



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol.60 #5 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* May 2017

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDEN AREA CALL TO 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

All members of the League of Women Voters Eden Area, representing Hayward, San Leandro and surrounding unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview and San Lorenzo are hereby called to the Annual Meeting.

DATE: Saturday, June 10, 2017

TIME: 9:00am to Noon

**PLACE: Castro Valley Adult School
Room 10--Multipurpose Room**

4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546

(Map and Direction link: <http://www.cvadult.org/contact/map-and-directions>)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Assembly member Bill Quirk, District 20

Those attending the League Business Meeting which includes electing a new board for 2017-18, are asked to rsvp to lwvea@aol.com, or phone (619) 549-8202.. RSVP early, limited seating. Inside this VOTER is the Annual Meeting Kit. It contains information which will be acted upon at the meeting. Please bring this kit to the meeting and help save trees and printing costs.

2017 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA AND PROPOSED ORDER OF BUSINESS



9:00 a.m.: Registration & Refreshments

9:30 a.m.: Business Meeting – LWVEA Co-Presidents – Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young

Welcome and Introductions

- Appointment of Parliamentarian by Co-Presidents Joanne Young and Aiwa Zelinsky
- Credentials Report for Quorum – Secretary Penny Peck
- Adoption of Order of Business – Board Assistant – Rene’ Besold
- Adoption of Rules of the Day – Board Assistant – Rene’ Besold
- Action on Minutes of 2016 Annual Meeting – Secretary Penny Peck
- Appointment of Committee to Review 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes – Co-Presidents Young and Zelinsky
- Action on Proposed 2017-2018 Budget – Treasurer Norm Fobert
- Action on 2017-18 LWVC Program – Suzanne Barba
- Action on 2017-18 LWV Bay Area Program – Suzanne Barba
- Action on 2017-18 LWVEA Local Positions - Jewell Spalding
- President’s Report – Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young
- Action on Election of 2017-18 Board – Nominating Committee – Evelyn Cormier, Chair
- Charge to the 2017-2018 Board and Swearing In – Gail Steele
- Recommendations to the New Board – Member Recommendations

10:50 a.m. Business Meeting Ends / Break

11:00a.m.: Keynote Speaker – Assembly member Bill Quirk

Followed by Questions-and- Answer Session

Noon: Adjournment



LEADERSHIP TEAMS **(7/1/17 – 6/30/18)**

LEADERSHIP TEAMS:

- **PROGRAM PLANNING TEAM – Lynda Foster/Rita Duncan**
- **VOTER SERVICES TEAM – Janice Friesen**
 - **CANDIDATE FORUMS – Janice Friesen**
 - **PRO/CON PRESENTATIONS – To Be Determined**
 - **DEBATE WATCH (2020) – To Be Determined**
 - **VOTER REGISTRATION – Richard Maurer**
 - **VOTER’S EDGE – Jennifer Ong**
 - **AFFIDAVIT SERVICES – Nancy Van Huffel**
 - **STUDENT EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION – Marian Handa/Jo Loss**
- **MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH SERVICES TEAM – Carolyn Darcey/Cimberly Eng-Tamura**
- **HOLIDAY PARTY TEAM – To Be Determined**
- **VOTER PUBLICATION/PRESS RELATIONS SERVICES TEAM – Penny Peck/April Anderson**
- **ACTION SERVICES TEAM – René Besold**
- **LOCAL POSITIONS TEAM – Jewell Spalding**
- **NOMINATING TEAM – Evelyn Cormier**

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:

- **RECORDING – Penny Peck**
- **FINANCIAL – Norm Fobért**
- **MULTIMEDIA – Penny Peck**
- **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE – René Besold**

REPRESENTATION SERVICES:

- **LWVACC – Joanne Young/Aiwa Zelinsky/Penny Peck/Nancy Van Huffel**
- **LWVBA – Jewell Spalding/Evelyn Cormier**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDEN AREA RULES OF THE DAY

QUORUM

The meeting shall not begin until a quorum is present. Ten (10) percent of the members (136) shall constitute a quorum. A quorum shall be fourteen members.

VOTING

Every LWVEA member who is current in her or his dues as of July 1, 2016 shall be entitled to one vote. Absentee and proxy voting are not permitted. A majority vote of those local League members present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote providing proposals have been submitted to the membership one month prior to the Annual Mtg.

