



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 58 No 6 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* June 2015

REMINDER

ANNUAL LEAGUE MEETING

Featured speaker:

Cong. Eric Swalwell

**What is Congress doing about—
Climate Change
Campaign Finance Reform
Income Inequality**

Saturday, June 13

Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave.

Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Registration

10:15 a.m. League Business Meeting

12 noon – Congressman Swalwell

12:30 p.m. Q & A

1:00 p.m. Adjourn

During the League Business Meeting, members will elect new board members for 2015-16, take action on the budget and approve League positions.

Attendees are asked to rsvp to suzbarba@comcast.net or call 538-9678.

This program is co-sponsored by the Castro Valley Library.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Soon, League members will be mailed a notice and invoice to renew their annual dues to support the League. The Board approved continuing to keep our dues at \$50—the lowest among Alameda County leagues.

We send \$57.50 of our membership dues to national, state and regional to support the League’s effort to monitor, educate and advocate on vital legislation on important issues that impact you and your community.



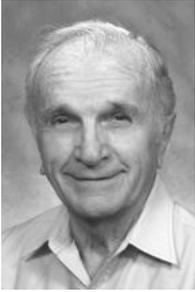
Membership

How can we send them \$57.50 when our dues are only \$50? We subsidize our dues from donations from our generous members and successful fundraising events.

Why do we continue to subsidize our membership dues? Because we don’t want the cost of our dues to be a barrier to those who want to join the League but think they cannot afford higher dues.

Please make out your check when you receive your invoice so that it doesn’t slip to the bottom of your “things to do” pile of good intentions.

Member support of the league through payment of dues goes a long way to ensure that the League will meet its mission to educate members and voters on important issues at the local, state and national levels.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

You may recall that Dr. **Jennifer Ong** resigned in December due to changes in her work life. The Board appointed me to serve as President because

I was the First VP for Programs. We decided not to fill my post as VP and operate with more shared leadership among Board members to carry out both the roles of President and First VP for Programs. Board members certainly did their part in making proposed shared leadership a reality.

After Jennifer's resignation, **Penny Peck** volunteered to take the lead role in conducting our "Meet the Electeds" session with new member **Kimberly Tamura-Eng** as the lead person for refreshments, **Jennifer Ong** served as the leader for the forum on "Income Inequality", and **Gail Lundholm** was the leader for a winetasting event for potential new members and also in registering Chabot College students to vote. While Jennifer was still President, she was the leader for the forum on "Dark Money", I was the leader for the forum on "Community Involvement in Implementing the Core Curriculum Standards", and **Nancy Van Huffel** was the leader in setting up public sessions for political candidates and ballot issues.

Evelyn Cormier was the leader in revising the LWVEA statement on library issues, **Suzanne Barba** continued her excellent work as Editor of The VOTER, and **Jewel Spalding** drafted statements for our Board to present to the Alameda County Council of LWVs concerning several positions that the ACC was considering. **Jewel** is a fierce fighter on behalf of environmental protection and voter rights. **Rene' Besold** prepared the agenda for each Board meeting, **Penny Peck** gave us copies of the minutes for each Board meeting within a day or two after each meeting (!) and Nancy Van Huffel took good care of our money as our

Treasurer. **Cossette Sun** and **Joanne Young** volunteered to assist in carrying out all the forums and each major LWVEA activity. **Aiwa Zelinsky** just recently joined the Board and is enthusiastic about serving with the League.

I'm very impressed by the people who serve on the Board. They not only have strong well-considered views, but also spend the time needed to have their views take shape in helping improve the quality of life in our community. I thank all of them and all of you who also work on behalf of a better society. I'm very fortunate to be a part of such a great group.

Delmo Della-Dora, President, LWVEA

BOARD BRIEFS – MAY 18, 2015

- **Hayward Volunteer of the Year Award**

The board nominated Jewell Spalding to represent the LWVEA as its nominee for the Award.

