



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 49 No. 10 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Nov/Dec 2006

LWVEA HOLIDAY PARTY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2006 5:30 TO 8 P.M

Home of June Wallace • 18223 Lake Chabot Road
Castro Valley — Phone 537-0110



Good Food and Good Fun **Auction items include:**

- Two nights at Tahoe condo
- Oakland Warrior box tickets
- Congressional Holiday Ornaments
- Ride on a fire truck
- Lunch with local elected officials
- Many other exciting items

We need silent auction items from all of our members.
Please think about donating an item or gift basket with a value
of \$20 or more. *Items due November 27th*

Be creative with your donations: Rides to the airport •
Dinners from your favorite restaurants • Tickets to local events
• Artwork or crafts • Fixing lunch or dinner for 2 to 6 people

Cost: \$10.00 or \$5.00 if you bring a salad or dessert —please let us
know when you RSVP (back page) • Main course will be provided

RSVP: LWVEA@aol.com or call (510) 581-9326

Questions?? Marianne Dimick @ maddk9@earthlink.net

President's Report by Nancy Van Huffel

For several years I have had the pleasure of experiencing how very active some of our League members are during the election process. Please take a few moments to look on the next page to see some of the voter activities that took place this year. Our League makes a concerted effort to provide political education to various groups, churches and organizations. Several of our members spend many hours studying the propositions so they can go out to the community and educate voters.

In addition to the many pro and con presentations and candidate forums, we also registered voters. Thanks to Angelina Reyes, our Voter Services Chair, who arranged a "registration bus" for the Hayward Harmony Festival. Working with her for the event was Beverly Reliford.

Kudos to our phone callers who went to Oakland for an evening to call voters about Prop 89, the Clean Money Initiative. They included: Liz Bathgate, Trish Taylor, Meg Jurich, Diane Hanna, and me.

We had a particularly good turnout at our luncheon membership pro and con presentation that we co-sponsored with AAUW. Special thanks to Marian Handa who coordinated the event.

We also service many locations that provide voter registration forms. Special acknowledgement to Jean Gaylord, Julie Quayle, Evelyn Cormier, Meg Jurich, and Marian Handa, who keep all our sites fully equipped with supplies.

So as we all prepare to celebrate the things we are grateful for at Thanksgiving, let me again say what a privilege it is to be a member of our League, and how proud I am of our active and committed membership.



Board Briefs--October

- Presentation on Measure Q—Park Bond for Castro Valley Area. Both sides were present and discussed pros and cons. Consensus by the Board was that the measure was loosely written and not specific as to the goals of the advisory committee, however, supported it because it is the only opportunity to save what is left of much needed open space in the area. It was also recommended a resident of Castro Valley, be appointed to the advisory committee when it is formed (11 ayes, 1 abstention). *Subsequently a letter was drafted by Suzanne Barba and sent to the Daily Review indicating our position.*
- Presentation for Measure E—San Leandro School Bond (no opposition) Voted unanimously to support.
- Board reviewed end of the year financials for fiscal year 2005-06.
- Discussion on how many State and National emails to forward the Board and members. The consensus was that most of us are inundated daily with e-mails and that each member can decide by checking the website on subjects of interest.
- Dialog among Board members regarding the league involvement in being Inspectors and/or counting votes for the various homeowner's groups in the area. Concluded that guidelines should be created for all members to use when conducting elections. The guide would provide rules and a step-by-step procedure for future league volunteers.
- A report on Voter Service activities scheduled between now and the election. An update on Smart Voter services.

