



President: Nancy Bickel

Summer, 2003

Editor: Jean Safir

LWVC CONVENTION ADOPTS PROGRAM FOR 2003-2005

As always, delegates from the Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville League to the statewide convention worked hard through late night caucuses to gain support for the issues about which they felt passionately. And, amazingly, all our efforts succeeded. Recognizing the limits of our financial resources and people power, the League had to carefully choose its studies and lobbying activities.

The State Board recommended — and the delegates affirmed — adoption of the **new positions on Community Colleges**, based on the two-year state study, and two topics as “issues for emphasis,” based on the amount of support they received from local Leagues: **Health Care** and **State and Local Finances**. Great enthusiasm from all those who had worked on the Community College study moved delegates to adopt **Community Colleges** as a third issue for emphasis. Local Leagues will be encouraged to educate their members and communities, monitor current proposals and encourage public involvement on these issues, as well as look for opportunities to take action on our new positions.

Los Angeles delegates led a caucus group in recommending an update to the LWVC

Education position to incorporate pre-K through all levels, up to and including university. Delegates strongly supported this update, which will look at charter schools and other issues not currently covered. Our own *Anne Henderson*, outgoing LWVC Board Director for Legislation, was instrumental in the adoption of this update when she spoke to the delegates about how out-of-date the position had become in several respects.

The convention voted to adopt, by concurrence, the Washington state position on Instant Run-off Voting. If

(Continued on Page 11)

In This Issue

- p. 2 Donations
- Board Briefs
- New Members
- Call for Help
- LWV Bay Area Council
- p. 3 President's Column
- Annual Meeting
- p. 4 Kudos to Ginette Polak
- YEAR-END REPORTS
- p. 12 Calendar

DONATIONS in April and May

to the General Fund

Polly Armstrong Marie & Antoine
LaGarde

Marilyn Couch Allie Norton
Heidi Gillies Meredith Stout

to the Tribute Fund

Eloise Bodine³ Andree Marr²
Ida Braun³ Gabrielle, Catherine &
Frank Morris³

Evelyn Light¹ Susan Pownall³

NOTES: In memory of: 1. Cecile Christian
 2. Dan Luten
 3. Sally Severance

to the LWVB Foundation

Georgia Babladelis Elizabeth Wolgast
Jeanine & Guy Saperstein Nancy Riddle

- Evelyn Light

BOARD BRIEFS

At its meeting on May 7, the Board

- planned Annual Meeting details; and
- heard reports of recent and ongoing LWV activities.

-Ginette Polak, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

The LWVBAE extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Judy Burkhart	Elizabeth McDaniel
Denisha Delane	Albert Neal
Shirley Fogarino	Jacki Fox Ruby
Marianne Graham	Carolyn Sonfield
Stuart G. Heasman	James Sweeney
Hans E. Jensen	Paul Tokmakian
	Anne Wagley

And we are delighted to welcome back
Ruth Jean Arkley and Marissa Saunders.

CALL FOR HELP!

The Education Committee is asking any members with interest in our public education system and not already actively involved to join us. We especially need members to cover Albany and Emeryville.

We meet the first Monday of each month from 2 to 4 pm at the League office.

For more information or questions, please call Jinky Gardner, chair, 548-5292.

LWV BAY AREA COUNCIL

The LWV Bay Area Council convened May 3 at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is surprisingly beautiful and a particularly appropriate place for the meeting: 30 years ago LWV Bay Area (LWVBA) worked closely with Congressman Edwards to establish it.

The only official Council business was adoption of the LWVBA budget, \$8,545.00, for the coming fiscal year. LWVBA can operate on such a modest budget because it shares office expenses with the Bay Area Monitor, a newsletter that it has published about regional issues for almost 25 years (<http://www.bayareamonitor.org>.) However, delegates were warned to expect a request for an increase in the per member payment (PMP), from \$1.00 to \$1.50, in 2004.

Board directors presented reports on the regional issues their committees follow. For air quality, the issues are Spare the Air Programs, plans to attain state and national ozone standards, refinery flare regulation, and enhanced "Smog Check II."