- **Hayward Area Historical Society –** A donation of \$250 will be sent to the HAHS for graciously allowing LWVEA to meet in its facilities after hours for Board meetings and other events.

- **Community Choice Aggregate –** Appointed Jewell Spalding to apply to be on an Alameda County committee where CCA is being considered.

- **Annual Meeting June 13 –** Discussed the final details for ensuring that this event will be successful.

- **LWVEA Board Retreat July 18 –** Discussed the purpose and what we expect to accomplish at the Retreat.

- **MEMBERSHIP -** Joanne Young reported that we picked up two more new members as the result of our Income Inequality Forum.

Board meetings are open to the public and are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 5:45 pm. Email lwvea@aol.com for agenda.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LWVC CONVENTION – MAY 2015

Top LWVC Issues for Education and Advocacy for 2015-17:

1. Money in Politics
2. Climate, Sustainable Water, and Protecting the Environment
3. Election Reform and Voting Rights
4. Minimum/Living Wage.

Top LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2015:

Voting Rights
Election Administration
Money in Politics

Second Tier Issues:

Climate and Environmental Protection
Immigration
Health Care (including Reproductive Choice)

California Legislative Priorities 2015–selected earlier by the LWVC Board

• State and Local Finances/State Budget

- o Support equitable and adequate generation and distribution of tax revenues
- o Support restoration of funding for selected government programs while also advocating for the need for healthy reserves

• Election Administration and Voting Rights

- o Support measures to improve election administration and Californians' voting experience and access to voter registration
- o Support extension of the protections of the state/federal voting rights acts

• CA Legislative Second Tier of Focus:

- o **Education** – Issues include early childhood education and education finance, including repeal of the cap on local district reserves
- o **Environmental protection and sustainable management of natural**

resources

- Issues include water, climate change, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- o Money in politics – Issues include rebuilding the Cal-Access online campaign and lobbying disclosure system and stronger campaign disclosure requirements

• Other Legislative Issues, As Time and Resources Permit

- o Support requests from local Leagues and inter-League organizations (ILOs) for advocacy on bills of specific interest to their jurisdictions
- o Take action as appropriate on other core issues: Redistricting, Initiative and Referendum Process, and Reproductive Choices

PMP Increase:

The adopted budget includes an increase in the Per Member Payment (PMP) from \$23.00 to \$25.50 fiscal year 2015-2016 and an additional \$2.50 in fiscal year 2016-2017. This increase is the first proposed increase since FY 2010-11. The proposed increase will ensure the LWVC has sufficient resources to support local Leagues in all areas including Leadership and Development.



Two bills now in the California Legislature that are critical to our continued efforts to mitigate climate change: SB 32 and SB 350 will extend current greenhouse gas emission reductions and petroleum reduction targets to 2050 and 2030 respectively. LWV California supports SB 32 and supports in concept SB 350 (see www.lwvc.org Bill Status Report for information). LWVC will be sending Calls to Action to local Leagues, as this legislation proceeds.



As Board members, we have experienced a great deal of satisfaction in carrying out activities that we believe benefit our Eden Area community. We have accomplished many things this year, but we can do better if we have some help from ALL of our members. Thus, this year we are asking ALL members to volunteer at least a few hours of their time to help us carry out our League priorities for the year.

We have a variety of tasks, both day and evening, involving a few hours for the year, or a few hours each month that will contribute to the League's effectiveness and visibility. If you love a challenge as part of a cheerful and collaborative team, we have interesting and challenging jobs to fit your interests, your schedule, and your skills. We can't do it without you!

