



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 59 No 11 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* December 2016

LWVEA HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, Dec. 9, 2016 - 5:30

p.m.

St. Rose Hospital, Balch Pavilion,
27200 Calaroga Ave, Hayward



Over the years, this event has been a combination, fund and fun-raiser with good food, camaraderie and "must have" auction prizes including:

- **Warrior Game Box Seat Tickets** •
- Lunches with local elected officials**
- **Holiday Tree Ornaments from Congress** • and lots more interesting and exciting prizes to bid on!

Cost: \$10

**Also, bring a gift for FESCO,
(FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTER
COALITION)**

(Partial Wish List on page 5)

If you haven't rsvp'd yet, it's not too late.

Contact Suzanne at 538-9678 or email to suzbarba@comcast.net.

SAVE THE DATE

JAN 21, 2017 (Saturday)

San Lorenzo Library
395 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo

Annual "Grassroots" Planning Meeting

This is when we set Education and/or Advocacy Priorities for the State and Local Leagues.

This is a "Grassroots" planning meeting and YOU are part of the GRASSROOTS of our League. You have the opportunity and the responsibility to indicate on which important issues you believe the State and Local Leagues should focus their time, talent and money.

Which two issues will it be:

Campaign Finance
Water

Higher Education
Mental Health Care

Housing

State and Local Finances

Or 16 other LWVC issue Positions

Save the date and read more about the importance of League Program Planning on page 3.



Co-Presidents' Report

Change—Meeting the Challenges for Building the Future

The election is over. We sincerely thank every one of you for your hard work and participation in all the events from voter registrations, debate watches, pros and cons presentations, voter services for candidates' forums and your voting.

What we face now is an historical moment of changes and challenges about which, we as Leaguers, have to educate ourselves and the public and give input when necessary.

From the time of Carrie Chapman Catt, the League has heard it, said it, done it, and we have always responded to the call for change - sometimes with the wind at our backs, sometimes not. And now, it is asked of us again at this time of tremendous change in our country and here at home.

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide by taking action to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels, by building citizen participation in the democratic process, and by engaging communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

The League believes in respecting individuals, the value of diversity, the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities, and the power of collective decision making for the common good.

Accomplishing this goal and objectives became even more challenging now and

defending the rights so many have fought and died for will be hard work.

Rebuilding our communities will be an uphill battle but the values we all hold dear can and will be the building blocks forward.

We hope you will stand with the League to support and defend all Americans regardless of their gender or race, regardless of how they worship or whom they love.



Together, the League will continue its work to create a more perfect democracy so that ALL Americans enjoy the same liberties and freedoms.

Together we will raise the voices of those least heard and rarely listened to in this country - communities of color, the young, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and people with limited income.

We need each and every one of you now more than ever.

Let's stand together to embrace the changes and challenges for building a bright future for all Americans.

Joanne Young - LWVEA co-president

Aiwa Zelisky – LWVEA co-president



BOARD BRIEFS November 28, 2016

- **Team Reports** – Reviewed 14 Team Reports which included what was done in the first half of 2016 and an action plan for what each Team plans to accomplish in 2017.
- **Holiday Party** – Approved the catering contract and reviewed the status of the auction items requested and received to date.
- **Program Planning** – Confirmed that the event will be held on Jan. 21, 2017 at the San Lorenzo Library and that League speakers will be needed to present on specific positions identified by the membership.
- **Membership** – Although we have recruited ten new members, our membership renewal rate has fallen below the expected goal.
- **Action Alerts** – Alerts we receive from LWVUS and LWVC will be forwarded to all board members in the future.
- **Local Positions** – Three of the five local positions have been updated and approved by the board and will be presented at the annual membership meeting in June.
- **Student Voter Education** - Continued effort will be made to work with school districts to allow the League to present on the importance of voting to high schoolers.
- **Board Meetings** - The December 21 board meeting was cancelled and a proposal to meet on January 9 (Monday) was made contingent on the availability of the current meeting room.