WRITTEN MOTIONS

Main motions and substantive amendments shall be given to the secretary in writing with the name of the maker of the motion included.

DEBATE

Any member, upon recognition by the president, shall address the body stating his/her name and shall limit remarks to the question. Debate shall be limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker unless the Chair extends time. No person shall speak twice to a question until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so.

PROGRAM ADOPTION

Each recommended program item shall be moved and seconded, but there will be no vote on any item until all items have been discussed. A majority vote is needed to adopt a recommended item.

NOMINATIONS

We are pleased to present a full slate of fifteen (15) Directors for your consideration.

REPORT OF THE 2017-2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee for 2017-18 was composed of Sonya Howes, Nancy Van Huffel, and Evelyn Cormier. Per this report the following are nominated as Board Directors:

President: Co-Chairs, Leadership Team
Joanne Young and Aiwa Zelinsky

Secretary: Penny Peck (also VOTER Editor)

Treasurer: Norman Fobert, Chair, Financial Team

DIRECTORS (One-year terms)

Director April Anderson - VOTER Publication and Press Relations

Director René Besold - Board Assistant

Director Evelyn Cormier - Nominating Team

Director Carolyn Darcey - Membership Team

Director Rita Duncan - Co-Chair of Program Planning Team

Director Cimberly Eng-Tamura - Outreach

Director Lynda Foster - Co-Chair of Program Planning Team

Director Janice Friesen - Voter Services Team

Director Marian Handa - Youth Registration

Director Richard Maurer - Voter Registration

Director Jewell Spalding - Local Positions

Off Board: Nancy Van Huffel, Past President
Jennifer Ong - Voter's Edge and Doris Marciel, Affidavits

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, current edition, shall govern.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE EDEN AREA
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016 -- ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
San Lorenzo Library, 395 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo, CA**

Noon - Registration & Refreshments

12:30 pm – Keynote Speaker – Fran David, Hayward City Manager: “The Challenges of Affordable Housing in the East Bay.”

Ms. David outlined her thoughts on the current housing crisis, especially the issue of affordable housing, using local jurisdictions as examples. Facts mentioned include the likelihood that approximately 2.5 million people and jobs will be added in the Bay Area over the next 20 years, and those people will need housing. She also discussed homeless statistics, policy questions, transportation issues, land use, the aging population, climate change, and related elements of the housing debate. She answered many questions from the attendees, and the LWVEA thanks Fran David for taking the time to offer such a thoughtful, well-researched presentation.

Annual Business Meeting:

The Annual Business Meeting was called to order at 1:33pm by President Nancy Van Huffel. Nancy introduced Bonnie Hamlin from our state league (LWVCA), who helps us conduct business according to league rules. We thank her for attending and for her time.

Appointment of Parliamentarian by Nancy Van Huffel: Jewell Spalding was appointed Parliamentarian.

Credentials report for quorum: Penny Peck confirmed there was a quorum. Nancy reported that the Eden Area League currently has 119 members. League bylaws require a minimum of 10% of the membership be present to constitute a quorum. We required 12, in attendance approximately 21.

Adoption of Order of Business: Motion by René Besold, seconded by Jewell Spalding, to adopt the Order of Business. Motion approved.

Adoption of Rules of the Day: Motion by René Besold, seconded by Ron Moore, to adopt the Rules of the Day. Motion approved.

Action on Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting: According to the rules, the minutes of the June 2015 Annual Meeting were reviewed by Suzanne Barba, René Besold, and Jewell Spalding prior to this meeting and were being presented today for final approval. Since there were no additions or corrections presented at this meeting, Nancy Van Huffel declared the minutes accepted as presented.

Appointment of Committee to Review 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes: Nancy Van Huffel appointed Suzanne Barba, René Besold, and Cossette Sun to this committee.

Action on Proposed 2016-2017 Budget: Treasurer Norm Fobért was absent but sent the budget, which was included in the meeting kit given to all members (also below as Appendix I). Nancy Van Huffel gave a brief overview, and answered any questions concerning the budget. A correction to change one item: Change the line item labeled “Smart Voter” to “Voter’s Edge.” Motion by Cossette Sun, seconded by Cimberly Eng-Tamura, that the budget be approved with this correction. Motion approved.