MEMBER SURVEY FOR VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

- YES: We need help registering voters (2 hour block of time, working in teams of 2)
- YES: High School Voter Registration Program (3 hours-daytime, working in teams of 2)
- YES: Pros & Cons Speakers (requires initial training, and each presentation is approximately an hour; working in teams of 2)
- YES: Candidate Forums: Need moderators, question sorters, timers, and ushers. (2-3 hours each forum—held in April, May 2016)
- YES: Distribute Voter Registration forums in your community. Average one hour each month.
- YES: Smart Voter Activities—Call/Email candidates running for election to encourage them to put information on local Website (March, April 2016 training plus 4 hours/month)
- YES: Membership Activities—Assist with events that help recruit and welcome new members
- YES: Local positions committee—Review LWVEA position on unincorporated areas and other positions as needed. Several of you have previously volunteered, and we have not had time to meet, but this year we plan to make it a priority.
- YES: Communication Team—Help with the Web, Facebook, Twitter
- YES: Program Team —Suggest, plan, and implement forums of interest to League members.
- YES: Outreach Team—Contact community groups, churches to discuss LWVEA activities
- YES: Administrative Chores—stuffing envelopes, calling members etc.
- SORRY, I have no time for volunteer activities, but will continue my support as a member.

We will be mailing this form with your invoice. Please complete and return it with your membership dues. We don't want to unnecessarily bother you, so let us know if you don't have time and we promise not to bother you with other emails or call you regarding your participation.

Name: _____

QUESTIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

Our local League Board had a discussion about some of the rules and regulations that govern how the Office of the Registrar of Voters operates. The original questions were brought to the League's attention by some candidates, elected officials serving on boards and a number of voters.

We drafted a letter to the Office of the Registrar with these questions. The questions generally pertained to costs for candidate statements and ballot measures, standards used in determining which languages will be used for translated materials, ballot measure information, how the location of a precinct is decided and guidelines for handling uncontested races.

For example, based on the League's initial research, the cost to publish candidate statements in the voter guide varies widely from approximately \$1,000 for a small special district to \$1,700 for school board candidates, to \$25,000 for the county superintendent of education. This requires candidates to engage in substantial fundraising and limits the potential pool of candidates.

We know a candidate's statement in the Voter's Guide is important. They are published so every voter can learn of the candidate's position. Candidates who cannot afford the statements are at a clear disadvantage. We found that some jurisdictions continue to make sure it is free. The public would like to know how the fees are determined?

Another example under "ballot measure information" asked who makes the final decision regarding which text is published for ballot measures in election materials. We were told that some jurisdictions were failing to print in the ballot the full text of the measure, listing a website instead. For those without access to computers, this would not guarantee the voter would find the right link.

We recognize that the Office of the Registrar of Voters provides an important service in helping our communities to engage in the election process and has worked with the League in registering new voters and disseminating information.

Because the issue is an Alameda County issue, a draft of our letter was sent to the Alameda County Council (ACC) that represents the six Leagues in the county. It must be approved by the ACC before sending to the Office of the Registrar. The Boards of each of the six local Leagues in Alameda County must approve the draft before it can be sent.

In further discussion at our local League Board meeting, it was suggested that the final draft, as adopted by the ACC should be sent to the LWVC with a recommendation to disseminate to other counties that may have the same questions about their voting systems.

LAURA'S LAW

This is a draft copy of a letter also sent to the Alameda County Council LWV to send to the members of the AC Board of Supervisors.

Dear Members, AC Board of Supervisors

The Alameda County Council representing six local Leagues in the county would like to go on record in support of implementing Laura's Law and putting it on the Board's agenda soon.

As you know, Laura's Law went into effect in 2002 and is an Assisted Outpatient Treatment program for people with severe mental illnesses who refuse specific treatment because their illness impairs their ability to make rational decisions.

We base our support of implementing Laura's Law utilizing the State League's position on Mental Health Care. That position states that the LWVC supports "*an adequately funded mental health care system that provides*

comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mental ill of all ages.”

Seven counties (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Orange, Nevada, Yolo, Placer and Mendocino) have Implemented Laura’s Law. However, Alameda County has not as of this date. In addition 44 states have passed similar laws. Duke University found it reduced public costs so much that states could actually expand mental health services.