LWVEA Board Meetings are open to the public and are held on the 4th Monday (unless changed) at 5:45pm. Contact LWVEA@aol.com for agenda.

THANK YOU TO MORE OF OUR VOTER SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Last month we thanked the more than 30 volunteers who worked on voter registration throughout the election season.

Now we want to thank the League volunteers who helped make our four candidate forums and four Debate Watch and Pro and Con events so successful. In addition, volunteers participated in outreach at local colleges and helped our neighboring and former Amador Valley League with election events members of the community wanted to do.

Some of these volunteers worked more than one event. A big THANKS and lots of appreciation for the work that was done by:

Shelia Young
Rene' Besold
Cossette Sun
Liz Bathgate
Linda Slater
Marian Handa
Penny Peck
Norm Fobert
Jo Loss

Evelyn Cormier
Joanne Young
Aiwa Zelinsky
Nancy Van Huffel
Suzanne Barba
Akemy Nakatani
Carolyn Darcey
Marian Handa
Jo and Al Murdach

Also, an especially big thank you to Janice Friesen, Team Leader who worked on all these special Voter Service events.

Finally, kudos to our volunteers who distribute Voter Registration forms to our 75 location throughout the Eden Area. These volunteers spend countless hours to assure each of these sites are supplied with voter registration materials. A detailed report of our activities will be in the January VOTER.

Doris Marciel has been Team Leader and worked closely with Suzanne Barba, Miriam Lens, Rene' Besold, Jean West, Julie Quayle, Marian Handa, and, Linda Slater.



WHAT IS PROGRAM PLANNING?

In League, Program describes the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels.

The Program Planning process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money.

It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. You'd never skip voting in an election; you shouldn't skip the League's equivalent. The program planning process is your voice!



The process starts Jan. 21, 2017 with a local League Program Planning meeting when we review positions and propose the areas on which we would like to focus our local energy, the energy of other local Leagues in California, and the resources of the state League over the next two years.

The CA Program Committee reviews all the responses from local Leagues across the state. In early April 2017, the state board sends leagues their Recommended Program for 2017-18 for review:

- retaining, dropping or updating each position
- recommended studies and update studies
- recommended issues for education and advocacy emphasis

The program planning process culminates in the delegates' adoption of the statewide program at the June 1-4 2017, convention in Sacramento.

ANNUAL "GRASSROOTS" PROGRAM PLANNING

What issues do you want prioritized in California? You need to come to the League's program planning meeting on Sat., Jan. 21 from 11:45am-2:30pm. Attendees will take part in making our League's recommendations for policy and positions at the state and local level, including where the League should focus its energy over the next two years.

We are a grassroots organization. Annual Program Planning is one of the ways for all of us to participate in a meaningful way. We all have the opportunity and the responsibility to participate in program planning – to make our voices heard.

Was there an issue on the ballot this year on which you wished the League had been able to take a stand? Come discuss whether we should have a new study or update one or more positions.

To get you started, we will be sending out a survey on the State League positions. It will ask you to pick your priority issue positions. The Program Team will review your input and allow time at the meeting to review those high priority issues mentioned most often by those responding.

After those presentations and discussion from attendees, the group will vote on which position(s) to send back to the LWVC for emphasis on voter education or for advocacy during 2017-2019.

If you are a high achiever type, "gung ho" about issues impacting our state and community, or a dedicated League member interested to today's important issues, you may want to go to our website at lwvea.org and click on state and local positions.

LWVEA Program Planning Team

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

On November 30, the League co-sponsored a forum on Reducing Gun Violence with the Eden Area Interfaith Council and the Castro Valley Library.

The speakers included Toni Shellen, a representative from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence; Lorrain Taylor, founder of 1000 Mothers to Prevent Violence, Miguel Aviles, a responsible gun owner and Scott Miller, a representative from Congressman Eric Swalwell's office.