Action on 2015-2016 LWVUS Program: Suzanne Barba included her report of the January 23, 2016 Program Planning meeting in the May VOTER. She summarized the report by describing how we offered information on four different areas to decide what our priorities will be, but national (LWVUS) asked us to focus on voter rights, campaign finance, and redistricting this year. Climate change was also mentioned as something we need to continue to focus on. Janice Friesen moved to accept the report, seconded by Frank Burton. Motion approved.

LWVBA Report: Suzanne Barba reported on the League of Women Voters Bay Area meeting and actions and how it influences our league’s work. The Bay Area league is focusing on transportation, housing, and climate change. Ursula Batz moved to accept the report, Jean West seconded. Motion approved.

Action on 2015-2016 LWVEA Local Positions Program report: Jewell Spalding reported that the committee has worked on revising several of our local positions; they are: Land Use and Planning, Mental Health Care Services, Boards and Commissions, Parks and Recreation, and the Unincorporated Areas Policy. If anyone would like to work on the positions, email Jewell Spalding or Nancy Van Huffel. This committee plans to complete their revisions and submit the revised positions for approval at next year’s membership meeting. Allison Murdach moved to accept the report, Cossette Sun seconded the motion. Motion approved.

President's Report: President Nancy Van Huffel referred the group to the President's Report that was published in the May VOTER and then summarized the key elements of that report. It has been a very busy year! Our system of having teams work on various projects has worked out very well. The Voter Services team has registered many voters at BART stations and the effort was very productive. Nancy mentioned NextDoor.com as a method of publicizing our events and efforts, and using other social media outlets to reach out to the communities in the Eden Area. Marian Handa described registering voters at Castro Valley High School and other youth voter efforts. We also had four information Forums this year; the Prop. 13 revision forum attracted over 100 attendees. This Fall, we plan to hold forums on ballot initiatives that have a local impact such as BART and the Alameda County Housing Bond measures. The new method of reporting affidavit site servicing is both cumbersome and duplicative for our volunteers, so Nancy will be meeting with the Registrar of Voters to see if we can resolve the issues.

Ron Moore mentioned that Chabot College will be planning another voter registration day, and we will try to assist them. We are also planning to partner with the San Lorenzo and Castro Valley libraries, that will be showing the Presidential (and Vice Presidential) debates on their big screen TVs in the meeting rooms. Our members will be facilitating the post-debate discussions among the people who attend these events.

Election of 2016-2017 Board: Nominating committee chair Sonya Howe was unable to attend, but gave her report to Nancy Van Huffel for her presentation. Nancy asked for any nominations from the floor. Being none, she presented the slate from the committee (Sonya Howe and Evelyn Cormier).

Slate:

Co-Presidents and Co-Chairs, Leadership Team: Joanne Young and Aiwa Zelinsky
Secretary: Penny Peck
Treasurer and Chair, Financial Team: Norm Fobért

Directors (one year term)

Director Suzanne Barba
Director René Besold
Director Evelyn Cormier
Director Carolyn Darcy
Director Cimberly Eng-Tamura
Director Janice Friesen

Director Terry Guillory
Director Marian Handa
Director Jewell Spalding
Director Cossette Sun
Director Nancy Van Huffel

Moved by Frank Burton, seconded by Ursula Batz to approve the slate. Motioned approved.

Off-Board positions: Doris Marciel and Christine Frick

Charge to the Board: Gail Steele read the charge to the newly elected board members.

Swearing in of New Board Officers and Directors: Gail Steele swore in the newly elected officers and directors.

Nominating Committee for 2017-18: Jewell Spalding moved to table this item, so the current Nominating Committee can recommend the next year's nominating committee, and they will present the members of the new Nominating Committee at a future membership meeting for final approval. Seconded by Frank Burton. Motioned approved.

Member recommendations to the new board:

Climate change was an overwhelmingly popular choice for an upcoming education forum.

Children's issues and early education was suggested by Gail Steele as an important issue. Penny Peck volunteered to assist on this forum. Jewell Spalding asked about focusing on how educational opportunities are not open to all African-American male students in particular.

Ron Moore suggested that many people would like more information about the November ballot initiatives, so having a Pro-and-Con event would be popular.

Marian Handa asked that we promote Voter's Edge on the Facebook page. All suggestions for Facebook posts are welcome – just email Penny Peck (Pikly@aol.com).