In 2004, voters approved Proposition 63 to increase funding for mental health programs. It provides one-quarter of the state’s mental health funds. The voters recognized the need for supporting a mental health program which addressed the acutely, chronically and seriously mental ill of all ages.

Implementation of Laura’s Law supports the need for those services in Alameda County.

We urge the Board to approve the implementation of Laura’s Law in Alameda County.

(Note – additional information on Laura’s Law can be found on the LWVEA website- LWVEA.org.

READ THE LWV BAY AREA MONITOR

As always, the April/May 2015 issue is chock full of interesting and informative information. It can be accessed at www.bayareamonitor.org to read the full articles. Below are a few of the issues that are contained there.

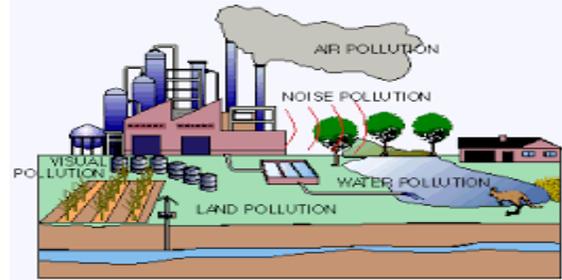
The Faucet as Power Switch: Water’s Hidden Energy Consumption

By Robin Meadows

Most of us hardly think about it, but when we turn on the tap, we’re not just using water — we’re also using energy. And, if you’re like me, you’ll be surprised to find out how much. Statewide, water consumes nearly a fifth of our electricity and a third of our natural gas, according to a 2005

California Energy Commission (CEC) estimate.

Although it’s been a decade since the CEC brought this hidden energy drain to light, we have made little progress in conserving the energy embedded in our water. This goes for both the agencies that manage water and the people who use it. ([read more at www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org))



Measuring Methane and Estimating Emissions to Protect the Climate

By Alec MacDonald

When statistician David Fairley first joined the Bay Area Air Quality Management District in 1987, the agency was paying special attention to carbon monoxide, because the region’s levels of that toxic gas did not meet federal standards and threatened public health. Since then, advances in vehicle technology have dramatically decreased carbon monoxide levels, and now “they’re so low that we have trouble measuring them,” Fairley said.

While the steady decline of this air pollutant represents a success story unto itself, the Air District’s focus on carbon monoxide has also yielded an unexpected discovery that holds implications for climate protection efforts in the Bay Area.

At first glance, the connection seems odd. Climate protection work doesn’t focus heavily on carbon monoxide, because it isn’t a significant greenhouse gas. However, researchers from the California Air Resources Board have demonstrated that carbon monoxide can share a statistical relationship with methane — which is a highly significant greenhouse gas. ([read more at www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org))

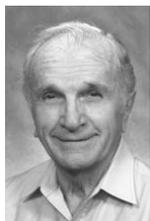
LWVEA Board Member Nominations for FY 2015-16

Suzanne Barba--I joined the League 15 years ago and have served as President for two terms, and VOTER Editor for 14 years. During election cycles, I have trained and been a presenter for the League's Pros and Cons on ballot propositions. I have also chaired or been a member of various study groups on such topics as: education, energy, agriculture and immigration. It is a pleasure to work with like-minded people interested in educating community members and voters on the importance issues of the day.



René Besold - As a Director of Human Resources and Training for 23 years, upon retiring in 2008, I wanted to volunteer for an organization that was doing positive work to make our nation better. That's when I found LWVEA. I immediately joined the Board because I saw the caliber of the people within the organization and the zeal with which they strove to address the inequities within our society from challenged voting rights to salary disparity. I knew from the beginning that this was exceptional work being done by exceptional people and I wanted to be a part of it. I've never looked back. It is an honor to continue to serve on the LWVEA Board.

Evelyn Cormier- a long-time League member and environmentalist, and recognized in 2005 in a *Daily Review* article for my achievements as a community volunteer, especially in the area of the environment. I am involved with Hayward Friends of the Library, the Fairway Park Neighborhood Association Board, the Hayward Area Planning Association and have been president of the Audubon Society. I taught first and second grade at Fremont Elementary School for 31 years. I have been a community activist for most of my life. My wish is that more people would get involved in their communities.