Speakers talked about gun violence statistics and the impact federal and state laws have on that number. Ms. Taylor talked about why they started an organization like 1000 Mothers to Prevent Violence; Ms Shellen, a former teacher, explained why she joined an organization like the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. The gun owner spoke of using "common sense" when owning a gun and the benefits of background checks to make sure people who are prohibited from owning a gun—cannot buy a gun.

Scott Miller, representing Cong. Swalwell urged attendees to let the congressman know how they feel about the topic and spoke about several bills that were being circulated at the federal level.

The forum was attended by approximately 35 people.

LWVEA REVIEWING LOCAL POSITIONS

We are now in the process of reviewing our local positions and updating where necessary. So far, three have been completed—Library Services, Parks and Recreation and Behavioral Health Care Services (formerly Mental Health Care Service) and Parks and Recreation (which the Board approved at its meeting Nov. 28, 2016).

Local positions that are still to be reviewed and updated are: Boards and Commissions, Land Use and Planning, and Unincorporated Area Policy.

If you would like to participate in the review of any of these three positions, please contact Jewell at jewellspalding@mac.com

The local positions are located on our website which can be accessed at www.LWVEA.org

WISH LIST FOR CHARITABLE GIFT TO FESCO (Family Emergency Shelter Coalition)

Those attending our holiday party were asked to bring a gift which the League will present to FESCO, a charitable group that provides services to the homeless and low-income families.

Attendees can bring the unwrapped gift to the holiday party on Dec. 9, or contact FESCO for information on where the gift can be dropped off.

FESCO office 510-886-5473

The longer Wish List was sent out with the original notice, but a very brief summary of some of the items needed by FESCO are:

Arts and craft supplies (coloring books, crayons, glitter, glue, pens, etc.)

Bath towels or bedding (new)

Diapers/Pull Ups (all sizes)

Gift Cards (any grocery store, Target, WalMart)

Toys for all ages (babies to 15)

Non-perishable food donations

Cash donations which FESCO can use to buy food or supplies for the families they service



ACTION ALERT FROM LWVUS

Dear League Members -

Right now, before he leaves office, President Obama has a unique opportunity to safeguard our climate, our children's health and our coasts by permanently protecting the outer continental shelf of the U.S. Arctic and Atlantic oceans from future oil and gas leasing.

[Tell President Obama to permanently protect the Arctic and Atlantic from offshore drilling.](#)

Preserving and protecting the Arctic and Atlantic is an important step in fulfilling America's commitment to stopping climate change. Keeping the oil industry from expanding offshore drilling will continue to move America towards a clean energy economy and away from the fossil fuel business.

[Time is running out for President Obama to grant permanent protections to the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans.](#)

Our nation has made commitments to stop climate change, preserve our waters and establish a clean energy economy. At a time when those commitments are being attacked, President Obama can make one more step in the right direction by taking executive action.

The choice is clear: We must continue to put the health of our people before the needs of big polluters. **[Tell President Obama to put people before polluters by permanently protecting the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans from offshore drilling.](#)**

*Chris Carson
President, League of Women Voters of the
United States*

SAVE THE DATE - BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY – JAN 28, 2017

The focus for this Bay Area League Day is on HOUSING—a major issue for the state, Bay Area and locally. The time is 9:30am to 3pm.



Keynote speaker:
Assembly-member Tony Thurman
from the 15th District

He will be followed by four panels of leading experts in the field of housing.

1. Measuring the Affordability Gap and Its Impact
2. The Relationship Between Housing Production and Affordability and Displacement in the Bay Area.
3. State, Regional and Local Roles in Addressing Affordability.
4. The Agenda Moving Forward

The location-
Berryessa Community Center
3050 Berryessa Rd., San Jose 95132
The cost:

Pre-registration \$35, includes lunch
Pre-registration \$20 without lunch.
Day of the Event - \$40 with lunch.
Day of the Event \$25 without lunch.

Paypal options will be available in early December. You do not need a PayPal account to process your credit card
Questions? 510-839-1608

ELECTORAL COLLEGE- PROS AND CONS

The United States does not elect its presidents by a popular vote, but instead uses an Electoral College process to select its leader, which may not be the politicians a majority of voters favored.