Frank Burton urged that we continue to have fair candidate forums.
Business meeting adjourned by outgoing president Nancy Van Huffel at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Penny Peck

LWVEA - Proposed Budget FY 2017 - 18

Budget Category	2016 - 2017	2017 - 2018	Budget/Exp
Income	INCOME	INCOME	
Member Dues	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Member Donations	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	
Voter Registration Site Service	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Holiday Party/Auction	\$ 950.00	\$ 1,200.00	
Expenses	EXPENSE	EXPENSE	
National Dues	\$ 3,293.00	\$ 3,968.00	
State PMP Dues	\$ 2,484.00	\$ 3,472.00	
Bay Area PMP Local Dues	\$ 108.00	\$ 135.00	
Membership Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00	
Voter's Edge	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	
Voter Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	
Fundraiser Costs	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	
Programs	\$ 900.00	\$ 500.00	
Convention/Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Legal or Professional Fees	\$ 550.00	\$ 100.00	
Postage	\$ 160.00	\$ 100.00	
Printing	\$ 360.00	\$ 500.00	
Supplies		\$ 250.00	
Meeting Space		\$ 350.00	
Voter Newsletter Cost	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00	
LWVC Insurance	\$ 285.00	\$ 250.00	
LWVC Website	\$ 160.00	\$ 160.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 9,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 12,300.00		\$ 14,635.00

APPENDIX I:

Revised By-laws: A separate copy of the Revised By-laws is attached to this email, Please review the revision so we can vote to approve at our Membership Meeting.

APPENDIX II:

LWVEA LOCAL POSITION: PARKS AND RECREATION

[Updates are in bold]

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports measures that ensure that adequate parks and recreational facilities are provided for all the communities served by the various recreation and park districts in the Eden Area. At the same time, protection should be provided for natural resources, open space and environmentally sensitive areas. Adequate funding should be available to **provide both protection for natural resources as well as a variety of recreational opportunities, from sports to the arts.**

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports:

- Important multi-jurisdictional recreational opportunity providers and protectors of many natural and man-made assets;
- The maintenance and enhancement of the **wildlife** refuges, park system areas, trails, baylands, and recreation programs provided within the Eden Area **as well as neighboring jurisdictions to support connecting flyways, trails, among other resources;**
- Efforts to avoid fragmenting the established districts or eroding their tax bases in order to effectively operate these important community facilities and services;
- **Continuation** of a citizen's advisory committee for Hayward Area Recreation and Park District **and reinstitution of a citizen's advisory committee for Hayward Area Shoreline Agency, a joint powers agency of which HARD and East Bay Regional Park District are members.**
- **Legislative adoption of citizen advisory committees/commissions for all parks and recreation districts.**

Policies to promote:

A. Encourage **and support** joint planning and cooperative projects for the acquisition, creation, **and expert maintenance and cleaning** of parklands, baylands, ridge-lands, open space and trails for recreational and educational uses by the East Bay Regional Park District, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (**which includes Castro Valley and San Lorenzo**), Alameda County, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the City of Hayward, and the City of San Leandro.

B. Adoption, continual review and updating of the Master Plans to guide acquisition and development with emphasis on preservation of the area's natural state of parklands, park facilities, and trails within districts. **Adoption of specific plans based on thorough studies and environmental review for parks experiencing high volume demand or degradation.**

C. Purchase of baylands jointly by public agencies--local, regional, state, and federal--with funding capabilities. Wetlands on the shoreline should be protected and enlarged, **addressing climate change mitigation and rising tide issues.** Local governments, with the help of citizen involvement, will benefit in the long term from a protected shoreline **by:**

1. **Preservation** of the historical and education value of area salt ponds.
2. Reversion to marshes.
3. Creation of a freshwater lake for a much-needed watering area for water birds and other species needing other than Bay waters.

D. Expenditure of capital funds in line with the priorities in Master Plans within the districts, **on an equitable basis, taking into consideration specific needs of various communities.**

E. Acquisition of parklands for recreation, conservation of habitat areas, protection of **special and endangered** species, and educational development.

Acquisition of new parklands

Wetlands (baylands) and shorelines

Trails, including Bay Trails, Ridge Trails, Creek Corridors, and Bay-to-Bridge connections.

F. Protection of existing parklands from degradation **from urban pollution, including** freeways, roads, utility lines, or visual intrusion, and traffic.