Delmo Della-Dora. Born in Detroit, Michigan (1926). US Navy during WWII. Married Nadine Campbell and we had four daughters. Chemist and taught science classes. Served as a principal, curriculum director, and superintendent. Special assignments: USAID in Somalia; Michigan-Ohio Regional Educational Laboratory; and Overseer of Desegregation of Detroit Public Schools. Came to California in 1971 and served as Professor of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership at CSU, Hayward. Volunteer board member for St Rose Hospital Foundation and its Board of Trustees; Emergency Shelter Program; and Seventh Step Foundation. Member of Task Force to End Homelessness and Hunger in Hayward. Joined LWVEA Board in 2012. The LWVEA Board is a wonderful group of dedicated people who work hard to promote democratic principles and protect individual citizen's rights within the Hayward Area and beyond.

Cimberly Eng-Tamura-- Cimberly Eng-Tamura is a fourth generation Californian raised in Oakland. She earned her BA from San Francisco State University and continued her studies obtaining her teaching credential and did her graduate work at UC Berkeley. She retired from teaching in the New Haven School District where she was a teacher and then administrator. In 2011, she was appointed to the San Leandro Senior Commission and reappointed in 2015. She has also served on the following community organizations: All Saints Episcopal Church Vestry; Wa Sung Community Service Club (Board Member and Head of Educational Grant Committee); Optimist Club, Past President, San Leandro Asian Community Cultural Assoc., Board member; and Toastmaster International, Treasurer. Cimberly is looking forward to the many activities and challenges of being a League Board Member. Education and Women's Rights are at the top of her issues priority list. She said she wants to do things that have a positive impact and hopes to be an active member.



LWVEA Board Member Nominations for FY 2015-16



Norman D. Fobert—I have been a governing Board Member of the San Lorenzo Unified School District for the last 19 years. I received a Juris Doctor Degree from Lincoln University Law School, possess a Master's Degree, from Saint Mary's College of California in Educational Leadership, and graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. I have both California Teaching and Administrative credentials and have taught in the Hayward School District, retiring in 2010 as Superintendent of the Bayshore Elementary School District in San Mateo County. My spouse is Pamela Hart-Fobert and we are the parents of four sons and twelve grandchildren. I worked over 25 years in private business administration and financial management. I have been continuously active in our community educational, civic and religious organizations, including Bay School PTA and School Site Council. I have been a Scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America, and was a guest instructor through Junior Achievement of the Bay Area. I also currently serve on the Hayward Area Historical Society board and as Visiting Committee Chair for the *Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)*, accrediting California schools.

Marian Handa--An informed and active electorate is crucial to an effective democracy. As San Leandro's City Clerk for over 12 years, I became a member of the LWVEA to support the League's efforts to promote voter registration and education for the Eden Area, and San Leandro in particular. As a volunteer mentor to high school students for many years, I appreciate the LWVEA's partnership with local high schools and Chabot College, to educate and motivate our local youth to participate in the electoral process. Our LWVEA members are a caring and committed group of individuals, and I feel truly fortunate to be a part of this League.



Gail Lundholm: Soon after I retired from the City of Hayward, I was asked to join the League and be on the Eden Area Board. I've learned a lot about specific issues as well as how the League operates; and, I have enjoyed chairing both Smart Voter and Membership positions. Now, I am hoping to see new members become more involved on the Board level.

Penny Peck - As a relatively new member of just three years, I enjoy serving as the LWVEA Secretary for our board and working with such wonderful people on programs, high school voter registration, our website, and other league projects. In 2012 I was elected to the San Lorenzo School Board, where I currently serve as the Vice President. I joined the League to help facilitate an honest political process; my major issues of concern are voter suppression, Gerrymandering of Congressional districts, literacy, and the inclusion of all in the political process. I am especially concerned about the continual prejudice in our society, and hope our efforts can promote respect for people of all cultures, religions, sexual orientations, economic circumstances, and respect for women.