Transportation issues of special interest to LWVBA include updating of the Regional Transportation Plan; creating a transit hub

(Continued on Page 11)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

One of our tasks in the coming year will be to build on our experiences and our successes in the last election, to figure out how to take the League out to the larger world. This will help us meet some of the daunting challenges we still face — to survive and to thrive in the very different demographic and economic circumstances of this new century.

Our local league was founded in 1911 as the Berkeley Civic League, part of a sweeping reform movement in California. If we want our League to live up to our outstanding history in this new century, we must reach out beyond our current circle of members— to working families, to new immigrants, to new citizens, to people of every color and ethnicity and ability. The faces within the League must reflect the faces of our three cities and our nation.

Over the past two years we have tried to move in this direction — for example, in our Community Forum on Confronting Racism and in our vigorous and successful campaign to defeat Measure P, a measure which would have made it nearly impossible to build and preserve housing for very low- or even moderate-income individuals and families. I confidently expect the new board will work even more effectively to build the League for the future. This is what we must do if the League is to survive and thrive.

To do so we will need, as always, your help. The League isn't other people; it's all of us. I appreciate so much your help in the past and I look forward to working with all of you in this third and final year of my presidency.

- Nancy Bickel, President

ANNUAL MEETING

Adoption of the budget for the coming year, changes to the bylaws, election of the new board and adoption of our issues for emphasis were the primary business of the Annual Meeting.

The Board members elected at the annual meeting are listed below. *Therese Powell* and *James Sweeney* are new to the Board. The Board may also appoint additional board members. The work of Administrative VP and Program VP will be carried out by committees.

Officers: President - *Nancy Bickel*; Vice Presidents: Action - *Lois Brubeck*; Community Services - *Sherry Smith*; Election Services - *Phoebe Watts*; Secretary - *Ginette Polak*; Treasurer - *Tom Coulter*. Other Directors: *Jinky Gardner*, *Karen Nelson*, *Therese Powell*, *Jean Safir*, *James Sweeney*, *Mary Wainwright* and 2003-4 Nominating Committee: *Shireen Burns*, chair, *Ruth Ganong*, *Doris Nassiry*.

The League is greatly indebted to the hard work of the 2002-3 Nominating Committee chaired by *Shireen Burns*, with *Ruth Ganong*, *Doris Nassiry* and appointed members from the board, *Lois Brubeck*, *Karen Nelson*, and *Mary Wainwright*.

Dues and Budget: The membership confirmed the request of the Board to raise the dues to \$55 for individual members and to \$25 for students and second members of households.

The budget of \$55,160 adopted by the membership was based on this membership increase. The increase was prompted largely by the recent dues increases by LWVUS and LWVC and by the substantial reduction of income from the ASUC election

(Continued on Page 4)

(**ANNUAL MEETING**, Continued from Page 3)

that we experienced this year and expect in future years. To balance this budget, we need additional income, either from the LWVB Foundation or from our own reserve funds, or both.

Bylaws Amendments: The most notable changes were to increase the size of the quorum needed for board meetings from one third to a majority of the directors and to reduce the size of the Executive Committee to five members. In addition, the Board was authorized to approve changes to the By-laws of the Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters {ACC}. The County Council is made up of the presidents of all seven county Leagues plus a non-voting chair and secretary. Members discussed this change at length and several expressed a strong desire that any such proposed changes be announced to LWVBAE membership in advance of adoption. Adoption of this measure by all county Leagues will enable the ACC to adopt detailed bylaws in the coming year. The proposed draft contains many provisions to ensure that local League members and local League boards have full information and control of actions taken by the Alameda County Council on their behalf. Full texts of the changes can be found in the annual meeting kit.

Issues for Emphasis for action and advocacy: The membership adopted the Board recommendation to re-adopt all existing positions and to continue the **emphases on elections and housing** of the past two years. The emphasis on elections coordinates well with the emphases at state and national League levels:

Elections: to include an expanded outreach effort for the 2004 elections and work for election and campaign reform at the national and state levels.

Housing: To include emphasis on maintaining a diverse population and the preservation and increase of housing for low-and moderate-income households.

-Nancy Bickel, President

KUDOS

to Ginette Polak,

our in-house expert on how League works, with affectionate appreciation for her years of devoted and capable accomplishment. LWVBAE recognized Ginette at our Annual Meeting.