G. Wide variety of recreational programs for all ages, honoring the need for sports, health maintenance, cultural celebrations, the arts (dance, music, theatre, and visual arts), hobbies, and nature exploration. Consider community standards regarding humane treatment of animals, and respect for the cultures and languages that are a part of each community.

H. Promotion of public notice, **distribution, dissemination**, discussion, and input for Master Plan **and/or Specific Plans** and planning process.

Updated October 2016
Parks & Recreation
Adopted: 1968 (H)
Consensus: 1990 (EA)

Updated: 1993 (EA)
Updated: 2017 (EA)

Appendix III: SOCIAL POLICY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports the availability of comprehensive **behavioral** health care, **which includes both mental health and substance use disorder**, for all residents of Alameda County regardless of their ability to pay for those services **in order to foster the well-being of residents individually and the community in general.**

Policies to Promote:

- a) Implementation of legislation and regulations that provide community-based **behavioral** health care **while respecting the integrity of neighborhoods.**
- b) A three-tiered module approach consisting of prevention, **early** intervention and follow-up therapy for patients of all ages with emphasis placed on meeting the needs of children, veterans **and the elderly. Behavioral health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.**
- c) **Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and quality-out patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services.** Appropriate level of treatment of patients in their local environment when possible.
- d) **Access to safe and stable housing for people with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless.**
- e) **Effective re-entry planning and follow-up for people returning from military service and/or released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.**
- f) Expansion of the number **and/or capacity** of quality facilities in all communities to provide necessary follow-up **and continuous** care for the mentally ill, particularly those who have been hospitalized **and/or need custodial care.**

- g) Problem solving or specialty courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts to provide needed treatment and avoid entry into the criminal justice system.
- h) Use of sliding fee scale to ensure that community health care clinics serve all residents in need of **behavioral** health care services.
- i) Support requirement of appropriate level of training **and oversight** for providers of **behavioral** health care services, **providing families and local residents with access to agencies and providing oversight to ensure that proper care and maintenance is being provided.**
- j) Support **living wages as minimal compensation** paid to behavioral health care providers.
- k) Support collaboration of local community health care service providers with related agencies and neighboring community-based organizations to meet the **behavioral** health care needs of all residents; support funding sources for the purpose of collaboration.
- l) Support **legislation and applications for grants** that increase funding for improved **behavioral** health care services **and reduces out-of-pocket** costs for medication for **behavioral** health care patients.
- m) Support development of local resources promoting publicly accessible **behavioral** health education **from early childhood throughout life that integrates all aspects of social, emotional and physical health and wellness.**
- n) Support development of local resources **and access to legal assistance to address family needs.**
- o) **Support efforts to decrease the stigmatization of, and normalize, behavioral health problems and care.**
- p) Eliminate barriers and disparities for providing **necessary behavioral** health care services for all populations, **including those with disabilities, those whose primary language is not English, and those of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.**
- q) Support effective implementation of evidence-based best practices and support research in **behavioral** health care.
- r) **Support evaluation of health care providers' performance through measurement processes to assess effectiveness and improvement where needed.**
- s) **Support full implementation and monitoring of Laura's Law through the Mental Health Advisory Board, as well as other programs and initiatives at the state and local levels, which protect availability of care.**
- t) Support Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as other programs and initiatives **at the federal level**, which protect and enhance patients' rights and **availability of care.**
- u) **Promote and support programs and studies that advocate on behalf of children and those in the criminal justice system who are mentally ill.**

Adopted: 1970 (H)
 Updated: 1974 (H)
 Consensus: 1990 (EA)

Updated: 2000 (EA)
 Updated: 2005 (EA)
 Updated: 2017 (EA)

SUMMARY OF LWVEA PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING Jan, 14, 2017

On January 14, 2017 the LWVEA held its Program Planning meeting with a focus on the LWVUS positions to recommend for Education and Emphasis in 2017-18. Aiwa Zelinsky explained that this year the LWVC has taken off some work off our local shoulders and removed the traditional questions reviewing each of the LWVC positions and the state subject specialists – the people who guide our work in each of the League positions – were responsible for regular reviews of our positions.