Pro & Con Presentations and Candidate Forums for Novemeber 2006 Election

DATE/TIME	ORGANIZATION & PLACE	LWVEA PRESENTERS
9/13, Wed @8 a.m.	Special districts--Doug Siden	Suzanne Barba
10/04, Wed@8:00 am.	San Leandro Breakfast Club - Don Smart	Suzanne Barba
10/05, Thursday Noon—1:30pm	San Leandro Chamber Luncheon Candidate Forum	Moderator: Winnie; Timer: Nancy Sorter: Alexandra Matteucci
10/05, Thursday 6:30-8pm	Candidate Forum—All Saints Church, Assemblymember 18 th District & Eden Medical Center Board	Moderator: Marian Handa Timekeeper: Nancy Question Sorter: Jo Murdach
10/6 Friday Noon-1:30pm	P & C presentation for LWVEA & AAUW members San Leandro	Marian Handa, coordinator Presenters: Angelina, Trish, Marian, Dorothy, Evelyn, Suzanne
10/9 Monday 10:00 to 11:00am	Baywood Court, 22179 Dolores St. CV Marian Jeffers 760-5478 or 517-4070	Suzanne Barba
10/10 Tuesday 1:00pm	Beth Shalom, 642 Dolores Ave, San Leandro, Lila Kluger 690-0962	Suzanne Barba
10/12Thursday 4:15 pm	SL/SLZ Teachers Group, San Leandro Corvallis School, Allison Hall 798-7040	Marian Handa, Evelyn Cormier, Angelina Reyes
10/13 Friday @7pm	Hayward Demo Club--Advocacy	Trish Taylor, Evelyn Cormier
10/16 Monday 2:30 pm	Eden Issei Terrace, Hayward 2000 Fagundes Ct, Grace Kim 785-4006	Meg Jurich, Marian Handa, Angelina Reyes
10/16 @ 7pm	Alameda City Council; Alameda LWV	Moderator: Nancy Van Huffel
10/17 Tuesday 12 - 1 p.m.	Al Co Health Consortium, SL 1000 San Leandro Blvd., Pam Willow	#1: Marian Handa #2: Meg Jurich
10/17 Tuesday 7 PM	Zocalo Coffeehouse, SL City Council SL, Tim Holmes, tim@misfit.com	Moderator: Alexandra Sorter: Suzanne Timer: Nancy
10/18 Wed @noon 10/25 Wed @ noon	City of Hayward--Employees	Angelina Reyes Angelina Reyes
10/18 Wed @ 7pm	Greater Hayward Democrats	Suzanne Barba
10/19 Thurs @6pm	Eden House Apts, 1601 165 th Ave	Marian /Meg/ Dorothy Partridge
10/19 Thursday 10:30 to 11:30am	Clements Hall Calhoun St off Mission Blvd	#1: Dorothy Partridge #2:Angie Reyes
10/22 Sun @4:30	San Leanders Church, San Leandro,	Suzanne Barba
10/30 Mon @10:30am	Eden Lodge, San Leandro	Angie Reyes/Marian Handa
10/31 Tues @ Noon	Castro Valley Rotary, Willow Park	Suzanne Barba



LWVC ENERGY POSITION IN BRIEF: The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures.

POSITION

Resource Adequacy

1. The state regulatory and planning agencies, as well as the energy providers, should give primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State regulation and planning should also address the critical need for demand-side management of peak power requirements including real-time pricing.
2. In acquiring new electric resources, major additional factors to consider include the:
 - a. potential for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions;
 - b. development and deployment of renewable resources;
 - c. contribution to the diversity of the resource mix;
 - d. availability at times of peak power demand;
 - e. level of support for base-load power requirements.

Integrated Energy Planning

3. The state should implement an integrated energy planning process that:
 - a. forecasts needs for transmission line and other energy infrastructure, including additional generation, storage, and investments in energy efficiency and demand-side management;
 - b. establishes consistent statewide procedures for the set-aside of land that will be needed for future transmission corridors and other associated energy infrastructure, in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements;
 - c. streamlines procedures so that siting and permitting can be accomplished in a timely way.

Statewide Standards

4. Statewide standards should be set for renewable resource development, demand-side management procurements and reserve requirements.
5. These standards should be applied to all load-serving entities, including:
 - a. municipal utilities;
 - b. electric service providers;
 - c. rural electric cooperative, with accommodation made for any problems that might arise for small and/or rural providers.

Organizational Structure

6. The energy planning and regulatory process should be based on coordination of functions, as well as collaboration among the existing agencies. The regulatory responsibilities (i.e., rate-setting and rulemaking) should be separated from planning and permitting functions.

Roles of the State

7. The state should regulate and oversee in-state energy facilities, including Liquefied Natural Gas terminals, through permitting, licensing, and enforcement of regulations for in-state and out-of-state providers.
8. The state should:
 - a. conduct forecasts to assure resource adequacy and system reliability;
 - b. use economic/market and other incentives to foster renewable energy, conservation, demand-side management, and greenhouse gas reductions;
 - c. administer a public-interest research and development program.