YEAR-END REPORTS FOR 2002-03 ACTION

Our League went into full steam with the **November 2002 election**. In Berkeley, we threw ourselves into supporting our recently up-dated housing positions. *Nancy Bickel* and *Jean Safir* worked steadily on the coalition steering committee to defeat Measure P, aimed at cutting development opportunities along transit corridors, after *Nancy* signed the opposition argument in the ballot pamphlet. I worked on the companion Measure M to provide more funds to assist in the development of low-income housing. We were successful in defeating Measure P, which lost by an overwhelming vote of 80%; but Measure M also lost, failing to get the needed two-thirds approval.

You may have seen *Nancy* speaking out on BTV, or seen *Nancy*, *Jean* and others, passing out leaflets at Andronico's market, at BART stations and downtown, with big smiles as they heard people, who waited to get our handouts, saying: "Can I have one of those? I always want to know what the League thinks."

(Continued on page 5)

(**ACTION**, continued from page 4)

In addition, we addressed community groups, wrote letters and passed out literature in support of state ballot measures for school, housing and water bonds, and later were gratified to see them pass. (Money from the housing bond has already been awarded to a Senior Homes project in Berkeley.)

The State League successfully opposed the transportation initiative, Proposition 51, because it would have permanently earmarked nearly \$1 billion in tax money to create 45 specific programs with little accountability. The League's credibility was important in preventing its passage. While voters did pass the "after-school" initiative, Prop. 49, it was opposed by the League primarily because it earmarks funds from the State budget for a special purpose and reduces government's flexibility. LWVC Board member *Anne Henderson* pointed out that the League's gutsy stance in opposing this ill-conceived initiative brought us many allies plus admiration and respect.

Calls to Action: Over the course of the year, we wrote or called our representatives when alerted to do so by the State and National Leagues. To name just a few of the issues on which we took action: Voting Reform, Free Air Time, the Clean Air Act, Child Welfare and Universal Health Care. We let the Governor know that the League favors raising taxes on those with high incomes. And many of you were pleased to see our letter to the editor urging that the US work through the United Nations on Iraq.

When we **interviewed our new state and local representatives** we also told them where the League stands. Knowing of our interest in reform of Boards and Commissions, we were asked by Berkeley officials to observe commissions so that we might contribute ideas on how they might better serve the public. City Clerk Sherry Kelly offered us a full and lengthy description of the city's efforts to make city

records readily web-accessible to the public.

The biggest project undertaken by the **Education** Committee, chaired by *Jinky Gardner*, with help from *Karen Carlson-Olson*, *Ruthann Taylor*, and Emeryville School Board member Forrest Gee, was the Mock Election at all five local high schools. Students learned the real process of registering and voting, and they could compare how they voted to how the public voted three days later. Teachers got copies of the *Pros & Cons*, and the *Easy Reader Voting Guide* to pass out and use as curriculum materials. Some students passed them on to their parents and encouraged them to vote in the actual election.

With the continuing dedication of *Anne Wallach*, the Education Committee is currently taking action by requesting that the Superintendent's office give a detailed report on student progress to the School Board Directors, the League and the public. A committee representative regularly attended Berkeley's 2 x 2 meetings, and *Karen Carlson-Olson* worked hard, as always, on Albany schools.

Thanks to *Jean Safir*, the League focused on Albany's housing issues, urging the City to bring its housing policies and programs into conformance with State regulations. We also joined with the Bay Area League in commenting on and supporting the Eastshore State Park plan.

Working with other Alameda County Leagues, we have pushed on **Juvenile Justice** reforms — holding forums and public meetings, visiting juvenile hall and County schools, being invited to speak at a County inter-agency committee, being interviewed by the firm conducting the search for a new Chief Probation officer and being a focus group for a new 2-year study by the County of its Juvenile Justice System.

(Continued on Page 6)

(**ACTION**, continued from Page 5)

So let me invite you to **join us in action**. Come to a meeting and just observe; you'll be stimulated by hearing us bring each other up to date on our three cities and on League issues. Bring your ideas, your questions and your suggestions. There are lots of ways to participate. For instance, in April, we went in small groups to **observe some Berkeley commissions**, comparing our views afterwards. We were surprised at what a good chance it was, not only to get to know the city, but also to get to know each other.

