



League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville

The Voter

“ . . . to promote informed citizen participation in government.”

510-843-8824

office@lwvbae.org

<http://lwvbae.org>

February 2012

Calling All League Members

What do you want to see on the agenda for the national LWVUS for the coming two years, and for our LWVBAE agenda, for the next year?

At the next “Conversation at the League”, on February 7, we will be doing “program planning”, discussing the issues on which you believe the national League and our local LWVBAE should focus our time, talent, money, and reputation.

Every two years, before the National LWVUS Convention, we are asked to review the US League’s positions and let them know which to retain or update and which to prioritize for education and advocacy.

When: Tuesday, February 7, from noon to 2:00

Where: Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room
1247 Marin (at Masonic), Albany

Our local positions may be read anytime in the PDF file on our website, <http://lwvbae.org/position.pdf>. You may also get the position file by going to our homepage

Continued on page 4

New League Office Opens at 2530 San Pablo Open House February 16 from 3:00 to 7:00

It’s not often our League has the chance to celebrate the opening of new headquarters, but we’re going to do that on Thursday, February 16 from 3:00 to 7:00, and you are welcome to come and bring your friends to see our new digs. The address is 2530 San Pablo, between Dwight and Parker.

We will also be inviting our fellow tenants (others in the building include the Ecology Center, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Berkeley Federation of Teachers, and several other non-profit organizations) as well as colleagues from other Leagues and collaborative groups with which we have common cause.

There will be snacks and beverages and a chance to see our new setting, including the lively surrounding neighborhood.

We have truly landed in an improved situation, in a roomy, well-lit first-floor setting that is easily accessible. We look forward to the new energy our new office will lend to our efforts to recruit new collaborations and attract new members. (“New” is our watchword.)

Our telephone number remains the same, but we no longer have a FAX number. And of course you can still reach us through our email address and check us out on-line at lwvbae.org.

Volunteers are now being scheduled to be in the office at specific times during weekdays. If you would like to join this crew and get an advance look at our new digs, give us a call at 843-8824 and our volunteer coordinator Jane Barrett will be happy to arrange for you to help out.

We look forward to seeing you and your friends at our office warming February 16, or at other times as you come to meetings and other League activities. ►►

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Please spread the word about our new location. We were at the University Avenue office for over 20 years, and we need to establish a new familiarity!

Sherry Smith, President

Thank You for the Help

The League would like to acknowledge the special help that several of our members provided in making our move from the University Avenue location to our new office at 2530 San Pablo as seamless as possible.

Diane Akers, the League's Vice President for Administration, coordinated the move with ample assistance from Jane Barrett, Jane and Tom Coulter, Angharad Jones, Helene Lecar, and Li-hsia Wang. Bill Chapman handled all the electronics and telephone shifting, and Paul Canin, husband of member Helen Canin, drew up schematics that helped us decide where to place furniture and equipment in our new space.

Many thanks to those who contributed in small and large ways to helping us find our new location, "weed and purge" our office treasures, and settle us into our splendid new office space.

League "Conversation" Addresses Future Effectiveness of LWVBAE and Attracting and Sustaining Members

At the "Conversation with the League" held January 3 at the Albany Library, over 30 people discussed ideas of how our League might increase its effectiveness, sustain its current membership, and attract new members.

After introductory remarks regarding the purpose of the session, the group broke into four smaller discussion groups and for the next hour talked among themselves in a brainstorming session. Then everyone came back together and heard reporters from each group summarize the top several ideas that had come forth, and after further discussion consensus was reached on which ideas were the most intriguing.

A group of five people volunteered to meet in the near future and work out a framework of how to proceed to bring these ideas into fruition, and to propose their conclusions to the Board and membership. That group includes Nancy Bickel, Suzanne Chun, Jinky Gardner, Helene Lecar, and Jean Safir. Bill Chapman agreed to a consultant role when questions arise about use of technology.

The main points that arose from the discussion include:

1. Using modern communications to increase our visibility and activities (e.g. an active and interactive Facebook page; on-line meetings)
2. Flexibility in working with other groups on collaborative activities (a possible League room at Berkeley City College; publicizing our activities at International House on the UC campus; networking with other Leagues)
3. Publicizing what we do well
4. Developing an "elevator pitch" explaining why the League is relevant to people personally and to society at large
5. Ascertaining what is of interest and importance to the community and holding focused events that include a speaker or panels
6. Providing a warm welcome to people attending our events and to new members, and dispelling any idea that we are a closed clique
7. Planning "happy hours" targeted at younger professionals, working people and singles
8. Increasing the number of local studies to engage community members, with a special eye to increasing the number of ethnic groups associated with the League

Special thanks to Pat Day for her valuable suggestions in planning this Conversation and for helping keep us on track, and to Angharad Jones for her comprehensive note taking and providing a summary of the discussion to the committee that volunteered to take these ideas forward.