Instead, the local Leagues were asked to focus our local energy, the energy of other local Leagues in California, and the resources of the state League (staff, board, consultants, and other volunteers) over the next two years. “Program planning is a three-part process that is a core component of the League’s mission. It is composed of study on issues, consensus on what action to take, and advocating with one voice for that action.”

Our local league agreed to focus on the four presentations on four of the LWVC as an educational exercise. Each presenter spoke on one position of the four categories.

Natural Resources, presented by Linda Tangren. Linda described the League of Women Voters California’s (LWVC) position on Water Resources. Attending members raised concerns that infrastructure needed to move water where we need it – where people live, farming, and so forth, using aqueducts, Twin Tunnels, and other methods to address water issue.

Members also raised environmental concerns regarding ground water, coal, fracking, or oil pipeline impact on water that should be included in the position. Water conservation, how water is used (not growing water-guzzling crops) should be addressed as well. Members recommended that the state league’s water policy/position needs to be updated, last update was in the 1970’s.

Government, presented by Penny Peck. Penny described the LWVC’s position on Campaign Financing. Audience members asked how state position related to the national position and that the major issues should include: Citizens United, drawn-out election cycle, influence of foreign governments on our election system, impact of

“soft money” or “dark money,” because that money can come from foreign entities, SB 1107. If our state position is revised to address Citizens United (for example), would that then be forwarded to the national league?

The position last revised in 1976 – is it time to revise it again? Or is it more important to focus on the national position?

We recommended the state study the national position on Campaign Financing, since many of the issues (such as Citizens United) are national, not state, issues concerning campaign financing. Then, it may be determined that California revises the position and seeks concurrence from the national league.

Aspects we could include in the revised position might be: (1) how much and from where the money comes since that seems to be out of control at the national level (2) those in Congress are spending more time raising campaign capital for themselves and others than they are on representing their constituencies...this is especially true with those in the House who have to run every two years (3) consider an equitable public financing system to get “dark” and “soft” money out of politics

Social Policy, presented by Janice Friesen. Janice described the LWVC’s position on Education. Audience members asked whether parent responsibility should be added to the position; whether state league’s position should address homeschooling or charter schools – or add something about all students, no matter the type of school they attend (charter, private, or homeschool), be held to a standard and be offered a quality education. We also recommended that the state league should look at the LCFF and LCAP process as part of this position.

California’s “Top Two” Open Primary System, presented by Aiwa Zelinsky. Currently, the state league does not have a position on this system. The city of Alameda league is proposing a statewide study on this issue. Attending members discussed whether the state league should look at the relatively new practice of moving the “top two” names from the primary to the general election (for all state-wide offices), or go back to the practice of the top candidate from each political party or should we wait until there are more elections under this system for sufficient data for a study.

Linda Tangren moved that we recommend the LWVC wait until there are a few more elections under this new system before we propose a study on the “Top Two” system. Seconded by Janice Friesen. Passed unanimously.

Bay Area Positions, presented by Suzanne Barba. Suzanne described some of the positions taken by the Bay Area League. They attend many meetings involving many organizations that address regional government, housing, transportation, the Bay and other environmental concerns, solid waste, natural resources, etc. Bay Area Monitor newsletter is put out by the Bay Area league and is really helpful. Be sure to look at our website.

Local Positions, presented by Penny Peck. Penny described the ongoing revision of the LWVEA’s positions by our committee (Jewell Spalding, René Besold, Nancy Van Huffel, and Penny Peck. (Cossette Sun was also on the committee but had to resign due to family commitments). Their work has included:

- Behavioral Health Care Services was revised and approved by the Board in Fall 2016. It will be submitted at the June 2017 Annual Membership meeting for adoption. There was a suggestion to add a section on policies to promote, including monitoring the Mental Health Advisory Board. René Besold will do that and resubmit the policy to the board for approval with this new section.
- Parks and Recreation – This revision was also approved by the board in Fall 2016, and will be submitted at the June 2017 Membership meeting for adoption.
- Three local positions concerning Unincorporated Areas, Land Use, and Boards and Commissions have just started the update/revision process. The committee hopes to submit the revised versions for approval by the board in late summer or fall of 2017.
- There was an earlier committee that worked on the Library position, which was approved at the June 2016 membership meeting.

It was suggested we offer our new Library position to the LWVC since their current policy is from 1995. To begin that process, we need to submit our Library position as one of our recommended issues for state program planning to adopt by concurrence. We would do that in our report to the LWVC from this meeting.

