



**League of Women Voters Eden Area**

# **V O T E R**

Vol. 58 No 2 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Feb 2015

## ***“Meet Your Electeds” Program***

**Friday, February 27, 2015  
5:00-7:00pm**

**Hayward City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
777 B Street, Hayward, CA**



### **Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Eden Area**

Join us for a reception and brief presentations celebrating the election of the current office holders in the Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo area.

Board members from the following jurisdictions have been invited. Each elected board was asked to choose one of their representatives to give a three minute summary of one or two major goals for their organization in 2015.

All Board members have been invited who cover the Eden Area: Congressional; State Senate and Assembly Districts; Alameda County Supervisors; Chabot Community College District; Hayward and San Leandro City Councils, School Board members from Castro Valley Hayward, San Lorenzo and San Leandro; AC Transit; BART: EBRPD; EBMUD; HARD; and the Castro Valley and Oro Loma Sanitary District Boards.

During the reception, you will have an opportunity to talk to your elected officials and enjoy light refreshments.

Please RSVP to Suzanne at [suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net) by Friday, Feb. 20, 2015 if you plan to attend. Thanks so much!

**Special thanks to the City of Hayward for the use of their facility.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I'm enjoying my first month of service as President of the LWVEA. A wiser person would have decided not to serve following a class act like that of immediate Past President Jennifer Ong. There's no way in which I

can muster the skills, intelligence, and energy to compare with hers. All of us owe her many thanks for the passion, commitment to LWV goals and good judgment she exhibited. As a bonus for us, Jennifer has agreed to continue to serve as a member of the LWVEA Board and is taking the lead in setting up our April 25 Forum on Income Inequality.

The Board asked for member input to carry out program planning this year. The meeting days and times, as well as the topics chosen, have been based on your feedback -- if you completed and returned the survey form. Our program plans to round out the year (which ends on June 30) include forums on Income Inequality and Campaign Financing as well as the popular session on "Meet Your Electeds." For the latter, there's opportunity to rub elbows informally with all the people we elected to office within the Eden Area.

We've had many lively programs since July. They could be even better if the meetings had more members involved in helping put on the sessions, attending them, and furnishing the questions that provoke thoughtful discussion. We welcome new people and differing viewpoints. Please contact me if you'd like to become more active. I will be serving as President until June 30, 2015.

*Delmo Della-Dora. President, LWVEA  
Emeritus Professor, Educational  
Leadership, CSUEB.*

## BOARD BRIEFS January 26, 2015

- **Appointment** - Cimberly Eng-Tamura was appointed to the Board of Directors.
- **Fracking** - Although this is a LWVC issue, local leagues are encouraged to advocate for the banning of fracking. The county league will be urged to do so as well.
- **Trains Carrying Hazardous Oil** – Board members will get more information on which areas are affected and urge city councils in those areas to take action.
- **Laura's Law (Mental Health Legislation)** – A letter will be drafted to send to the County League for action to urge the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution regarding implementation of Laura's Law in Alameda County.
- **Upcoming events** – Discussed: Meet Your Electeds (Feb 27). Economic Inequality (April 25) and Annual Meeting. (June 20) with a speaker on Campaign Finance Reform.
- **Library Position** – First update draft reviewed and referred to committee.

*LWVEA board meetings are open to the public and are held on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Email [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com) for agenda.*

## Coming Soon!

A Social Event for any LWVEA member who would like to bring a Friend to meet our Members and talk about League priorities & ways that the Eden Area League can meet Your Needs.

Watch for more info - Coming Soon!  
*Gail Lundholm, VP Membership*

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

### **SHELIA YOUNG SWORN IN ORO LOMA SANITARY DISTRICT First woman on board in 104 years.**

Shelia Young, former mayor of San Leandro (98-06) and long-time League member was elected to the Oro Loma Sanitary District Board of Directors in November of 2014. She is the first woman to be elected to serve the district and was installed on December 2 with some of her closest family, friends and colleagues in attendance.

The agency covers approximately 13 square miles and serves nearly 47,000 households with 140,000 population. The District oversees not only wastewater collection and treatment at its plant but also recycling and garbage contracts with Waste Management, Inc.



Director Young has indicated an interest in following the issue of recycled water throughout her service, along with other important issues for the health and future of the District. We applaud and respect the work she has undertaken.

### **ROSALEE OJEDA, New Member**



Rosalee Ojeda resides in Hayward, is married and has a son and daughter. She was educated in Hayward from elementary school through her professional training

and Chabot Community College. She has been a Licensed Cosmetologist since 1982; and a journeyman carpenter since 2001.

Rosalee is an active member of the Carpenter's Local in Hayward. Currently, they are preparing for the 100-year anniversary celebration of women's right to vote in Oakland.

