum on climate change.

**June** Annual Membership Meeting

If you have any questions about League programs, contact Del Della-Dora, VP Programs at <mailto:d3nd@comcast.net>



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Jennifer Ong*

### **Are You a Team Player?**

The LWVEA Board completed its annual retreat on July 19. At the meeting, a priority was established to refer to our committees as our "teams."

As we begin another successful year at Eden Area, I invite you to become a team player by joining a team! At this time, we are requesting your team effort for:

#### **The Program Team:**

Headed by our V.P. Delmo Della-Dora assisted by LWVEA Board members, Suzanne Barba and Linda Morine, as well as our newest LWVEA member Maria Ochoa. Your assignment will include on-site roles such as registration/check-in, preparing any needed materials on the day of the event, welcoming attendees and/or set-up or take down of the meeting materials.

#### **The Membership Team:**

Led by long time LWVEA Board member, Gail Lundholm, assisted by LWVEA Board member and Past President of the North America Taiwanese Women's Association (NorCal Chapter), Cossette Sun, and newest Board member, Joanne Young. Your effort will be most appreciated in sharing LWVEA membership brochures to invite your networks to join as a member of LWVEA, sending communications to welcome new and long time members and organizing special gatherings to better acquaint our members with LWVEA's great work in the community.

#### **The Voter Service Team:**

A team that covers all work related to voter services including our Pros and Cons forums, Candidate Forums, Affidavit Management and Voter's Edge. More details to follow from our Past-President, Nancy Van Huffel, who is currently the Acting Chair with team members Rene' Besold, Jewell Spalding and Delmo Della-Dora.

## **RETREAT BRIEFS**

**JULY 19, 2014**

- **Committees** – Three major committees (Teams) were re-established to conduct the Leagues business for the coming year: Program, Membership and Voter Service. Chairs and Acting Chairs were appointed. Teams will meet in August and decide on calendar dates for their activities.
- **Calendar** – The Calendar for 2014-2015 was reviewed and months designated for programs, educational forums and candidate forums and events. (See page 1)
- **LWVUS** – Heard a review of issues and studies from the national convention and when to insert them in our calendar of activities.
- **Measure B** – Approved sending local league support (9 yes and 2 abstentions) to the county league (ACC) which needs the vote of five local league in order to vote as a county.
- **Board Meeting Dates** – Approved changing meeting date to fourth Monday of each month from 5: to 7:45 p.m. Venue TBD.

*Board meetings are open to the public. Contact [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) to receive agendas.*

### **HELP WANTED – LWVC STATE TREASURER**

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) and LWVC Education Fund (LWVCEF) are looking for candidates interested in serving as an interim replacement, to finish out a term through 6/30/2015. Read about the LWVC/EF Treasurer opportunity: <http://lwvc.org/about/job-opportunities/lwvc-interim-treasurer>

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Waggoner, Director, LWVC [jwaggoner@lwvc.org](mailto:jwaggoner@lwvc.org) or [415-644-5094](tel:415-644-5094)

# Our History...Our Future

Meet our oldest and our newest League members—Annual Meeting 6/14/14



Lifetime member (53 years) Malca Chall, Dr. Jennifer Ong, President and Reema Kakade, newest member



Former SL Mayor Tony Santos, Sharon Morrison, Karen Taylor, Malca Chall, Suzanne Barba



Vice President Delma Della-Dora



Professor Sherman & Alison Lewis, Jo Murdach, Reema Kakade, Linda Morine, Jean West, Penny Peck, Liz Bathgate, Sally Morgan



**Seated L to R:** Jewell Spalding, Nancy Van Huffel, Joanne Young, Rene' Besold; **Standing L to R:** Gail Steele, Jennifer Ong, Suzanne Barba, Cossette Sun, Delmo Della-Dora, Linda Morine, Penny Peck. **Absent:** Evelyn Cormier & Gail Lundholm

## 2014-15 Board of Directors

**Dr. Jennifer Ong, President** is the managing optometrist for her practice in Alameda. Jennifer serves on the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women, the Family Violence Council of Alameda County and other organizations dedicated to equity and social justice. In her second year as President of the League of Women Voters of Eden Area, Jennifer, with the commitment of the LWVEA Board, will continue to meet the League's priority of educating and engaging more voters in our communities.