I would welcome any further ideas to add to this list and can pass them along to our new committee, listed above. Please give me a call at 548-1769 and I'll be happy to discuss ideas with you.

Sherry Smith, President

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area



Presents

Bay Area League Day

Housing and the

Bay Area's Future



Saturday, February 4, 2012

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14th Street, Oakland, California

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area has chosen regional housing as the topic for its next annual Bay Area League Day educational forum. The event will feature a keynote speech from David Rosen of David Paul Rosen & Associates, and three panels of experts discussing 1) how to meet regional housing needs in compliance with the sustainable communities strategy mandated by California Senate Bill 375, 2) how to finance affordable housing, and 3) how to provide housing for the poor and the homeless:

1) POLICY

Ken Kirkey
Association of Bay Area Governments

Duane Bay
San Mateo County Housing Department

Richard Marcantonio
Public Advocates

2) FINANCE

Jack Nagle
Goldfarb & Lipman LLP

Linda Mandolini
Eden Housing

Susan Friedland
Affordable Housing Associates

3) UP AGAINST THE WALL

Tim Iglesias
University of San Francisco

Mary Murtagh
EAH Housing

Elaine de Coligny
EveryOne Home



The price of this year's League Day is \$30 (\$15 without lunch) in advance, and \$35 (\$20 without lunch) at the door. Breakfast is included for both options. Registration is available at www.lwvbayarea.org or by mail (check payable to "LWVBA") to 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612. For more information, call (510) 839-1608.

Women's Vote Centennial Celebration

What a wonderful year of remembering 100 years of women voting—and of women and men working to encourage and inform voters! Over the last ten months, **Voter** articles have recalled the bold deeds of our suffragist predecessors and offered glimpses of delightful parades in Berkeley, Sacramento and Oakland, of our own birthday celebration in City Hall in October and of resolutions from Representative Barbara Lee, California Senator Loni Hancock and Assembly Member Nancy Skinner, as well as our City Council and School Board. [Many thanks to photographers Jinky Gardner, Bill Chapman and others and editor Fran Packard] If you missed the photos, articles and lists of references to books, articles and websites, check out past newsletters via our website. Other suffrage resources are also available at lwvbae.org

More to come—a talk on February 5, 2 pm: Barbara Babcock, Stanford Law Professor Emerita, will discuss Clara Foltz, the ground-breaking woman lawyer, the subject of her biography *Woman Lawyer: The Trials of Clara Foltz*. The actor who presented Clara at our 100th birthday party introduced us to her accomplishments; Professor Babcock will tell us more.

Deserted by her husband, needing to support her five children, Clara Shortridge Foltz was a path breaker—first woman lawyer in California, a leader of the suffrage movement. She introduced the idea that indigent criminal defendants should have state provided lawyers and that convicted criminals should have the possibility of parole. She was the first female deputy district attorney in the United States. Professor Babcock will speak Sunday, February 5, at 2 pm at the Berkeley Historical Center in the Veterans Building, 1931 Center Street.

Celebrating our women elected officials in March, Date TBD: Berkeley women had their first chance to vote in April of 1912. In honor of that election—and of the many women who have won elections in Berkeley both before 1912—to the school board—and after—in myriad positions, the Berkeley Historical Society and the Women Vote Centennial Committee will welcome past and present elected women at a reception in March. Details soon.

Last chance to see exhibits: The “Berkeley Women Vote: Celebrating California Suffrage Centennial” will continue through March 2012 at the Berkeley Historical Society. The exhibit is open Thursday through Saturday afternoons. Call (510) 848-0181 to check that a volunteer has opened

the library before making a special trip—and remember that parking is difficult when the Farmers Market is open on Saturdays.

View UCB exhibits in person or on-line: “A Centennial Celebration: California Women and the Vote” continues through the end of January. “Women at Cal, 1910-1915: When California Passed the Woman Suffrage Amendment” continues to the end of March. Check the Bancroft website for on-line viewing and for the open hours of Bancroft and Doe Libraries for in-person visits.