By pledging only a few hours each month, you could: (1) Join in observing boards and commissions. Commissioners who know the League is watching may conduct their business with greater care. (2) Follow the easy directions on e-mail and answer several state or national calls to action; (3) Attend meetings in Berkeley, Albany or Emeryville on subjects of your interest — parks and open space, transportation or housing, schools and youth services, child care, health care, — and let the Action Committee know what goes on.

We want the community to know that League members want to be informed, as well as to inform others, and to use their knowledge to carry out League policies. We want to be known and to grow and make for an active, involved citizenry, so please join us.

- Lois Brubeck, Action V.P.

ADMINISTRATION

It is time, once again, to thank all of the Office Volunteers without whom the activities of the League could not take place. The following members have served as volunteers this year: *Diane Akers, Jane Barrett, Eloise Bodine, Eva Brecher, Lois*

Brubeck, Jane Coulter, Tom Coulter, Peggy Anne Davis, Louetta Erlin, Vi Feinauer, Jinky Gardner, Ruth Ganong, Bruce Harris, Adeline Kahn, Louise Larson, Evelyn Light, Marion Luten, Peggy McGarahan, Karen Nelson, Ginette Polak, Marj Rubinow, Jean Safir, Patricia Selmanoff, Sherry Smith, Mary Wainwright, Phoebe Watts and Lenora Young. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

A very special thank-you to the volunteers who helped to proofread and assemble the VOTER and get it ready to mail each month. These volunteers are: *Diane Akers, Eloise Bodine, Cecile Briar, Mary Lou Breiman, Peggy Anne Davis, Louetta Erlin, Vi Feinauer, Peg Hammerquist, Evelyn Light, Adeline Kahn, Mary Lines, Barbara Nelson, Marj Rubinow, Pat Selmanoff, Inge Schuman and Janet Strothman.* Also thanks to *Jean Safir* and *Bob Hawley*, who do the editing and production of the VOTER.

Bill Chapman continues to provide leadership in computer training and the development of a database. He, *Jane Coulter* and *Nina Olson* are continuing to work on a database that can be used by Board members and Committee Chairs to utilize the strengths and interests of members. In addition to the computer files, the file cabinets in the office have been weeded, labeled and indexed this year to make them more readily available for use, thanks to our office Manager, *Karen Carlson-Olson*. Job descriptions for Board members and Committee Chairs have also been updated.

- *Ruthann Taylor*, Administration V.P.

A SPECIAL THANKS to MARION LUTEN

for auditing the LWVBAE financial books
for the 2001 - 2002 fiscal year

ELECTION SERVICES

Our League's Election Services activities for the November, 2002, election started last summer, when we wrote, edited and had printed *Pros and Cons* for eight Berkeley ballot measures and three Albany ballot measures. We distributed these widely, along with pro-and-con information about State ballot measures, and *Easy Reading Voter Guides* in five languages, throughout our three cities. We also distributed voter registration materials and registered many new voters. A Speaker's Bureau sent members to speak to 20 local groups about ballot measures. We sponsored or co-sponsored six meetings at which Berkeley and Albany candidates spoke; three of the meetings for Berkeley candidates were televised on local cable television and were rebroadcast many times. We maintained a "Smartvoter" website.

The participation of many members was required to plan and carry out the activities briefly described here and to raise the money needed to pay for the printed materials. It was gratifying that at the League of Women Voters of California convention last month, the League of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville was recognized for excellent Election Services.

- Phoebe Watts, Election Services V.P.

OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Outreach and Development team works to foster growth in local membership, develop new strategies to disseminate information about the League, and enhance fund-raising to support League activities.

Membership

The Membership team stayed busy welcoming new members and keeping the ever-changing records accurate. We added 40 new members, and purged our rolls of members whose dues had become very delinquent. *Evelyn Light* did most of the calling required and was able to get several of these members to send us their dues and stay with us. Overall, we are slightly down from last year, but we are still among the largest Leagues in California. We had 2 new member welcome meetings in the fall at *Nancy Bickel's* house and many of the new members are being drawn into active participation.

The Mina-Nina team — *Mina Jenner* and *Nina Olson* — has continued to send out the dues notices, report monthly membership changes to the Board, update the member database, coordinate our records with LWVUS, produce mailing labels and update rosters. This involves lots of work, and they can always be counted on.