**Dr. Delmo Della-Dora, V.P. Program** (Emeritus Professor, CSUEB) has been retired since 1992. He serves as the LWVEA representative to the Task Force to End Homelessness and Hunger in Hayward and is also active in Hayward Rotary, the Sategna Educational Foundation Board, and in fundraising for FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition) and Ruby's Place (formerly known as the Emergency Shelter Program). Del is in his second year of service as the VP for Programs of our LWVEA. Education for responsible citizenship and social justice are at the forefront of his interests.

**Gail Lundholm, V.P. Membership** has been on the Board since 2006. She managed the Smart Voter program for several years and now serves as Membership Chair. She has a Masters from Mills College and, after working in Early Education for many years, retired as the Public Information Officer from the City of Hayward. Her primary League interest is voter education.

**Penny Peck, Secretary** has been a member for only two years but is trying to make up for lost time as our new Secretary. Penny is also the Vice President of the San Lorenzo School Board, and is concerned about voter suppression, Gerrymandering of Congressional districts, and other issues relating to democracy.

**Nancy Van Huffel, Treasurer** Member since 1990. Board member 23 years. Served as President, Treasurer, Webmaster, VOTER Layout editor, and Voter services. As guardians of and advocates for transparency in our governing bodies, I believe the League has contributed to creating a better-informed and more aware society.

**Rene' Besold, Board Assistant to the President**--member since 2009 and Board member 4 years. It is my belief that the issues facing the citizenry today have a direct bearing on our continued survival; and to this end, I want to do everything in my power to inform voters through the dissemination of accurate, unbiased information. I do this by actively researching issues and sharing that information with others through my work in the League.

**Suzanne Barba, VOTER Editor** --Board member for 15 years and served as President for two terms and editor of the VOTER for the past ten years. Lead or participated in various League state and national studies such as Energy, Immigration, County Superintendent study, Federal Role in K-12 Education and recently the updating of the LWVUS position on Agriculture. I have also been a state proposition pro and con presenter. I think our forums and pro and con presentations are the most important jobs the League does--inform and educate the public on important issues on the ballot so they can make an informed decision when they vote. I'm proud to be a League member.

**Evelyn Cormier**, retired teacher who went to Cal State University, Hayward. Evelyn is a longtime community activist and in addition to League activities, is Past President of the Audubon Society, was instrumental in helping Measure C pass in Hayward, is involved with Friends of the Hayward Library.

**Jewell Hargleroad Spalding** is an attorney who practices civil business litigation, specializing in complex administrative and appellate law. Throughout the years Jewell has prepared amicus briefs on behalf of the Eden Area League, most recently representing the League in support of the Fairview residents the Tomlinsons before the California Supreme Court in *Tomlinson v. County of Alameda* (2012) 54 Cal.4th 281. Jewell has served on our representative on the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area.

**Cosette Sun**, Director of the Alameda County Law Library for over 30 years, retired in 2008. She was a council member for the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council for nine years; President of the Alameda Taoyuan Sister County Association appointed by the Board of Supervisors. She served on the Castro Valley Library Advisory Committee to help build the new Castro Valley Library. She was President of the North America Taiwanese Women Association-Northern California Chapter 2012-2013. She has been a member of the local League of Women Voters and was appointed as board member of the League of Women Voters Eden Area in 2013.

**Joanne Young**: Castro Valley resident for over 30 years. Retired from the healthcare field after 20 years in hospital administration/nursing administration/social service. She has a BA in Environmental Studies with a health focus from CSUEB. Wide interest in environmental issues and policies especially in areas of natural resources, transportation, and social justice. Tutored with the Alameda County Adult Literacy program. The League's goals of non-partisanship and empowering citizens by educational opportunities on public policy issues are a good fit with my values. I look forward to an exciting year ahead as a Board member.

**Linda Morine**: I have spent my professional life working in or as a consultant to local government including environmental/water quality programs and internal administration. This work background, my masters in public policy, and over twenty years living in the diverse East Bay has shown me how important it is to develop a strong civic society and how much we need the process of government to work well. I decided to join the League of Women Voters in March 2013 to help make that happen. In addition to work and the LWV, I serve at San Leandro's April Showers (services to the homeless), sing in two groups with my husband and have been known to take to the hills for hikes. I am most excited about our efforts to reach out to new and diverse groups. I look forward to working with the Program Committee and providing some behind the scenes support to our voter registration efforts.



## TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Rene Besold  
Del Della-Dora  
Crystal Hishida-Graff  
Minane Jameson

Sherman & Alison Lewis  
Doris Marciel  
Sharon Morrison  
Mark & Carol Norberg

Dorothy Partridge  
Kenneth Pon  
Bill & Laurel Quirk  
Nancy Schluntz  
Sheila Young



## CALIFORNIA CLEAN MONEY

*Californians are sick and tired of being deluged by misleading political ads that deceive voters about who paid for them. Voters need clear and prominent disclosure of who's behind ballot measures on TV, radio, print, and other ads -- right on the ads themselves.*

**Why is this important?** More than \$475 million was spent on ballot measures in California in 2012 alone, almost all of it hidden behind deceptive names like "Stop Special Interest Money Now" or the "2012 Auto Insurance Discounts Act."

**SB 52**, the California DISCLOSE Act, will stop special interests from hiding behind fake names by requiring ballot measure ads to clearly show their three largest original funders (two in the case of radio ads). They'll have to show the actual corporations, unions, or millionaires that paid for the ads.

**SB 52** will require the funders be disclosed on the bottom third of the TV screen in a big contrasting font on a solid black background for five seconds, so viewers can't miss them. No more fine print or misleading names.

That's why 17 newspapers and more than 350 organizations and leaders endorse **SB 52**, including **the League of Women Voters of California**, California Church IMPACT, CA Clean Money Campaign, CA NOW, CALPIRG, Common Cause, Consumer Federation of CA, Courage Campaign, Greenlining Institute, Public Citizen, and Sierra Club CA.

**SB 52** already passed the State Senate. **The Assembly Appropriations Committee hearing is on Wednesday, August 6th — a last chance to pack a hearing session in support of REAL disclosure on political ads.**

## LWVUS CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

*The highlights from the LWVUS Convention this June were "borrowed" from reports from the Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville League and the Fremont-Union City-Newark League who did send representatives.*

The convention delegates adopted a program for the next two years which will be on government and focus on three aspects: (1) a study of the ways to amend the constitution including a constitutional convention; (2) a review and update of the position on campaign finance; and (3) a review of redistricting for U.S. Congress to develop future action steps.

This will be carried out by task forces drawn from the League membership. The study of the constitutional amendment process will fill a gap in League positions and information will enable the League to respond to proposals around the country to move for constitutional amendment to control money in politics by, for example, saying that corporations are not people and money is not free speech.

In addition, the convention adopted a concurrence of the position of LWV New Jersey against Human Trafficking. It includes a statement that says, "Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools."



Climate change was a topic of keen interest at the convention. Key outcomes were passage of a resolution to put a

price on carbon with proposed action on how to do it and the formation of a Climate Change Network across the country. The Network already has 135 members from 31 states. For more information, visit the following website hosted by LWVBAE (Berkeley) <http://www.lwvbae.org/climate-change-network>

Convention delegates also passed a budget for 2014-16 that includes an increase in dues by \$1.

## BUILDING POSITIONS ON LIVING WAGE & ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

By Nancy Bickel, President, LWVBAE

The wealth and income of the U.S. middle class is slowly eroding. More and more people—even those working full-time—do not have enough to live on. (*The LWVBAE took these problems to the LWVUS Convention and advocated strongly that we need a clear League position.*)

LWVUS has a strong Basic Human Needs position that says “one of the goals of social policy in the U.S. should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty.

But, LWVUS does not permit this position to be used to support raises in the minimum wage or a living wage. The reason—in a 1988 study, Leagues did not reach consensus on this issue. No consensus, no position.

## COMMON CORE STANDARDS UPDATE

By *John Fensterwald, Ed Source*, July 9, 2014

The move to local control under the state’s new funding and accountability system has given school districts much leeway in adopting the Common Core State Standards, the challenging math and English language arts standards that California and 41 other states and Washington, D.C., have adopted. And that flexibility concludes a new report by researchers from Stanford University’s Graduate School of Education has the potential to create disparities in implementation the state should reduce.