Helping our Children Learn about the Suffrage Campaign: Thanks to Phyllis Gale, curator of the Berkeley exhibit and chair of the Berkeley Women Vote Centennial Committee, and generous donors, the Berkeley Historical Society presented every elementary school in Berkeley with copies of *Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage* written by Claire Rudolf Murphy and illustrated by Stacey Schuett. The story is based on the true story of Bessie Keith Pond whose aunt, Mary McHenry Keith, was a leader in the 1896 and 1911 suffrage campaigns. As a 10 year old girl, Bessie marched with “Aunt Susan,” Susan B. Anthony, in the first and unsuccessful California suffrage campaign. Copies of the book are available at the Berkeley Historical Center.

Nancy Bickel

Calling All League Members

Continued from page 1

<http://lwvbae.org/> clicking on About the LWV in the blue bar just beneath the masthead, then clicking on Local Positions in the red bar. On the next screen, click on Local Positions on the red bar on the page that appears after your first click. National positions can be found at <http://lwv.org/content/public-policy-positions>.

Please take a look at both the current local and national positions before we have the conversation.

This is your chance to influence the path the League will take in 2012-2013, at both the local and national levels. Please join us on February 7th.

Sherry Smith, President

LWVBAE Assists Co-Op Credit Union In Assuring Fairness of Their Board Election

One of the services which LWVBAE has provided over the years is oversight of elections conducted by non-governmental agencies like the Associated Students of the University of California, some housing resident associations, and credit unions.

Our most recent efforts were in aid of the Board of Directors election for the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union (most usually known as the Co-Op Credit Union). The League last assisted this credit union some years ago, and they have tried various methods of trying to insure a fair elections process on their own since then.

But last year, the comparatively expensive use of a law firm to oversee their annual Board Election led them to consider coming back to the League again, and we were happy to help.

With the downturn of the economy causing much discussion about consumer banking options, accentuated by the Occupy Wall Street movement and its offshoots, credit unions across the United States have experienced an upturn in membership and new accounts.

The Co-Op credit union's membership swelled from around 10,000 in the fall to over 11,000 by the time of their scheduled annual election, and there was increased interest in who would be running for the Board of Directors, including a number of petition candidates.

Our league assisted the Co-Op management and Board in consulting on what was required under their By-Laws for a fair election, and then supervising the certifying of candidates and the counting of ballots. With the increased membership and enhanced interest, the number of ballots cast went from an average of around 200 in recent elections to over 600 for this one. Every ballot had to be verified as having been cast by a valid Co-Op member.

The League was pleased to have been asked to help with this service, and we want to thank Jane Barrett, Li-hsia Wang, and Phoebe Watts for their unflagging assistance in providing this oversight to one of our outstanding Berkeley institutions.

If you are a member of an organization or cooperative housing association that would like to have the League oversee a Board or officer election, please let us know and we can talk with you in more detail about the services we can provide for a modest fee.

Health Care Committee Report

The next meeting will be January 16, 2012 at 1:30 in our new office, and will continue on the third Monday of each month. Any interested League member is invited.

After a workshop led by former League member Doris Mendell, committee members have been encouraged to write letters to the editor on health care reform.

Several of us will be going to the 2012 Lobby Day rally in Sacramento in support of state senator Mark Leno's SB 810, the California Universal Healthcare Act. This bill, which supports and defines single-payer health care for California, is a continuation of SB 840 from former State Senator Sheila Kuehl, which passed twice but was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

In addition, we have sent through the LWVBAE board, a letter of support for the bill to Senator Christine Kehoe, chair of the senate appropriations committee, where the bill currently resides. It comes up for a hearing by the committee later this month, and LWVC will be sending a representative to this hearing (probably Trudy Schafer, the state senior director for programs).

Lastly, we have also sent through the board a letter to Judy Duffy, LWVUS Advocacy Committee Chair, requesting the national league to make health care reform a top legislative priority, not just continuing support for the Affordable Care Act, passed in March 2010 (is it almost two years already?), but going further, consistent with the League's position of 1992, for affordable health care for all residents. This is part of a national campaign by League members, following up on a vote at the last national convention in 2010 in support of universal care, sometimes called "Improved Medicare for All."

Li-hsia Wang

Telephone/Fax (510) 848-5765

Cell (510)333-0434

Cal's Women of Color Conference

LWVBAE and the Oakland League will team up at the 27th Anniversary of the UC Berkeley Annual Empowering Women of Color Conference on the Cal campus on March 3. We will participate as a "vendor", providing information about our Leagues and registering voters. The annual event is presented by the UC Graduate Assembly, and this year's theme is "A Holistic Approach: Justice, Access & Healing". If you're interested in helping us with "tabling", call the LWVBAE office at 843-8824 and leave your name and number.