Rosalee is interested in the League of Women Voters work in areas such as homelessness, air quality, GMO's, and equal pay for equal work.

"I am looking forward to being a member of the League and an active participant."

### **COSSETTE SUN MEETS WITH CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE**

*During our League Holiday Party in December, Cossette Sun made the winning bid for coffee with Congress-woman Barbara Lee. Below is her description of that meeting.*

"The brief meeting with Congresswoman Barbara Lee was most delightful. She is personable and listens to her constituents."



*Cossette Sun, Board Member, League of Women Voters Eden Area, had coffee with Congresswoman Barbara Lee on Jan. 24 at Sweet Bar Bakery in Uptown Oakland. Cossette was accompanied by Jonathan Lee, President of Formosan Association for Public Affairs. Jonathan spoke about the recent Sunflower Movement in Taiwan, and awareness of democracy on the island.*

## LEAGUE FORUM INCOME INEQUALITY NEXT

**Save the date  
Saturday, April 25  
from 1 to 3 p.m.,**

Our next forum will be on **Income Inequality** and it will be held at St. Rose Hospital in the Balch Pavilion in Hayward.

The program will focus on

- Social justice implications as a result of Income Inequality
- Past/Present/Future legislation and programs addressing Income Inequality
- A Call to Action.



### Speakers include:

- Sasha Werbin, Economic Equity Director, Greenlining Institute
- Ken Jacobs, Center for Labor Research and Education, U.C. Berkeley
- James Paxson, Chair of the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board

**More information in the next  
VOTER.**

## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*This is a Letter to the Editor from a resident in St. Paul, Minn, about the importance of voting that we thought would be of interest to League members.*

I've read and watched much of what has been inspired by recent events in Ferguson, Mo., Staten Island and Cleveland. I share feelings of disappointment and despair about the confrontations and tragedies. But the demonstration of outrage falls short.

**The most effective demonstration in any of those cities would be lines of people at the voter registration offices.** After an election in which average turnout was 36 percent, local communities can change the nature of politics through inspired voter education, candidate recruitment and local issue campaigns.

Jurors are selected from voter registration lists. School boards are elected in every community. Elected mayors appoint the chief of police in most cities. And voters can replace officeholders who have been unresponsive.

If we expect a "change in the narrative" of our social identity, we need to help our neighbors join the roll of registered voters, take control of the ballot box and influence the direction of our democracy. That's a demonstration that will be long lasting and fundamentally effective. *Dec. 8, 2014*



## LWVEA PROGRAM PLANNING EVENT-- BEST EVER

This year's Program Planning event where members get to pick issues they want the State League to emphasize for education and advocacy, was the best attended in many years. Thirty members armed with reams of information on the State, Bay Area and Local positions met at the Hayward Area Historical Society's Office to hear presentations, discuss and then vote on which issues to forward to the State League.

Presentations were made as follows:

*California Water Resources* – Sally Morgan  
*Energy* – Sherman Lewis  
*Campaign Finance* – Del Della-Dora

*State and Local Finances* – Al Mendall  
*Education* – Penny Peck  
*Mental Health* – Suzanne Barba

Each presenter had five minutes to make the case for their issue as being one of the three that would be forwarded to the State League. All did an excellent job as shown by the close number of votes each issue received. The three chosen were: Campaign Finance, Energy and California Water Resources.

The group also voted to retain all LWVC positions with recommendations for updating Campaign Finance, Energy and Mental Health. It was felt that decisions made by the Supreme Court, the increased use of Fracking and a recent law affecting Mental Health and the inclusion of veterans under Mental Health needed to be included in the aforementioned State League positions.

LWV Bay Area regional positions (8) were presented by Suzanne Barba. All positions were approved for retention. In the discussion of the LWVBA's position on Hazardous Materials Management, concerning the issue of the shipment of hazardous tar sand oil by train through parts of the Bay Area, it was suggested that it be reviewed and updated and action taken as appropriate.

Local league positions (6) were also presented by Suzanne Barba and they were approved for retention. A follow up was recommended on the Unincorporated Areas position and the Library Service position to complete the updating which was recommended at the annual meeting.

Attendees also approved a recommendation by the San Diego League to ask the State League at Convention in May to consider doing a new study on Death with Dignity.

In addition to the presenters who did a great job, a big thanks to the "worker bees" that made the event successful: Del Della-Dora, (VP Program), Rene' Besold, Cossette Sun and Gail Lundholm (registration desk and set up), and Joanne Young (Recorder). And special thanks to the Hayward Area Historical Society for hosting this event in their new facility.