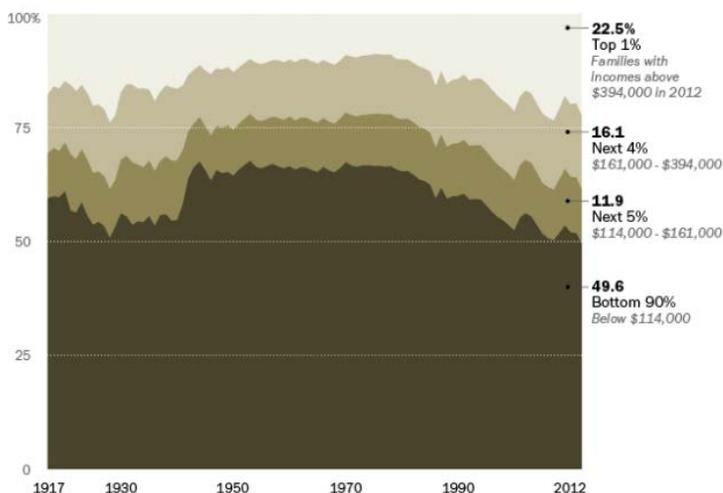
“In California’s newly decentralized policy system, the main responsibility for addressing many of these issues falls to local educators, but our research makes it clear that the capacity to address them successfully is sorely lacking in many parts of the state,” the report states. Local control, it says, cannot take the place of a stronger state role. The 16-page report, “Implementing Common Core State Standards in California: A Report from the Field,” was based on discussions with educators in three dozen districts and county offices of education, four charter school organizations and two education organizations.

With the administration of the first official tests in the new standards less than a year away, the authors found that most districts lacked a comprehensive, coherent plan for the Common Core Standards and that most didn’t have a unifying curriculum tying grades together. There have been promising regional collaborations among districts, but most of the work has been lesson planning by teachers at the school level.

To read the full article, go to:  
[http://edsources.org/2014/report-urges-more-active-state-role-in-commoncore/65232?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+EdsourceToday+%28EdSource+Today%29](http://edsources.org/2014/report-urges-more-active-state-role-in-commoncore/65232?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+EdsourceToday+%28EdSource+Today%29) -  
<http://edsources.org/2014/report-urges-more-active-state-role-in-common>

### Share of Total Annual Income by Income Bracket Groups

Includes capital gains



Source: “Striking It Richer: The Evolution of Top Incomes in the United States,” by Emmanuel Saez, UC-Berkeley (Sept. 2013)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

During “Guidance to the LWVUS Board” at Convention, discussion and interest was so intense to reconsider the 1988 decision, that President Elisabeth MacNamara unexpectedly responded, suggesting that state leagues adopt the LWV-Kansas Living Wage position at their 2015 conventions and bring the proposal back to the National Convention in 2016.

*Note – The LWVBAE is continuing its campaign to study and educate the public on this issue in the next two years and it hopes other leagues will do the same.*

## LWVC Recommendations on the November Ballot Measures

There will be seven measures on the November 4 ballot (unless the legislature decides to add another one or two). Here are LWVC's adopted positions to date:

- Proposition 43: **Oppose**  
The LWVC opposes the water bond as it currently appears on the ballot. We are watching to see what, if anything, the legislature does to replace this measure.
- Proposition 47: **Support**  
The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime, and therefore supports this measure.

We take positions on ballot measures based on program [positions](#) and/or on [League Principles](#). Positions are based on member [study and consensus](#). We have many positions, and many opportunities to act, so how does our board determine when to take action on statewide ballot measures, and on which items? [Learn how we decided to make these recommendations](#). The League does not have positions on insurance rate regulation (Proposition 45) or malpractice insurance or drug testing (Proposition 46), so we have no recommendation on these measures.

Read about all of the November measures at <http://www.sos.ca.gov>. - [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov).  
**Coming Soon:** Look for an announcement about our recommendations on the other ballot measures on in future e-newsletters, our [Web site](#), [sign up to receive Action Alerts](#), and [like us on Facebook](#).