Leagues in Alameda County Will Join Together for LWVUS Study on “Privatization” of Governmental Functions

At the June 2010 national convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the delegates voted to have the US League study the effect of proposals to transfer federal, state, or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. Services and institutions that are normally publicly run, such as prisons and schools, have already undergone such transfers in some states and communities. The purpose of the study is to identify parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with these transfer proposals. The formal name for the study is “Privatization of Government Services, Assets and Functions”.

That study is now underway, and the seven Leagues in Alameda County have decided to proceed with the study as a group, rather than having each League form a study committee and proceed to consensus on its own, as is usually the case.

Meetings are occurring in the spring to plan an approach to the study process and to discuss how consensus will be determined, as well as to reach consensus and report results to the US League by May 1.

League members interested in participating in this study should call the League office (843-8824) and leave their name and phone number. Further information can be found at <http://lwv.org/member-resources/privatization>

Special Thanks

Special thanks to those who donated to our Annual Fundraising Appeal this year. By early January, over \$6,000 had been generously contributed to LWVBAE and the Foundation.

Welcome

New Member Elizabeth Raymer

Returning Member Suzanne Marr

November—January Donations

To the LWVBAE General Fund

Henry Abrons

Barbara Adair

Diane Akers

Robert Arnold

Eleanor Bade

Regina Beatus

Jane and Art Bergen

Cecile Briar

Laurie Capitelli

Suzanne Chun

Tom and Jane Coulter

William Craig

Ann and George Crowe

Samuela Evans

Violet Feinauer

Doris Fine

Friends of Keith Carson

Edith Gladstone

Elaine Grossberg

Kurt and Ora Huth

Yvonne Koshland

Babette Maccoby

Li-hsia Wang

Barbara Nelson

Allie Norton

Fran Packard

Patricia Parker

Juanita Peterson

Ursula Rolfe

Sondra Schlesinger

Cindy Shamban

Sherry Smith

Ruthann Taylor

Lloyd and Lassie Ulman

Andrea Washburn

To the LWVB Foundation

Barbara Adair

Diane Akers

Robert Arnold

Regina Beatus

Gilbert Bendix

Jane and Art Bergen

Nancy and Peter Bickel

Cecile Briar

William Craig

George and Ann Crowe

Francis Davis

Linda Gerson

Anne Good

Ann-Marie Hogan

Kurt and Ora Huth

Barbara Marienthal

Haruko Nagaishi

Roy Nakadegawa

Barbara Nelson

Patricia Parker

Juanita Peterson

Vivian Scharlach

Sondra Schlesinger

Patricia Shanks

Marion Shapiro

Sherry and Judd Smith

Ellen Turiel

Many thanks for
remembering our
League

Louetta Erlin
Donations Secretary

Board Briefs

The major news of the Fall was our necessity to find new “digs”. With the bankruptcy of our landlord, Andronico’s, we were hard pressed to find alternative accommodations in short order. With the help of a few resourceful board members, the ideal location was tracked down, and a Motion passed at the November board meeting, granting President Sherry Smith permission to sign a nine year lease. You will have read elsewhere, but it’s worth reiterating, that our new office is located in the Ecology Center building at 2530 San Pablo Avenue. We are in Suite F. Our phone number is unchanged, but we no longer have a fax line.

During the December meeting, the following Motions were passed:

1. Reporting on the December 3 Alameda County Council of Leagues meeting the Board was asked if LWVBAE would want to circulate the ACLU’s death penalty petition. Following active discussion, when it was decided that if we were able to have a person take the lead on our behalf, it was: Moved, seconded, and carried unanimously. that the LWVBAE rises in support of death penalty repeal initiative statute 11-0035 currently being circulated. It is an initiative statute. Deadline 03/19, half a million signatures required.
2. Letter submitted to the Board for approval: Mim Hawley of LWVBAE and several others involved with area wide transportation issues submitted a letter to be sent to the Alameda County Transportation Commission from Alameda County Council Leagues. The letter represents the League position re their proposed new Measure B and expenditure plans. Mim and others will meet with the Alameda County Transportation Commission on Tues. Jan 17th and they want to know they have the support of ACC for the letter’s statements before attending the meeting. The Board passed a Motion approving the letter and any alterations may be considered later.
3. Letter submitted by the Health Committee, for Board approval: The letter is addressed to Judy Duffy, LWVUS Advocacy Committee Chair, asking that LWVUS make real health care reform a top priority. The Board passed a Motion approving the sending of the letter.
4. In recent meetings discussing the future progress of the LWVBAE, a suggestion was made regarding the development of a bumper sticker advertising the League. The Board passed a Motion approving the idea and the submission to the Foundation of expenses.