At our Annual Meeting in May the members voted to increase our dues to \$55 for single members and to \$25 for the second member in a dual membership. This will take effect at the start of our fiscal year, on July 1, and you will see the change the next time you receive a dues envelope.

4th Annual Community Luncheon

The Fourth Annual Community Luncheon is a major event for our League and for civic leaders, the University and other key members of our communities. The Attorney General of California, Bill Lockyer, was the speaker and he praised the League for its nonpartisan approach. He told our 180

(Continued on Page 8)

OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT, *continued from P. 7*) attendees about the State's plans for the economy and the environment, and then discussed work being done on energy, health and prisons.

This event raises substantial funds for LWVBAE and involves members who work hard to put on the event. The committee consisted of *Jane Coulter, Joyce Jackson, Sherry Smith, Mary Wainwright* and *Eloise Bodine*, with *Ruth Ganong* and *Karen Nelson* as co-chairs.

Vista College Election Oversight

Thanks to *Tom Coulter, Vi Feinauer, Helene Lecar, Sherry Smith, Phoebe Watts*, and coordinator *Jane Coulter* for helping out at the Vista College student election in May. This was a two-day election in which two elections were run simultaneously: one to fill two student trustee seats on the Board of Directors of the Peralta College District; and the other to elect officers for the Associated Students of Vista Community College. The League was paid \$500 for the work of our volunteers.

ASUC Election Oversight

The election of representatives for student government positions within the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC) was slated for April 8, 9 and 10. One League advisor was scheduled to oversee the polling from 8:30 am to 10:30 pm. Students voted on computers and the computer counted the preferential voting results. There were so many problems (computer and human) that the election was canceled on April 9 after two days of sporadic voting, and rescheduled for April 14, 15, and 16. The second try was successful. Voter turnout was higher than the previous year. After many ASUC Judicial Council challenges and decisions the results were computed

on April 22 and the winners announced under the watchful eyes of *Tom and Jane Coulter*, who recruited the League volunteers and oversaw the entire operation.

Whereas in past years the League has had to assemble more than 100 volunteers and ask the Piedmont League for assistance in recruitment, the oversight responsibilities this year were considerably pared down with the use of computers at the polling places, replacing paper ballots. The crew this year consisted of *Polly Amrein, Jane Bergen, Nancy Bickel, Eloise Bodine, Ida Braun, Aida Brenneis, Lois Brubeck, Marilyn Couch, Betty Croly, Vi Feinauer, Joyce Jackson, Pat Kuhi, Barbara Lippard, Fran Packard, Sherry Smith, Ruthann Taylor*, and *Phoebe Watts*. Our League earned over \$1,000 for the efforts of these volunteers.

Annual Fund Drive

Special thanks to *Evelyn Light, Lenora Young* and *Louetta Earlin* who are assisting in the effort to catch up on "thank-you" letters to contributors to the League's General Fund and to the League Foundation. The fund-raising appeal this year brought in some \$5,000 to the General Fund and a similar amount to the Foundation.

"Scrip" Program

The Scrip program brought in more than expected for the year, in spite of some recent reduction in its promised benefits for the League. The bulk of the over \$4,600 total came from *Andronico's* and *Macy's* paper scrip, and the rest was from the electronically registered and credited

(Continued on Page 9)

(**OUTREACH & DEVELOPMENT**, continued from p. 8)

e-scrip". About 80 members and a few non-members participate on a regular basis.

Eva Brecher and her devoted group, made up of *Ida Braun, Barbara Nelson, Allie Norton, Ginette Polak, Janet Strothman* and *Ruthann Taylor*, urge you to try out this program. The procedures are simple and it is a great help to the League, while not costing you a penny!