The founding fathers set up the Electoral College originally to retain a representative form of government. Each state is allotted a number of electors equal to its number of members of the U.S. House and Senate. These electors typically vote for the candidate for which their state popularly voted.

Numerous movements have aimed to go from an Electoral College to a popular election, but the system remains. Here are some of the pros and cons.

Pros

1. It protects minority interests.

The Electoral College preserves the voice of states with lower populations in [more rural areas](#). Especially in contemporary times, urban areas tend to be more populated, but the Electoral College saves the interests of farmers and those found in less bustling locations.

2. It facilitates a two-party system.

Some political activists may not be fans of the two-party system, but the Republican versus Democrats structure creates more stability. The small number of political parties allows for generalized platforms instead of parties focused on specific issues.

3. It directs more power to the states.

States are given the power to select the delegates to the Electoral College, allowing them to participate in the selection of a president. It maintains the representative form of government.

Cons

1. The person a majority of Americans favor may not win. Certain smaller states have a larger percentage of Electoral College votes than their percentage of population of the United States. This is because the minimum number of Electoral College votes for a state is three. Some consider this to not be democratic.

2. It's complicated and dissuades people from voting. A popular vote is a simple majority, but the Electoral College consists of redistributing votes every 10 years because of population changes and electing delegates.

There are many more steps involved, which may give citizens the feeling that their vote does not matter, encouraging them to stay home instead of visiting the ballot box on election days, according to the U.S. Election Atlas.

3. Small states and swing states get more power. One man does not equal one vote. California's 55 Electoral College votes mean there are 705,454 people per vote while there are only 194,717 people for each of Wyoming's three electoral votes.

EAST BAY COMMUNITY ENERGY IS ON ITS WAY

In the November issue of the VOTER, the meaning of the EBCEA was explained. Briefly it is to establish a non-profit public agency to set rates and determine the mix of power sources in Alameda County for participating cities and the unincorporated area.

The East Bay Community Energy Authority (EBCEA) Steering Committee and interested citizens – met November 29 and the following municipal entities approved the Joint Power Agreement (JPA) for their respective cities:

Albany, Emeryville, Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, Dublin, Livermore, Hayward, Union City, Fremont and Unincorporated communities (Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and others)

This represents twelve (12) out of fourteen (14) possible eligible municipalities in Alameda County. That roster includes approximately 90% of the total electrical load of the County, well beyond the minimum 7% required for a financially stable program. This level of participation should provide a very strong start for the East Bay Community Energy Authority program in 2017.

The next steps will be the process of obtaining signed copies from and for all signatories by the end of December, and seating a JPA Board for meeting in late January.

The JPA Agreement (Section 2.1), as of Dec. 1, the actual EBCE Authority will come into existence, pending signatures by three of the above entities. For more information about the EBCE go to the website at <http://www.ebce.org/>

Bruce Jensen bruce.jensen@acgov.org
Alameda County Planning Department

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 _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Dues: Regular \$50,
 2nd 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne Young, Co-President jysunrunner@gmail.com	Suzanne Barba, Voter Editor suzbarba@comcast.net	Terry Guilory, Program michguil@comcast.net
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CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
Dec. 8 (Thurs) 5:30-7:30pm	Supvr. Chan's Holiday Celebration	San Lorenzo Library 395 Paseo Grande
Dec. 9 (Fri) 5:30-8:00pm	LWVEA Holiday Party—St Rose Hospital	Balch Pavilion, Hayward Rm A&B
Dec.25 (Sun)		
Jan 9 (Mon) 5:45-7:30pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Area Historical Society
Jan. 21 (Sat.) 11:45am-2:30pm	Program Planning Meeting	San Lorenzo Library
Jan. 28 9:30am-3pm	Bay Area League Day	Berryessa Com. Ctr 3050 Berryessa Rd, San Jose

For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out www.LWVEA.org