Conclusion: The following are a restatement of the actions decided upon at the meeting:

- We recommend the state study the national position on Campaign Financing, since many of the issues (such as Citizens United) are national, not state, issues concerning campaign financing. Then, it may be determined that California revises the position and seeks concurrence from the national league.
- We respond to the Alameda city league’s request by recommending that the LWVC wait until there are a few more elections under this new system before we propose a study on the “Top Two” system.
- Behavioral Health Care Services was revised and approved by the Board in Fall 2016. It will be submitted at the June 2017 Membership meeting for adoption. There was a suggestion to add a section on policies to promote, including monitoring the Mental Health Advisory Board. René Besold will do that and resubmit the policy to the board for approval with this new section.
- We need to submit our Library position as one of our recommended issues for state program planning to adopt by concurrence. **We would do that in our report to the LWVC from this meeting.**
- Final recommendation: The audience was surveyed, and their top two areas of interest that LWVEA would like the League of Women Voters California to focus on are **Water Resources and Education.**

This summary was prepared by Penny Peck and René Besold

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young



Make an Impact: Participation and Action

One of the main reasons we join the League is that we all believe in the value of democracy and the constitutional rights of each individual American citizen. Recent political dynamics and environment have once again reminded all of us that citizens play a critical role in advocacy and League members must actively participate in educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. Helen Hutchison, President of League of Women Voters California states that **"The League is not an end in itself. We are a training ground for democracy. That is what we have always been and that is what we will always be"** (2017).

To make democracy work and make progress in social and political issues, we as league members of this unique training ground for democracy should take actions to protect and defend the value of the democracy. How to be actively involved in making democracy work? The U.S. National League of Women Voters provides us with the 10 ways you can help defend our democracy:

1. [Sign the League of Women Voter's Petition](#)

"I stand with the League to ensure that elections are always free, fair and accessible. I will work with the League to stop voter suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote."

2. [Become an e-Activist](#)

Receive updates from the League and hold your elected officials accountable by taking action on the League's key voting rights and other priorities.

3. [Volunteer Your Time](#)

We are working to make a difference and

actively engaging people in more than 700 communities. Sign up to volunteer!

4. [Donate to our Defend Democracy Fund](#)

Your support makes it possible for LWV to take a stand in statehouses and courtrooms across the country.

5. [Spread the Word](#)

Stay engaged every day, and leverage your social media followers to get involved too! Follow the League on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to find out how to make an impact.

6. [Attend a Community Meeting](#)

Learn about local issues and hear from elected officials. You can connect and organize with people already active in your community. Check your local government's website or contact your local League (<http://lwvea.org/>).

7. [Register to Vote, and help others Register](#)

Make sure your family and neighbors are up to date on their registration. The League works year-round at schools and community events to prepare eligible voters. Check out VOTE411.org for more information.

8. [Contact your Representatives](#)

Elected officials work for the people and need to hear from concerned citizens like you.

Please check our April Voter with contact information for our Eden Area representatives.

9. [Run for Office](#)

You can directly contribute to the direction of local politics in your own back yard. From school board to the state house, there are many opportunities to run for office and make a difference.

10. [Write a Letter to the Editor](#)

Newspapers print concerns from readers and love to hear about local concerns. Tailor the issue for your community and support local newspapers when possible. Let's put our strength and power into the effort of making democracy work and defending the rights for every American citizen.

Reference: <http://lwv.org/blog/10-ways-you-can-help-defend-our-democracy>

LWVEA HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2016-2017



Left to Right: Carolyn Darcey, Jewell Spalding, Richard Maurer, Marian Handa, Aiwa Zelinsky Norm Fobert, Evelyn Cormier, Janice Friesen, Penny Peck
Seated: Rene' Besold, Nancy Van Huffel