Oral History Project

Most recently completed was the oral history of *Margaret Dumas*, interviewed by *Therese Pipe* and transcribed by *Mina Jenner*, with editorial assistance by *Marilyn Couch*. Bound copies are in the League office, as well as the Berkeley History Room of the Berkeley Public Library and the Berkeley History Museum at the Veterans' Building. Earlier published works in this Project include *Gilda Halpern Feller* and *Sally Severance*. Works-in-progress include *Elizabeth Schickele*, a videotape interview done by *Jane Bergen* and *Carol Stone*, and transcribed by *Gail Schickele* and *Karla Schickele* (to be completed in Summer 2003); *Felicia G. Bock*, interviewed by *Therese Pipe*, transcribed by *Linda Polsby*, with editorial assistance by *Marilyn Couch* (to be completed in Summer 2003); and *Dr. Beatrice Fraenkel-Conrat*, interviewed by *Therese Pipe* and transcribed by *Juliet Kathryn Kniffen* (to be completed by Fall 2003).

The published transcript of an oral history with *Ruth Ganong* will also be completed this summer, interviewed by *Therese Pipe* and transcribed by *Juliet Kathryn Kniffen* (originally part of the Bay Area League of Women Voters Oral History Project). The Project plans to expand with other interviews, including past president *Pat Wadleigh* and *Doris Maslach*, and possibly

others. For more information, please leave a message for *Therese Pipe* at the League office, or contact her via email at tpipeln@jps.net.

Conclusion

The work of everyone involved with these programs and projects has been remarkable and benefits the League in so many ways. It is this spirit that makes the League attractive to members and effective in our communities.

-*Sherry Smith*, Outreach & Development V.P.

PROGRAM

Community College Study

Instigated by LWVBAE concerns and our own League study of the Peralta Community College District, the League of Women Voters of California did a study of the Community College system in California.

Both the state and our local studies were chaired by *Helene Lecar*. A new form of inter-league cooperation was tried when we held two joint unit meetings with the Oakland League. The local committee was made up of *Helene Lecar, Polly Amrein, Tom Meyer, Charlotte Lichterman*, and *Winnie McLaughlin*.

Speakers Series

The Thursday noon Speakers Series held at the Albany Library had a number of interesting topics, including education in Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville, Juvenile Justice Issues in Berkeley, the Alameda County budget crisis, proposed ferry service to San Francisco, election results, and UC plans for Albany Village and the Gill Tract. Committee members who came up with

(Continued on Page 10)

(**PROGRAM**, continued from Page 9)

the topics and organized the meetings were *Evelyn Light, Doris Mendell, Barbara Nelson and Janet Strothman.*

Environmental Concerns

Creek restoration, eco-travel, UN Summit on Sustainable Development, wildfire risks, ecological design for cities, genetically modified food, how the budget crisis will affect environmental concerns, and ballot measures affecting the environment were among the topics discussed at these Monday evening meetings. Thanks to the committee: co-chairs *Carol Stone and Gil Bendix*, with help from *Gail Shickele and Eva Bansner.*

General Meetings

"Who Votes," "The Election of the President" — including a debate on the Electoral College — and "The Berkeley City Budget Crisis," co-sponsored with the Berkeley Main Library, were topics of general meetings held during the year. In addition, a meeting on UNESCO & Afghanistan, organized by the United Nations Association of the East Bay, was co-sponsored by LWVBAE and the Oakland League and was attended by a number of our members. The Annual Meeting in June was attended by approximately 50 members. About twenty members of the general public also came to hear the speech by Rita Maran on the topic of "The Future of the United Nations."

Experiments

In order to increase member participation and to attract new members, we tried several new kinds of meetings, including co-sponsoring with two libraries and the United Nations Association. Other "experiments" included;

- Tea & Talk: Three meetings were held at noon in the office on weekdays, where the topics were chosen by those present. Discussions ranged from crime to tax policy to international news events.
- Election Pros & Cons: We held a Pros and Cons unit at the Berkeley Main Library on ballot measures before the November election and also co-sponsored a Pros & Cons meeting with the Berkeley North Branch Library.
- Topic of the Month: In April we coordinated the topics of the Speakers Series, Environmental Concerns and a general meeting, focusing all three on the current budget crisis of our local and state governments. We followed up at the Action Committee meeting with a discussion of how to take action on what we had learned.
- Meeting places: We used the Berkeley Main Library Community Room for several meetings and found that it is not a good place to serve a meal (we cannot collect money for meetings held in the Library and the logistics of serving catered food were not satisfactory) or to hold a consensus meeting, because members of the public are asked not to participate in the consensus part of the meeting.