Jewell Spalding— I have lived in the unincorporated Eden Area for over 25 years, serving as the President of Hayward Hills Property Owners Association, an appointee to the East Board of Zoning Adjustments, and presently as an appointee to the Alameda County Airport Land Use Commission. I have served on the LWVEA Board for approximately eight years and also represent LWVEA at the Bay Area League level. As a practicing lawyer, I have had the privilege to represent the LWVEA as a friend of the court in various election and land use issues, raising important issues under the California Environmental Quality Act. I look forward to continuing to advocate for campaign finance reform that will enable us to better address the environmental and socio-economic challenges facing our communities.

LWVEA Board Member Nominations for FY 2015-16

Cossette Sun was a member of the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council from 1991-2000 and later as chairwoman. She was on the board of the Advisory Committee for the Castro Valley Library which was to build the new library. She co-chaired the Castro Valley Library Capital Campaign and raised more than \$60,000 from the Taiwanese Community; the lobby is named as the Taiwanese-American Federation of North America. She was President of the North America Taiwanese Women's Association-Northern California Chapter 2012-2013; and in April 2015, she was elected as a regional Director for the Northwest Division. A long-time member LWVEA, she was elected as a board member in June, 2013. She has been active in the local community and believes in the League's mission; the League is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.



Nancy Van Huffel—I have been a member of LWVEA since 1990. In this association I have discovered enthusiastic and dedicated members of our community, people willing to extend themselves to stand by principle, and people who truly care about others. I have been intellectually stimulated and challenged to grow as a person and as a leader. In my tenure with the League Board, we have argued, discussed, fought, and compromised in a truly democratic fashion as we examine issues and develop objective analysis of issues important to our members and our community. These issues have ranged from the unincorporated area of Alameda County to the state of our planet -- diverse issues like health care, campaign finance reform, redistricting, energy policy, education, open government, immigration, and global warming.

Joanne Young - When I recently re-read the LWVEA Membership/Positions handbook, I was quickly reminded why I joined the League a year ago this month. I was inspired by the League's history, mission, principles, positions, and broad affiliations. There would be opportunity to become more informed personally and participate more fully in my community. I wanted to be part of this organization. A year later, as a LWVEA Board member, I have participated in state convention, pros and cons forums, candidate forums, planning meetings, annual meeting, education and advocacy programs, and membership team activities, and I am more inspired than ever. The unwavering commitment and dedication of League members in educating, informing, advocating and encouraging the public's involvement and participation in governance and public policy making in our communities is both exciting and extraordinarily vital. The coming year will see both new and continuing issues and challenges. I look forward to continuing my association and participating in the important work of the LWVEA.



Aihua (Aiwa) Zelinsky- has lived in Castro Valley since 2003. She was born in China and immigrated to the US when she was in college. She graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a MA in Education and then got her DPA from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. Aihua has 20 years of experience in the education field. Currently she teaches Public Administration at the Business School of Golden Gate University, San Francisco. Aihua currently serves as a Board member of the Asian Pacific Professional Association-Bay Area Chapter and a Board Member of the Northern California Speed Skating Association. Aihua decided to join the League after she attended several League's events as co-sponsor on behalf of APAPA East Bay Chapter. She greatly values

the beliefs and mission of the League and wants to contribute to the community. Public policy issues are Aihua's great interest and concern and she believes that education policy and programs are vital for a better community and society.

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

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Dues: Regular \$50,
 2nd 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

June 6	9:30 a.m.	Alameda County Council LWV – Nate Miley’s CV Office
June 13	10 a.m.	Annual Meeting (see page 1)
July 18	9:30-1:30	Annual LWVEA Retreat

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events,
 email: lwvea@aol.com or check out www.LWVEA.org**