

## Conversation: June Primary

The June 5 Primary Ballot will be light on ballot propositions—two state and a Peralta District parcel tax—but heavy on confusion.

Anne Henderson, Program Director, State and Local Finances for LWVC, will describe the ballot measures and lead our discussion. A descriptive chart will be distributed, illustrating how two types of candidate contests will be conducted in the same election (!)

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 1, noon to 2:00

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

Bring your lunch and bring a friend, to help prepare



LWV member Liz Raymer registering her great-grandson to vote.

## Call to Annual Meeting

**When:** Thursday, May 24, 2012, 5:00 to 8:30 pm

**Where:** Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley

**Speaker:** Cynthia Cornejo, Alameda County Deputy Registrar of Voters

**Topic:** The Changes We'll See on Our June Ballots

Join us at the Annual Meeting and hear Cynthia Cornejo, Deputy Registrar of Voters for Alameda County, describe the changes we will see first on the June Primary ballot, and beyond. Whether you will be voting by mail or at your precinct, and especially if you will be a poll worker June 5, you'll need to know about these changes and have this opportunity to ask questions of the expert. Her talk will begin at 6:30.

Before Ms. Cornejo's presentation, please join us for dinner at 5:30.If you've come to recent Membership Meetings, you've had the treat of enjoying a meal prepared by our member and expert chef, Rainey Sykes, with the help of her well-trained crew. You will not be disappointed.

To help Rainey know how much food to prepare, please phone the office (843-8824) or e-mail (office@lwvbae.org) before May 18 and tell us how many dinner reservations you'd like to make. Dinner is \$15 per person, payable with check or cash at the door when you arrive. Also, if you'd like to help with dinner setup and/or cleanup, you may call or email the office and your message will be welcomed.

Finally, starting at 7:30, we'll conduct our annual business meeting. This year's meeting will be one of the most important in the history of our League. In this issue of the VOTER you will find a description of the new leadership structure for our League being proposed by the Board of Directors. Please read that carefully, along with the in-

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formation in the Call to Meeting insert in this issue. The meeting will also include election of next year's officers and adoption of next year's budget. You will want to stay on for all of this.

Sherry Smith, President

## **Board Proposes New Leadership Structure for LWVBAE**

Our League has had a traditional organizational leadership structure for many decades, similar to that of hundreds of other Leagues.

But our structure of five or six officers and eight or more Directors, some with "portfolios" of responsibility and some "directors-at-large" (currently our Board numbers 14 members) has dispersed responsibility and the people filling these posts have tended to re-cycle on and off the Board, with specific people coming and going, and coming back again.

Our Board is not alone in this situation. At Conventions and Councils of Leagues, one of the main topics continues to be "what do we do about getting fresh leadership, and how can we set up a structure that encourages more leadership training and succession".

At the 2010 National Convention, a committee that had been formed two years before that, made its report to the LWVUS leadership, and workshops were held to describe the "ABCs for a Streamlined League".

We brought back these ideas and several months ago, we started discussing seriously the idea of adopting some of these ideas for a more responsible and responsive leadership structure.

On January 3 of this year, LWVBAE members gathered at a "Conversations at the League" meeting at the Albany Library, to discuss "The Future of Our League". Out of that discussion emerged a "follow-on" group that volunteered to meet and digest the ideas that had come from the Conversation, with the goal of increasing the effectiveness of the League's leadership structure and adopting other ideas about enhancing the League's attractiveness to both current and potential new members.

In early February, members of the Board and other interested League members met to take us further down the road to outlining details of a possible changed leadership structure to effectuate efficiencies.

On March 13, an all-day meeting facilitated by League member Linda Swift brought together a group of 13, with the goal of building a shared vision of our League in 2017 and to define a leadership and administration structure to get us there.

The resulting proposal that the group agreed upon is based on a team approach. The Leadership Team is supported by several teams including those currently in existence, and new teams to be formed. Communication within and among teams is critical to efficient operation and is expected to further foster member engagement.

Briefly described, the structure comprises a Leadership Team consisting of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and coordinators for Program, Action, Membership, Voter Service, and Communications. The Leadership group would function as a management team, and be elected by the membership, as is the current Board.

Various Support Teams would be formed and would report to appropriate members of the Leadership Team. Examples of Support Teams would be Speakers Bureau, voter registration, civics education, Voter editor, Webmaster, health, climate, and so forth. The goal would be to recruit sufficient volunteers within the Support Teams to comprise a pool from which future leadership would be drawn.