These experiments indicate that having a variety of meetings in a variety of places on a variety of topics brought out members of the public as well as members of the League. To improve our outreach with the general public, we need to continue co-sponsoring, improve publicity and pursue new contacts more effectively.

- Eloise Bodine, Program V.P.

(LWVC Convention, continued from p. 1)

enacted into law, this system would enable voters to indicate 2nd and 3rd choices on a ballot for single-position seats, such as the Berkeley mayor, and it would eliminate the cost, both to government and to candidates, of having a run-off election. Washington had done a thorough study on the issue, so California felt it did not have to "reinvent the wheel." (Members may recall that our own League also did a study several years ago and then adopted a new position in support of Instant Run-off Voting at the local level.)

The convention also agreed to adopt an update of our Energy position, using the information already collected by the LWVC energy Task Force as background material for developing consensus by the local Leagues. In "Advice to the Board," the Board was asked to determine whether the LWVC positions would allow us to take a stand on water privatization, an issue of concern to some local Leagues.

Following several well-attended caucuses on the Patriot Act, the delegates overwhelmingly voted for a Resolution asking LWVUS to vigorously oppose new laws that threaten our basic civil rights.

LWVBAE had an outstanding group of delegates to Convention: expert Leaguers like *Helene Lecar*, whose statewide Community College consensus won broad support, *Nancy Bickel*, *Lois Brubeck*, *Pat Kuhi*, *Sherry Smith* and relative newcomers to League activity like *Lea Barker*, *Suzanne Chun*, *Frances Townes* and *Queen Graham*.

Newly elected state president *Jackie Jacobberger* spoke eloquently about the urgency of remaking the League to fit our current world. League's mission is to make sure that everyone has the information they need to vote, to protect their rights and to

make their voices heard effectively by their government. This mission can and should serve the interests of people of all classes, all races, all ages, all origins. *Judy Davis*, the outgoing chair of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, reported on League-trained voter educators in the former Soviet Union. She described a young League member who provided training in the tools of democracy to villagers in a central Asian town, on the day after one of the 9 candidates had been shot and killed. The young woman persevered and succeeded. Judy used this and other examples to show "how powerful the League is."

And, finally, the BAE League was honored with the first place award for outstanding outreach to our communities with election materials. **A special thanks to *Phoebe Watts* and her committee** for their hard work in bringing us that honor.

- *Lois Brubeck*, Action V.P.

(LWVBA COUNCIL, continued from page 2)

on the site of the Transbay Terminal in San Francisco; extending BART to Warm Springs, San Jose and Santa Clara; planning for high speed rail between Los Angeles and San Francisco; planning for increased ferry service to San Francisco; and increasing the tolls on the bridges in the Bay Area to fund transportation improvements.

To learn more about LWVBA and regional issues, mark your calendar for the following meetings: Know Your Bay Area day, September 20, and Bay Area League Day, January 30, 2004.

Also visit <http://www.lwvba-ca.org>.

- *Fran Packard*

CALENDAR

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

Printed On Recycled Paper

**IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Just fill in the blanks below, clip and mail this information to us with your check for \$50 annual dues made out to:

LWVBAE

1414 University Avenue, Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Joining the local level makes you a member at all levels: LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

July

7 Mon.	2-4p	Education Committee	LWVBAE Office	<i>Gardner, 548-5292</i>
9 Wed.	4-6p	Board Meeting	Check with <i>Nancy</i>	<i>Bickel, 526-4055</i>
17 Thurs.	7:30p	Action Committee	Check with <i>Lois</i>	<i>Brubeck, 526-5139</i>

August

4 Mon.	2-4p	Education Committee	LWVBAE Office	<i>Gardner, 548-5292</i>
6 Wed.	4-6p	Board Meeting	Check with <i>Nancy</i>	<i>Bickel, 526-4055</i>
8 Fri.	Noon	Deadline for September VOTER		<i>Safir, 524-9088</i>
18 Mon.	10am	LWVBAE Office reopens		<i>Taylor, 527-0673</i>
21 Thurs.	7:30p	Action Committee	Check with <i>Lois</i>	<i>Brubeck, 526-5139</i>

September

20 Sat. LWVBA Know Your Bay Area Day — SAVE THE DATE —

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
1414 University Ave., Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID
Berkeley, CA
Permit No. 29