## PROPOSED NEW STATE STUDY DEATH WITH DIGNITY or END OF LIFE CHOICES

Our local league approved sending this proposal to the State League at Convention this May. It will be introduced by the San Diego League if approved by enough local leagues.

“At the 2014 Program Planning meeting, LWVSD (San Diego) discovered strong interest in doing a study on Death With Dignity. LWVC (California) has no position on it and it is very likely to appear on the state ballot again.

“Civil rights groups believe that this is a matter of “Choice,” similar to reproductive choice for women. There have been a number of CA legislative bills and at least one ballot proposition to address the issue (Prop 161 in 1992-Physician-assisted suicide; AB1592 in 1999- Death with Dignity Act) None have passed.

“While several states have passed laws allowing some form of increased death planning rights similar to Oregon, assisted suicide has been defeated in a number of states. The issue has drawn nationwide media attention as the result of recent specific cases.

“LWVSD has formed a committee to write a proposal for a state study to be voted on at the 2015 convention in San Diego. The LWV of Arizona has created a White Paper on the pros and cons of the Oregon model: <http://lwvaz.org/files/EndOfLifeChoices-LWVAZwhitepaper.pdf>

“Other Leagues have looked at the subject but we have not found a state with a LWV position. The League of Boulder County, Colorado produced a report: [http://lwvbc.org/files/2012\\_03\\_right\\_to\\_die\\_unit\\_report.pdf](http://lwvbc.org/files/2012_03_right_to_die_unit_report.pdf)

“Opposition to this measure includes the following groups: Compassion and Choices, the LWV Arizona and “Not Dead Yet,” a group representing the disabled who oppose a change in the current laws.

Please consider a LWVC study on “Death with Dignity” in your Program Planning and let us know if you would support our proposal at convention.”

*Kay Ragan  
President, LWV of San Diego*

*Note: LWVEA did discuss this at Program Planning in January 2015 and supports the proposal being brought up at State Convention.*



**CALIFORNIA WATER**  
**RESOURCE** LWVC Comments to the  
**California Water Commission on**  
**Chapter 8 of the 2014 Water Bond,**  
**Quantification of Public Benefits of**  
**Storage Projects**

Water Commission members and staff may be aware that throughout the development of the 2014 Water Bond, the League of Women Voters of California expressed serious concerns about provisions that enable additional surface storage and continuous appropriation of funds to the Commission. Those concerns underlay our decision not to support the water bond, despite its many other extremely worthwhile provisions. We are therefore very interested in how the Commission performs its Chapter 8 tasks as the storage selection process goes forward.

Over the years that the League has followed water issues in California, we have advocated coordinated water management strategies that support those beneficial uses the State has designated for various water bodies, with an emphasis on mitigating the damage to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay Estuary ecosystem.

As the Commission follows its mission of developing policies that support integrated and sustainable water resource management and a healthy environment, it should look beyond the water bond itself to other applicable laws and statutes, including sections of the Delta Reform Act of 2009 that relate to reducing reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs and investing in improving the sustainability of local and regional supplies.

Any policy framework should acknowledge that reducing reliance on Delta exports over the long term can only be achieved by recognition of the over-allocation of California's surface water resources by as much as five times. To address over-allocation of resources, regulations for allocating the storage element of bond money should prioritize project strategies that include improved local supplies, watershed

management, conservation, and water use efficiency.



We believe the regulations and guidelines should seek the greatest possible range of storage project types. Special emphasis should be placed on groundwater storage projects that protect the area of origin, of particular importance to the Sacramento Valley and other areas of the state as well. Regulations should include criteria to quantify and document hydrologic connections between surface and ground water, leading to true conjunctive use projects. We believe that a key criterion for allocation of funds should be potential for correction of overdraft and potential for conjunctive use. Moreover, we believe that in extending funds for such projects, the Commission must require recipients to manage recharge and extraction in a manner that does not exceed basins' safe yields.

We advocate guidelines ensuring that ecosystem improvements in flow conditions in the Delta specify that "improvements" refer to both increased inflow and increased outflow, consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board's recognition of the need for increased flows into and through the Delta.

Finally, we have always advocated transparency in public processes. With this in mind, we believe it is essential that there be transparency and accountability in the monitoring and enforcement of grant conditions to grantee projects. Additionally, we believe before any money is allocated to a grantee, the grantee must demonstrate that the grantee has utilized its water resources wisely through conservation and recycling.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important process.  
Helen L. Hutchison. LWVC President

**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:  
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**Dues:** Regular \$50,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> member same Household \$25,  
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*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
Feb 23 (Monday)	5:45 p.m.	LWVEA Board Meeting
Feb 27 (Friday)	5:00 p.m.	Meet your Elected Officials—Page 1

**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)**