This "Proposal for New Organization Structure for LWVBAE" was brought before the LWVBAE Board of Directors on March 28, and was passed with no dissenting votes.

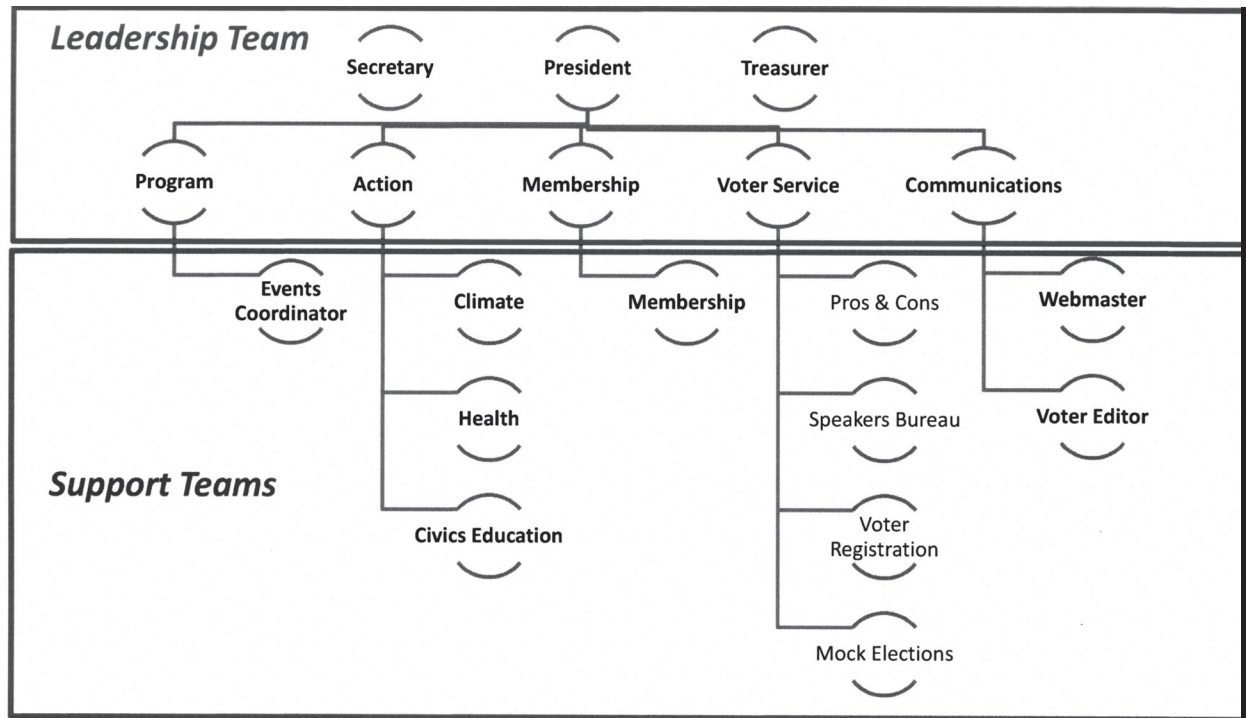
The members attending the Annual Meeting on May 24 will be asked to discuss and adopt this proposed structure.

### **Leadership Team**

**The Leadership Team** (formerly the Board) will work together as a team with total board responsibility. In addition, each Leadership Team member will liaise and work with his or her team or teams to provide input or support both from the team(s) to the Leadership Team member and from the Leadership Team member to the team(s). Our vision is that we will actively develop individuals for roles on the Leadership Team. Such development pathways are very important to building a growing organization. Members of the Leadership Team will include:

**President:** The President is responsible for representing the LWVBAE at appropriate meetings or other venues and as spokesperson. She/he must be fully informed of all aspects of LWVBAE activities. In addition, he/she will be responsible for the smooth operation of the administration/management of LWVBAE, will lead the Leadership Team, and convene appropriate meetings.

**Communications Coordinator:** The Communications Coordinator is responsible for all communications within the LWVBAE and from the LWVBAE to outside entities. He/she will work closely with members, the President, and all other Coordinators to ensure that optimal communications are achieved. Working with the Communications



Schematic depiction of proposed organization structure. Note that although not shown, any and all positions on the Leadership Team may have support teams, including President, Treasurer and Secretary, depending on the needs and wishes of those serving in the roles.