Statewide Ballot Measures

The following measures have qualified for the June 5, 2012 Primary ballot.

Limits on Legislators’ Terms in Office. Initiative Constitutional Amendment. Reduces the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years. Allows a person to serve a total of 12 years either in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of both. Applies only to legislators first elected after the measure is passed. Provides that legislators elected before the measure is passed continue to be subject to existing term limits. Fiscal effect: No direct fiscal effect on state or local governments.

Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research. Initiative Statute. Imposes additional five cent tax on each cigarette distributed (\$1.00 per pack), and an equivalent tax increase on other tobacco products, to fund cancer research and other specified purposes. Summary of fiscal effects: Increase in new cigarette tax revenues of about \$855 million annually for various health research and tobacco-related programs. Increase of about \$45 million annually to existing health, natural resources, and research programs funded by existing tobacco taxes. Increase in state and local sales taxes of about \$32 million annually.

More Initiatives

There are 48 initiatives cleared for circulation and 29 pending at the Attorney General’s Office.

One initiative has qualified for the November 6 General Election. It would restrict union political fundraising by prohibiting use of payroll-deducted funds for political purposes. Summary of fiscal effects: Increased state implementation and enforcement costs of up to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, potentially offset in part by revenues from fines.

Two other measures are pending signature verification. One is a referendum that would place the revised State Senate boundaries on the ballot and prevent them from taking effect unless approved by the voters at the next statewide election; and (2) Require court-appointed officials to set interim boundaries for use in the next statewide election.

The other, an initiative statute would allow auto insurance companies to set prices based on a driver’s history of insurance coverage.

The best way to keep up with what is coming is at the Secretary of State’s website <http://sos.ca.gov>.

League Leaders 2011-2012

Board of Directors

President Sherry Smith
 Recording Secretary Angharad Jones
 Treasurer Bill Chapman
 VP Administration Diane Akers
 VP Membership Jane Coulter
 VOTER Editor Fran Packard
 Education Director Helene Lecar
 Healthcare Director Li-hsia Wang
 Natural Resources Carol Stone
 Natural Resources Gail Schickele
 Director-at-Large Jinky Gardner
 Director-at-Large Ginette Polak
 Director-at-Large Phoebe Watts
 Volunteer Coordinator Jane Barrett

Off-Board Portfolios

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 Civics Education Jinky Gardner
 Community Luncheon Suzanne Chun
 Database Coordinator Jane Coulter
 Donations Secretary Louetta Erlin
 Dues Coordinator Mina Jenner
 Healthy Planet Regina Beatus
 Housing Issues Jean Safir
 Juvenile Justice Lois Brubeck
 LWV Bay Area Liaison Jean Safir
 Library Liaison Claudia Berger
 Smart Voter Sherry Smith
 Web Manager/Computer Consultant Bill Chapman
 Women's Issues Charlotte Lichterman



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 Current and past issues of the *VOTER* are posted on our website <http://lwvbae.org>.

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

Calendar — Berkeley addresses unless otherwise noted

January

25	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office 2530 San Pablo Ave	S. Smith	548-1769
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February

3	Fri	5:00 pm	<i>Voter</i> Deadline	F.Packard	845-3037
4	Sat	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Bay Area League Day (see page 3)	J. Safir	524-9088
7	Tue	noon-2:00 pm	Conversation: Program Planning Albany Library 1247 Marin Ave, Albany	G. Polak	841-4546
9	Thur	11 am- 1:00 pm	Membership Committee, LWVBAE Office, 2530 San Pablo Ave	P. Day	841-8243
13	Mon	7:30-9:00 pm	Environmental Concerns 1174 Euclid Ave	C.Stone	549-0959
16	Thur	3:00-7:00 pm	Open House, LWVBAE Office 2530 San Pablo Ave	S. Smith	548-1769
20	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM	Health Care Committee, LWVBAE, Office, 2530 San Pablo Ave	L. Wang	848-5765
22	Wed	3:00-5:00	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office 2530 San Pablo Ave	S. Smith	548-1769