### November 4, 2014 Ballot Measures:

Title	Subject	Description
Proposition 43	Bonds	\$11.1 billion bond for California's water system
Proposition 44	Gov't Finances	Increase amount of potential savings in the state 'rainy day' fund from 5% to 10% of the General Fund
Proposition 45	Insurance	Health insurance companies required to justify their rates to the public
Proposition 46	Healthcare	Increase the cap on damages that can be assessed in medical negligence lawsuits to over \$1 million
Proposition 47	Criminal Trials	Reduces the penalty for most nonviolent crimes from a felony to a misdemeanor
Proposition 48	Gambling	Ratification of gaming compacts with the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and the Wiyot Tribe
Proposition 49	Federal Con	Asks voters whether the US Congress shall propose, and the California Legislature ratify, an amendment to the United States Constitution to overturn Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

## Alameda County Ballot Measure B-Sales Tax for Transportation November, 2014 - Requires a 2/3 majority affirmative vote for passage



**THE QUESTION:** Should the voters of Alameda County approve increasing the current ½ cent sales tax for transportation to 1 cent, to be in effect until 2045?

**THE SITUATION:** In 2000, Alameda County voters approved ballot measure B, a ½ cent sales tax for transportation projects within the County that is scheduled to expire in 2022. Since that time needs for transportation infrastructure and services have increased as the population has grown, while at the same time funds for transportation capital and operating expenses from federal and State sources have been reduced or eliminated. The proposed ballot measure is designed to compensate for some of these reductions in funding and to help maintain and improve the County's transportation systems. Currently, most of the capital projects included in the 2000 measure have been completed and no new funds are available for additional projects. A new Measure B that was placed on the November, 2012 ballot failed to pass by less than one percentage point.

**WHAT THIS MEASURE WOULD DO:** The current half-cent sales tax for transportation would be increased to one cent and extended to April 1, 2045. Over this 30-year period, the revenues from the tax are expected to be almost \$8 billion. Over ¾ of this amount would be allocated to two categories: maintenance and repair of local streets and roads, and transit, including paratransit. Lesser amounts would be used for bicycle and pedestrian projects, to maintain and improve freeways and highways, to encourage transit-oriented development, and to fund a pilot project for a youth transit pass.

This measure has been changed in several ways since the 2012 version was defeated by voters. The changes include: 1) the tax will expire in 2045, rather than be continued in perpetuity, as originally proposed; 2) the projects and programs funded by the plan will be subject to evaluations of performance and cost-effectiveness that will be reviewed by the County Independent Watchdog Committee; 3) funds allocated to the Dumbarton Corridor will be used for express bus services rather than for a proposed rail project in that was projected to be low-performing; and 4) any direct displacement of current residents caused by new projects that use Measure B funds will be required to be mitigated by the project sponsors.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** This measure:

- ▶ Provides essential funding to help cities and unincorporated areas to repair and maintain local streets and roads, and requires that the needs of all who use them be taken into consideration.
- ▶ Allows AC Transit to restore most of its services to 2009 levels, and almost doubles funding for specialized transit (paratransit) to serve the growing population of seniors and people with disabilities
- ▶ Maintains, upgrades, and in a few major corridors, expands freeways and highways to mitigate congestion and improve the movement of people and goods.
- ▶ Funds a pilot program for a youth bus pass that, if successful, can be expanded and is expected to reduce driving to school and improve school attendance among low-income students.
- ▶ Links transportation and land use by setting aside a portion of the sales tax revenue to encourage housing development near transit services.
- ▶ Provides its greatest measurable benefits to low-income households by significantly improving their access to jobs, schools, and public transit.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** This measure:

- ▶ Adds capacity to some freeways and highways Provides funds to construct or widen freeway lanes on portions of several major routes to allow drivers of single-occupant vehicles who pay a toll to use carpool lanes. These lanes will be called HOT lanes. These lanes can be expected to encourage more driving and add to harmful greenhouse gas emissions.
  - ▶ Includes an expensive project to extend BART to Livermore that is far from fully funded at this time and that could divert future funding from important BART maintenance needs.
  - ▶ Fails to adequately fund transit to restore recently cut services to meet the future needs of a growing population.
  - ▶ Fails to reduce the incidence of traffic accidents.
- Fails to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
- ▶ Is funded by a sales tax that has regressive effects: that is, low-income households will pay a greater share of their income than higher-income households.

**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, and San Lorenzo

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_



**Dues:** Regular \$50,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> member 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.*

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**CALENDAR**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
August 25	5:45pm	League Board Meeting, Hayward Area Historical Society
September 22	5:45pm	League Board Meeting, Hayward Area Historical Society

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events,  
 email: [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) or check out [www.LWVEA.org](http://www.LWVEA.org)**