Coordinator will be a Webmaster (possibly a part-time hire in the near-term) and the Editor of the Voter. These latter two will also be members of the Communications Team.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters, specifically monitoring and managing income and expenditures and all requirements associated with those tasks. She/he also provides finance information to the Leadership Team. A bookkeeper may be hired as a support to the Treasurer depending on need. If the Treasurer so desires, a Money or Budget Team may be formed for further input and support.

**Secretary:** The Secretary is responsible for recording all activities and decisions at Leadership Team meetings, and therefore is required to attend all meetings.

**Voter Service Coordinator:** The Voter Service Coordinator is responsible for voter related publications and communications/public education surrounding voter and ballot issues. Although very important prior to elections, these roles are also important between elections, particularly for public education. Some of the important areas of Voter Service include:

- Pros and Cons
- Speakers Bureau
- Voter registration

- Smart Voter local information
- Mock election

Each of these areas may ultimately have its own team structure, depending on availability of members and the needs of each election.

**Membership Coordinator:** The Membership Coordinator is responsible for growing our membership. Our goal is that members be engaged and informed and invited to participate and express their views on important decisions via frequent, regular meetings and via the full spectrum of communications - especially online and social networking - now available. The Membership Coordinator will link extensively with the rest of the Leadership Team and other teams to seek opportunities to meet potential members and to offer positive publicity for LWVBAE. All leaders and members of the LWVBAE are responsible for drawing in new members. The Membership Coordinator should give each new member a personal welcome and a new member kit, set new member training and coordinate mentor assignments.



**Action Coordinator:** The Action Coordinator is responsible for being aware of the activities of all teams and providing input for and coordination of actions which reach



outside our own LWVBAE. He/she will liaise with state and national Leagues and with all LWVBAE teams which are focused on specific interests including:

- Healthy Climate and Natural Resources
- Health Care
- Civics Education

In addition the Action Coordinator will periodically hold Action meetings to which all members are invited to discuss areas of interest, such as when LWV considers campaigning for or against specific ballot measures, mounting a major lobbying campaign, initiating studies, as well as for communication and information sharing

**Program Coordinator:** The Program Coordinator is responsible for planning and executing the general membership meetings traditionally held in May and the Autumn. Informed member discussion leads to consideration of new studies, and updates, in all public policy areas. As part of informing our membership, the Program Coordinator also coordinates the discussions or presentations, called “conversations” held once a month at the Albany Library. If any studies are on-going, whether local, regional or national, the Program Coordinator will either coordinate or liaise as appropriate.

This role will be filled if possible this year, but may be done as shared responsibility by the entire Leadership Team.

Please bring this entire issue of the VOTER to the May 24 Annual Meeting, along with the Annual Meeting Kit insert, so that you will have all of this information with you.

Sherry Smith, President

## Berkeley Climate Action Coalition

The LWVBAE has joined the newly formed Climate Coalition to help accelerate the implementation of Berkeley’s Climate Action Plan. In 2009, the Berkeley City Council adopted an ambitious Climate Action Plan (CAP) with the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 33 percent below 2000 levels by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050.

In addition to reducing greenhouse gases, other important benefits to be achieved include improved public health due to less local air pollution, more active transportation modes, improved access to green jobs due to the increased demand for solar and other energy upgrades and cost savings due to reduced energy use. No one entity can achieve the CAP goals alone.

Regina Beatus and Carol Stone, members of the Healthy Planet/Climate Change committee, are representing the League on the steering committee for the Coalition which is being convened by the Ecology Center. The Berkeley Climate Action Coalition is bringing together organizations actively working on climate initiatives, the environment, social justice, public health and the local economy. A partial list of the members of the Coalition include the Berkeley Community Gardening Collaborative, Berkeley High School Green Academy, Build It Green, Buy Local Berkeley, City of Berkeley Office of Energy and Sustainable Development, Community Energy Service Corp, Earth Island Institute, East Bay Bike Coalition, Ecology Center, Kyoto USA, League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, Livable Berkeley, Rising Sun Energy Center, Sierra Club, Transition Berkeley and UC Berkeley Office of Sustainability. The group will be selecting four priorities for action at the April 12th Coalition launch.

The categories included for action are Land Use and Transportation, Building Energy and Water Use, Waste Reduction and Recycling, Climate Adaption and Resilience, and Outreach and Community Engagement.

The Coalition’s goal is to raise the profile of local climate action efforts through the media and social networking. In addition the goals include fostering collaborations among the Coalition members, public officials and residents to leverage resources. Through aligned messaging and coordinated outreach there will be increased participation utilizing the existing City and community resources. In the first year the Coalition will work on four specific CAP strategies for implementation.