Regional Planning--

9. Decisions about implementation of the energy planning process should be made on a region-wide basis through a mechanism that incorporates participation by local governments.

Roles of Local Governments--

10. Local governments should have responsibility to inform their citizens about developments in regional energy planning and to communicate local concerns to the regional planners.

11. Local governments should promote energy conservation, especially in relation to building codes, transportation, resource recovery, and public information.

Transparency in Decision-making

12. Greater transparency in energy policy decision-making should be promoted by: a. effective noticing; b. use of open meetings and workshops, community outreach, including funding for meetings; c. extensive use of communications technologies.

13. Given the importance of public participation, agencies should be required to use plain language in all communications, proceedings, and publications.

Direct Access

14. Any direct-access (choice of a provider) policy should not result in additional costs to the remaining core customers.

15. Customers who leave the regulated system for a direct-access account should be required to pay a fair share of the costs their utility has incurred to serve them.

16. Customers who have left a regulated utility for a direct-access account and later wish to return, should be required to compensate for any negative effects their return will have on the regulated system.

Interrelationship of Energy and Water -

17. Energy agencies and utilities should develop programs that will help the water sector reduce its very large consumption of electric power and fossil fuels.

18. Information about the impacts of water conveyance, treatment, and end use, including irrigation pumping, should be disseminated to the public.

19. Energy policy should recognize the important interrelationship between water use and energy use. Practices such as universal metering and economic incentives to shift load to off-peak hours should be considered.

20. Recognizing that a substantial portion of California's economy is based on agriculture, measures to reduce water-intensive crops and landscape plantings should be considered.

Adopted 1978; Updated 1980. 2006.

Thanks to members of the Eden Area committee who worked on this study and sent their comments to the State this spring: Suzanne Barba, Chair, Bill Quirk, Malca Chall, Meg Jurich, Nancy Van Huffel, Trish Taylor, Tom Guarino, Don Smart, Michael Sweeney and Evelyn Cormier.

Broken Ethics Process Again at the Forefront by *Mary G. Wilson, President, LWVUS*

With another new ethics scandal breaking in Congress, we can see, once again, a fundamental problem. The Congressional ethics enforcement process is broken. In the wake of the disgraceful conduct of a House Member — former Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.), who was caught making improper advances to a 16-year-old House page — and questions about how the House leadership dealt with allegations of that conduct, the leadership referred the matter to its very own Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

This is the same bipartisan House ethics committee that refused to investigate Rep. Bob Ney (R-Ohio), a House Member at the center of the Jack Abramoff scandal; refused to investigate then-Rep. Tom DeLay (R-Texas), who resigned under a cloud of shame; and refused to take action on a host of other Members of Congress who have been implicated in one way or another during the scandal-plagued 109th Congress. Let's take a closer look at the House Ethics Committee. The committee at one time might have provided a true enforcement mechanism to guard against corruption or predatory personal behavior. It at one time might have protected the House, its leadership and its Members from the errant activities of individual Members. But it does not do so today. For example, it used to be possible for individuals who were not Members of the House to bring matters to the Ethics Committee in a way that spurred action. That is how former Speaker Jim Wright (D-Texas) and others saw their activities brought before the committee. But that is no longer possible. Now, because of self-serving steps taken by the House, only Members can file a complaint.

The current scandal demonstrates the problem with this rule. According to recent accounts in the media, it appears that many people knew about Foley's inappropriate conduct. It even seems that the pages themselves warned each other to avoid him. But none of these people could initiate a formal investigation by the House Ethics Committee. All they could do was bring the matter to the attention of a House Member and hope that he or she would take the action through the formal

Ethics Committee process. That might have worked, except for an unwritten "truce" that appears to have been honored between the political parties in the House. That truce — apparently designed to prevent retaliatory ethics complaints by one party against the other — resulted in Members not bringing complaints to the Ethics Committee at all. Thus there is no meaningful official mechanism for enforcing the simple rules of ethics that we expect from our Representatives.

Proposals to improve the ethics process have been suggested, most notably legislation introduced by Reps. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) and Marty Meehan (D-Mass.). Their bill creates an Office of Public Integrity, allows outside complaints and establishes an independent fact-finding process. Shays and Meehan had hoped to offer these reforms as part of the debate last spring on lobbying-reform legislation, but they were prevented from doing so by the House leadership, which used the rules to block a vote on these ethics reforms.