Action/Advocacy

- Held 5 major Candidate Forums for local school board and city council elections
 - Sponsored candidate forum for Hayward School Board Candidates and sponsored issue forum for Hayward Measure EE (9/21)
 - Co-Sponsored candidate forum for San Leandro City Council (10/5)
 - Sponsored candidate forum for San Lorenzo School Board (10/6)
 - Sponsored candidate forum for Castro Valley School Board and Castro Valley Sanitary District (10/18)
 - Moderated candidate forum for Pleasanton School Board
 - Partnered with Castro Valley and San Leandro libraries for four Debate Watch events for each televised Presidential and Vice Presidential debate
 - Partnered with AC Registrar of Voters to increase voter registration in the Eden Area
 - Conducted Pro and Con events on ballot propositions to provide information for voters and help voters be informed and educated.
- About 18 members volunteered their time and energy to give 12 Pro and Con events to local community centers and Cal State East Bay
 - Conducted 15 voter registration events at 10 locations and registered 268 new voters with the help of 30 volunteers
 - Conducted and participated in three Legislative Interviews of elected officials in Eden Area
 - Endorsed Hayward Area Recreation & Park District Measure F1 and helped with its passage
 - Forwarded Action Alerts from LWVC and LWVUS to members
 - Used VOTER to include information on 2016 election, climate change, gun policy, education, money in politics, election system, housing, transportation, children's safety, national, state and local finance, public policies and social issues, information at all levels of League-local, regional, state and national.

Community and Voter Service

- Maintained servicing of 75 location throughout the Eden Area for the distribution of Voter Registration forms to our community
- Set up and collected donation for FESCO program at our holiday party
- Set up Eleanor Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund for Life Member (over 50 years) Eleanor Parker who passed away in October

- Provided voter registration drives at Bart Stations (Bayfair, San Leandro, Hayward, Castro Valley), Eden Area Farmer’s Markets



(Bayfair, Hayward, Castro Valley), Castro Valley High School, National Night Out (Dublin, Hayward), Heritage Estates Senior Residence (Livermore), San Leandro Library, Cal State East Bay, Chabot College, Eden Church, and St. Rose Hospital Foundation Health Fair. Many volunteers participated and provided their support.

- Provided support for local groups with their projects such as the Maple/Main Housing project in Hayward.



Program:

- Participated in the program on “The History of Voting Rights” sponsored by San Leandro

Main Library. Our League member Penny was one of the featured keynote speakers to speak on the suffragette movement and the participation of women in politics and public office (9/8)

- Co-sponsored the forum “REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE” with the Eden Area Interfaith Council and the Castro Valley Library (11/30)
- Co-sponsored the forum “I ran for Office I won” Five Women Candidates Tell Their Story with AAUW (5/9)
- Sponsored forum “Future of Water in California” (4/28)

Member Services:

- Held “Member Orientation” for all members new and current to reconnect and re-engage(8/29)
- Held two “New Member Social” for new members to welcome them
- Published 12 issues of the VOTER, emailing to those with email and mailing hard copies to others
- Maintained an LWVEA Website to keep membership informed. Maintained LWVEA Facebook Webpage to ensure timely information to the public.

Administration:

- Members attended local, regional and state meetings to observe and gather information of interest to the League
- Continue to donate \$1,000 to the Voter Edge for voter education



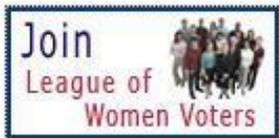
League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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.

CALENDAR

Tues. May 9, 2017 6pm	AAUW: Women Elected Officials How can we get more women to run?	Castro Valley Library 3600 Norbridge Ave., CV
Mon., May 22, 2017 5:45-7:30pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Historical Society 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward
Sat., June 10, 2017 9am-1pm	LWVEA Annual Membership Meeting	Castro Valley Adult School 4430 Alma Ave., CV
Sat., June 17, 2017 11am-3pm	LWVEA Board Retreat	Hayward Historical Society 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne Young, Co-President jysunrunner@gmail.com	Penny Peck, Voter Editor Pikly@aol.com	Terry Guilory, Program michguil@comcast.net
Aiwa Zelinsky, Co-President aiyz@comcast.net	Evelyn Cormier, Nominating ev.cormier@comcast.net	Marian Handa, Youth Reg marian@roble.com
Penny Peck, Secretary pikly@aol.com	Carolyn Darcey, Membership cdarcey@pacbell.net	Jewell Spalding, Local positions jewellspalding@mac.com
Norm Fobert, Treasurer fobert8@comcast.net	Kimberly Eng-Tamura, Outreach cengtam@gmail.com	Nancy Van Huffel, Past Pres lwvea@aol.com
René Besold, Board Assist rbesold@sbcglobal.net	Janice Friesen, Voter Service jfriesen5490@yahoo.com	

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