LWVBAE looks forward to this collaborative effort to make Berkeley a better and healthier place to live.

Regina Beatus  
Chair, Healthy Planet/Climate Change Team

## Welcome New Members

Sue Ezekiel

Theresa Gerritz

Preston Jordan

Mel Lavine

## Treasure Island Development Appears Utopian Yet Draws Critics

Treasure Island development was the subject of the presentation by Kelly Pretzer, Project Manager, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, City and County of San Francisco, for our Natural Resources-Environmental Concerns meeting March 13. The Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island Development Project is a \$1.5 billion project which includes 8,000 new residential units of which some 25 percent are below-market rate; 500 rooms among two to three hotels; a 400-slip marina; a new ferry terminal; 300 acres of parks and open space including an urban farm; and 100,000 square feet of office space.

Pretzer said the project is one of 16 founding projects of the Clinton Climate Initiative's Climate Positive Development. It includes a commitment to sustainability with a Master Plan that incorporates LEED Gold with good faith efforts to achieve LEED Platinum level. A key principle is having a walkable plan with all buildings being within a 15-minute walk from the transit center. There will be more than ten thousand parking spaces but fees for parking as well as tolls for leaving the island are anticipated to encourage public transit via ferry and added bus service, while Clipper cards will be required for all residents. The perimeter of the island is expected to become an extension of the East Bay Regional Park District's bike trail. The Yerba Buena side will have an island habitat management program and 200 new housing units. As part of the project approvals, a Sustainability Plan was approved by the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) Board of Directors. The plan can be found at: <http://sftreasureisland.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1105>.

In addition, as an attachment to the San Francisco's Disposition and Development Agreement—the binding legal document between the Project's private developer, Treasure Island Community Development, and the Treasure Island Development Authority—a "Sustainability Obligations" document was included. It may be found online at <http://sftreasureisland.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1073>.

Of the 550 acres total on both of the Islands, the Department of Labor has 37 acres on Treasure Island, the Coast Guard has 39 acres (plus waterside facilities) on Yerba Buena Island, and Caltrans has approximately 18 acres on Yerba Buena Island, directly underneath both

the old and new Bay Bridge structures. This leaves approximately 450 acres, which are included as part of the Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island Development Project. More information is included in the EIR, available online, and a link to volume one is at: [http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2007.0903E\\_V1.1.pdf](http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2007.0903E_V1.1.pdf).

The entire island will be raised three feet with deep dynamic compaction and adaptive strategy with buildings 300 feet from the perimeter in anticipation of rising sea levels related to global warming. There will be new Eastbound and Westbound on and off ramps, an island center, transit hub, retail district, clipper cove plaza and historic adaptive reuse of some existing buildings. The San Francisco Unified School district will determine if a school will be reopened on the Island while the developer will pay some \$5 million to rehabilitate the boys and girls club building.

At full buildout there will be about 2,000 jobs on the island with Treasure Island Homeless Development Initiative (TIHDI) having first refusal contracts.

The San Francisco property is provided with water from Hetch Hetchy. The San Francisco Public Utility Commission has first refusal for energy services, now under evaluation, otherwise PG&E would be the provider, Pretzer said.

Pretzer said that over the last 15 years there have been over 250 public outreach meetings and processes by the Treasure Island Citizens' Reuse Committee, the Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island Citizens' Advisory Board, the Treasure Island Environmental Restoration Advisory Board, the Treasure Island Development Authority Board of Directors, or general community and public meetings, with a significant number of these meetings having been held on Treasure Island or Yerba Buena Island.

The Navy is responsible for all remediation on the island from contamination, one of the main public concerns. Numerous public comments also have been expressed regarding historic reuse, transportation, and aesthetics. In addition, the project's environmental document is being sued in SF Superior Court by a group, Citizens for a Sustainable Treasure Island. Briefs that had been filed on the case may be found on the SF Superior Court's website. Comments from our audience ranged from concerns from seeming lack of sufficient energy efficiency planning, to outrage that such a unique potential public location that might be used for a park, museums, the arts and other attractions are being seemingly being usurped by private development.

The Bay Area Monitor published my story on the TI development in August, 2011. It may be found at: <http://www.bayareamonitor.org/>.