Even now, with the Foley matter referred to the House Ethics Committee, there is no independent investigative process. There is no outside counsel. Instead, Members of Congress appointed by the leadership of both parties will be looking at the handling of the affair, which includes allegations about the actions of their colleagues and the Speaker of the House. In recent weeks, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has promised early votes on the Democrats' lobbying and ethics legislation if they take control of the House and she is elected Speaker.

But here's the catch: The Democrats' legislation does not include the Shays-Meehan reforms that allow outside complaints and set up independent fact-finding procedures as part of the ethics process. Once again, there seems to be bipartisan agreement to keep the process broken. Instead, the leaders of both political parties in the House should pledge now to support real reform, no matter who is Speaker.

HAYWARD VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Congratulations to League Board

Member Alexandra Matteucci-Perkins:

“Alexandra is a collaborator, a mediator, a peacemaker, and an inspiration” From the Oprah Winfrey show to our local cable television, Alexandra brings the issue of youth sports violence to public awareness. Through the Joseph Matteucci Foundation (named for her son who died in 1994 of sports violence). Alexandra has dedicated herself to educating youth and their families about this subject. She’s a member of local, state, and national groups fighting youth violence.

ONECARENOW CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

In California, too many people suffer because they cannot afford the health care or medicine they need. California’s healthcare crisis could be resolved with State Senator Sheila Kuehl’s bill SB 840. The bill would provide comprehensive healthcare for all. The bill made history when both the Assembly and the Senate passed it, but it was vetoed by the governor. Kuehl has vowed to reintroduce her bill again next year.

The One Care Now Campaign began its 365-city campaign with an all-day beach event in Morro Bay on August 12. A press conference was held on September 23 in San Lorenzo featuring Dr. Tony Iton, Alameda County Public Health Officer; Jean Fong, representing Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker; and Gretchen Mackler-Lipow, member, California Retired Teachers Association.

Future local events will be held in Castro Valley on April 8, San Leandro on May 24 and in Hayward on July 14. The yearlong campaign will cover the state and culminate with a stop in Los Angeles on August 12, 2007. On August 19, a rally in support of Universal Health Care will take place in Sacramento at the Capitol.

Suzanne Barbra is our liaison to the committee. To learn more about the campaign for universal health care or to sign a petition go to: www.onecarenow.org.

SAVE THESE DATES

**Friday, April 13, 2007,
50th Anniversary Dinner @
the Hayward City Hall Rotunda**



HELP! HELP!

Where are These Missing Presidents?

The 50th Anniversary Planning Committee needs your help in locating the following of our past presidents:

Hayward Area:

Trudy Sundberg
Pat Baker
Ilene Weinreb
Gail Duggan
Alice Van Horn
Barbara Batten
Celine Larson

San Leandro Area:

Peg Wiedman
Sylvia Landt
Carol Federighi
Louise Richardson
JoAnne Wood
Carolyn Smith-Mitler

If you have addresses, phone numbers or email addresses for any of these women, please send them to Eleanor Parker, Chair, 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, 147 Belgian Drive, Danville, CA 94526 or e-mail eliparker@sbcglobal.net or call 925/837-3041. If you know that some have moved out of the area or passed away, please let us know. Our Committee Members will be contacting them about our 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Eleanor Parker, Chair

Saturday, January 27, 2007

Bay Area League Day will be held at a location in San Mateo County and will address the “Focusing Our Vision” effort in the Bay Area. Its focus will be on locating future housing needs while protecting environmental and community resources.

The LWV Bay Area has agreed to organize a tour of the Bay Bridge reconstruction. If you are interested in joining the tour, please contact Mary Ann Benson for information. secretary@lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org

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, Hillcrest Knolls and San Lorenzo

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Dues: Regular \$50 Same Household \$25, Student \$20

The League of Women Voters, a
nonpartisan political organization,
encourages the informed and active
participation of citizens in government and
influences public policy through education
and advocacy.

RESERVATION FORM for Holiday Party on Friday, December 1, 2006
Please RSVP by Monday November 27th

Name: _____ Name: _____

Price: \$10.00/person or \$5.00 with salad or dessert



Make your check payable to LWVEA and send to:
Treasurer, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546,
Phone number 510-581-9326.

Visit our website for up-to-date information: LWVEA.org