Gail Schickele, Co-chair Natural Resources

## Notes from April Conversation

At the April 3rd meeting, Berkeley Climate Action Coordinator, Timothy Burroughs, gave an update on the City's Climate Action Plan and the status on the progress that has been made. The goal is to have a 33% reduction in greenhouse gases (GHG) below 2000 levels by 2020 and an 80% reduction below 2000 levels by 2050.

Energy use in buildings, transportation and waste are the main areas of focus for the City. Energy use is about the same over the past 10 years from 2000 to 2010. The annual residential energy consumption is down overall from the year 2000. In Berkeley, there have been 1000 solar installations in the past 10 years. The annual municipal energy consumption for the City of Berkeley buildings has increased by 5% from 2000 to 2010. But, when you look at square footage with added building space the energy consumption is down 15%.

Regarding bike and pedestrian pathways, the Ninth Street Boulevard has been completed to Emeryville. A high percentage of Berkeley residents bike or walk to work. There were concerns mentioned by the audience about transportation services for our aging population. A question was also asked about returning light rail to Berkeley. Apparently the cost is very high for light rail.

There will be mandatory recycling in July 2012 for commercial businesses and multifamily buildings. In Berkeley, 50% of the buildings are multifamily so this will have a big impact. There has been a big increase in recycling with the new light blue bins with the two separate covers. The City would like to increase what's recyclable like yogurt containers. By 2013, the Alameda County ban on plastic bags will apply to most retail businesses.

Community engagement is an important part of the Climate Action Plan process and implementation. The City of Berkeley has joined the newly formed Berkeley Climate Action Coalition which is being convened by the Ecology Center. This will raise the profile of the local climate action efforts in the community as well as align messaging and coordinate outreach.

League Healthy Planet Climate Team members, Regina Beatus and Carol Stone, reported on the great news about the Advanced Clean Car Regulations voted on in January 2012 by the California Air Resources Board. This is the single biggest step in a generation to get our country off oil. It sets a gas standard for cars and light trucks, model years 2017 - 2025. The average miles per gallon (mpg) will be 54 in 2025, with some cars higher and some lower.

This will cut the equivalent CO2 emissions of 90,000,000 cars. New tailpipe standards for smog and GHG are also part of the regulations. The sales mandate will be to have 1,000,000 zero emission vehicles on the road by 2025. In addition, the oil companies will be required to work on new fuels, cleaner gas, hydrogen, and natural gas.

How did this all come about? In 2002 the California leadership passed the first law to set standards for CO2 emissions. In 2005, with the high oil prices, the public was pushed into buying cars with greater fuel economy.

Next came the bankruptcies and bailouts of the auto industry so there was now lots of pressure for change. The Global Warming Solutions Act, AB32, was passed in 2006 which stated that by 2020 greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) shall not exceed 1990 levels. The California Air Resources Board is responsible for developing regulations to implement AB32. In 2008, SB 375, the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act was passed, which will reduce GHG through coordinated regional and local planning for housing and transportation. The California Air Resources Board will set the standards for the regions. In 2007 a very important US Supreme Court ruling gave authority to the EPA and California to regulate CO2 as an air pollutant so California could move forward. With the Advanced Clean Car Regulations, the Air Resources Board is moving forward to implement California's AB32 and SB375.

At the League level, the Healthy Planet/Climate Change team is working together with the League of Women Voters California (LWVC) on the VOTE CLIMATE initiative to develop a campaign for Leagues to take action on climate issues utilizing social media, editorials, issue articles and more.

We want to keep Climate at the top of the conversation. We have submitted questions for candidates for the Smart Voter related to climate change that can be used for the November elections. The LWVC web pages will be updated with information and links about California's efforts to combat climate change and links to climate action plans of specific cities. The goal is to have other Leagues in California as well as across the nation join us in this effort. There will be a caucus at the National Convention in June focusing on climate change with the LWVC taking the lead to help create an active climate network among Leagues across the country.

Regina Beatus



## BUSD Public Budget Presentation

William Huyett, Superintendent of the Berkeley Unified School District and Javella Cleveland, Deputy Superintendent, held a relatively cozy, hour-long meeting about the school district's budget for Berkeley community members on Thursday, March 29th.

Mr. Huyett noted that we are having the largest downturn of school funding in California history. In BUSD, enrollment has decreased and Charter School attendance has increased, which both lower the District's ADA (Average Daily Attendance) on which state allocations are based. Further, \$1.8 million in funds from the Federal Stimulus/ Jobs Bill will all be spent by the end of this year. In addition, money from the Mental Health Services Act, SB3632, is also in jeopardy. State funds have been insufficient to cover the cost of those services for some time, to the tune of \$400,000 to \$900,000. Until now, Alameda County has made up the difference, but for 2013-14, that source will disappear, and we will have to find money in our own District General Fund to provide for children needing help.

**Berkeley Parcel taxes shield our schools from the severest financial struggles.** Independent of the Governor's budget, the District is still looking at a deficit of \$3 to \$3.6 million for fiscal 2012-13. To its credit, it still has a healthy \$6.4 million in reserves above the legal requirement of 3% (around \$3.5 million), a surplus due mainly to the parcel taxes passed by District voters. Parcel tax revenues amounted to \$24 million last year, supporting some 30% of teachers' salaries. As a result, the District Staff Budget Committee was able to use some of the surplus reserves for practical recommendations to the Board in March on how to reduce the District's deficit. The bleakest part of the presentation was a graph depicting funding per ADA if the Governor's Temporary Tax proposal and Millionaire's Tax Proposal are not approved in November. Ms. Cleveland explained that if the propositions pass there will be \$5281 per student; if they don't only \$4921 will be available, a loss of \$360 per student.

**Community members asked** why the District chose not to spend more of the extra reserves now. Mr. Huyett replied that the district can spend up to half of it, but must pay it back in one year by law. There were many other questions from the attendees. One was the possible elimination of the gardening program at Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and Washington. These schools will not qualify for the 50% Free and Reduced Meals grant requirement next year. Ms. Cleveland answered that they were working to find the money to retain those programs using other funds. Another cost cutting measure uses the flexibility granted to Districts

to reassign legally mandated state categorical funds to other uses and redirect the money to higher local priorities.

**But all the cuts hurt.** One victim is the Library Acquisitions fund which has been cut completely, another is the Berkeley Adult School, which will now have to charge \$25 per 9 hours of instruction to cover teacher salaries except for core courses in High School Graduation requirements, English as a Second Language, and Career Technical Education. Mr. Huyett remarked that 70% of all school districts in the state were facing the same hard choices.

**Discussions about the school budget will continue through April and May**, with another public meeting slated for May 23, following the May revision of the state budget the Governor presented in January. After the Superintendent uses those updated numbers to compile a preliminary budget, he will present it to the Board in early June. The final Board-approved budget will then go on to the state in time for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

**Board meetings are held on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays; Budget Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled for Tuesdays**, and the public is encouraged to attend. Check at <http://www.berkeley.net>—Community Members—School Board, or phone 510-644-6550 for specific times and dates.

Christine Wenrich, Observer

## February – April Donations

### To the LWVBAE General Fund

Barbara Adair

Pat Day

Joyce Jackson, in honor of Diane Akers

Charlotte Lichterman Dorothy Lindheim

Jill Martinucci

Joseph and Susan Messina

Dirk Neyhart, in memory of Debbie Neyhart

Phoebe Watts

### To the LWVB Foundation

J.L. Bloom

David Bradford

Charlotte Lichterman Joseph and Susan Messina

Gabe Morris

Patricia Shanks

Grace Smith

Li-hsia Wang

Phoebe Watts

Alba Witkin

Gordon Wong

Teresa Wong

Many thanks for remembering our League.

Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

## League Leaders 2011-2012

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 Recording Secretary Angharad Jones  
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 VP Membership Jane Coulter  
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The Voter is published 9 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite F Berkeley, CA 94702-2000

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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.



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## Calendar — Berkeley addresses unless otherwise noted

### April

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

1	Tues	noon-2:00 pm	Conversation: June Primary Albany Library 1247 Marin Ave, Albany	S. Smith	548-1769
5	Sat	10:00-noon	LWV Bay Area Convention Lafayette Public Library	J. Safir	524-9088
14	Mon	7:30-9:00 pm	Environmental Concerns 1174 Euclid Ave	C.Stone	549-0959
21	Mon	1:30-3:00 pm	Health Care Committee, LWVBAE Office, 2530 San Pablo Ave	L. Wang	848-5765
23	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office 2530 San Pablo Ave	S. Smith	548-1769
24	Thur	5:00-8:30 pm	Annual Meeting Northbrae Community Church 941 The Alameda	S. Smith	548-1769

### June

1	Fri	5:00 pm	Voter deadline	F. Packard	845-3037
27	Wed	3:00-5:00 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE Office 2530 San Pablo Ave	S. Smith	548-1769