

The Voter

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

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http://lwvbae.org

July & August 2012

LWVBAE Members Approve Change in Leadership Structure

At the Annual Meeting on May 24, the membership approved a change in the LWVBAE leadership structure. For the coming year, a Leadership Team of eight members will function as a management team, replacing the former arrangement of a 12-20 member group of Officers and Board that has been typical for many years.

This leadership structure will be in place for the coming year, and if it seems satisfactory, changes will then be proposed for the By-Laws, to accommodate a more permanent adoption. The Leadership Team will be assisted by various Support Teams that will be formed and report to the leadership team.

For more details on how this new arrangement will function, please see the full description found on pages 2-4 of the May-June issue of the VOTER—<http://lwvbae.org/PDFs/Voter512.pdf>

After discussion, it was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the Board proposal for the new structure be adopted.

Continued on page 2

LWVBAE Annual Community Luncheon: Mark Paul speaks on “Beyond the California Crackup”



When: Thursday, August 16, 2012, 11:30 am -1:30 pm

Where: Hs Lordships, Berkeley

The League’s Thirteenth Annual Community Luncheon will be headlined by Mark Paul, co-author with Joe Mathews of the book “California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and How We Can Fix It”.

Is California beyond repair? Incessant budget crises plus a government paralyzed by partisan gridlock have led to demands for reform, even a constitutional convention. But what, exactly, is wrong, and how can we fix it?

The book provides clear and informed answers, and each of the authors have been popular speakers before civic-groups like Common Cause, the World Affairs Council, and Leagues throughout the state. They have been interviewed on public broadcasting television and radio



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programs from San Francisco to San Diego and down the Central Valley.

Mark Paul has written about policy and politics for three decades as a journalist, policy thinker, and state official. He began his newspaper career as editorial page editor of the *Oakland Tribune* and, for nineteen years, was an editorial writer, columnist, and deputy editorial page editor at the *Sacramento Bee*. He later served as deputy treasurer of the State of California. Along with his current writings, he has been a visiting lecturer at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, and a visiting instructor at Stanford.

Paul will bring us some innovative solutions that allow Californians to debate their choices, settle on the best ones, hold elected officials accountable for results, and choose anew if something doesn't work. He will autograph his book at the conclusion of the luncheon.

“Spirit of the League” Award

Another highlight of the August 16 Luncheon will be the “Spirit of the League” award honoring Nancy Bickel, former President of LWVBAE. Nancy has devoted herself to civic improvement for the more than 35 years she has been a League member. She co-chaired the campaign that brought instant runoff (now known as ranked choice) voting to the Berkeley municipal elections, and she just completed a year of co-chairing with League member Phyllis Gale of the Berkeley Historical Society the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote in California, as well as the Centennial of our League, one of the oldest in the United States.

The League is also awarding its annual organization “Spirit of the League” to SEEDS (Services that Encourage Effective Dialog and Solutions) Conflict Resolution Center. SEEDS represents the recent union of three community mediation programs in Alameda County: Berkeley Dispute Resolution Service, Conciliation Forums of Oakland, and Mediation Services, covering Hayward/Castro Valley/Fremont. The programs have helped people resolve their conflicts peacefully and effectively.

The Luncheon will be held on Thursday, August 16, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm at Hs Lordships Restaurant at the Berkeley Marina. League members and those who have attended past Luncheons will receive invitations in the mail in mid-July, and are urged to bring friends to this gala event. The Luncheon is a wonderful way to show guests what the League accomplishes in our communities, and is the major way in which we raise funds to support the League's many activities and programs.

Books, Inc. (1760 Fourth Street in Berkeley) has generously agreed to contribute a portion of the proceeds from their sales of topical books at our Luncheon.

Mark Paul joins a list of distinguished past Community Luncheon speakers that includes Christina Romer, UC professor and former Obama economics adviser; the late former Chancellor I. Michael Heyman; UC professor and former Labor Secretary Robert Reich; Member of Congress Jackie Speier; KQED Radio “Forum” host Michael Krasny; and Christopher Edley, Jr., Dean of Boalt Hall School of Law, among others

Suzanne Chun and Pat Day, Luncheon Co-Chairs.

Annual Meeting Continued from page 1

The Leadership Team elected for the coming year includes:

President -- Sherry Smith

Secretary -- Angharad Jones

Treasurer -- Sarah Miyazaki/Jan Blumenkrantz

Action Coordinator -- Linda Swift

Communications Coordinator -- Nancy Bickel

Program Coordinator -- Carol Stone

Voter Service Coordinator -- Dean Metzger

The eighth member of the Leadership Team will be the Membership Coordinator. If you would like to volunteer to fill this position, please contact me to discuss the scope of responsibilities.

This group will assume the leadership function of LWVBAE on July 1, 2012.

In other business, the budget for 2012-2013 proposed by the Budget Committee and recommended by the Board was adopted. The Local Support Positions were re-approved without amendment, and the Program for the coming year was adopted. See a separate article in this issue covering the Program for 2012-2013 approved by the membership. (See page 3.)

I would like to thank all the Board members who assisted throughout the year in carrying out their tasks, and helping develop the ideas that were incorporated into the new Leadership Team concept. Many League members were also involved in this process, and all of you are to be thanked, as well.

Yours in League, Sherry Smith, President

League Adopts Program for 2012-2013 at Annual Meeting

At the LWVBAE Annual Meeting on May 24, the members adopted the following Program for 2012-2013:

- .Retain all current positions
- .Begin no new local study
- .Emphasize the following for education and action:
 - Climate Change and Natural Resources
 - Health Care
 - Open Government
 - Civics Education

It was also agreed that we will be following the “Sunshine Initiative” and the “Open Government Ordinance”.

We will find opportunities to use local support positions actively and effectively.

Certificates of Appreciation Awarded to Four League Members At Annual Meeting

Each year for the past several years it has been a tradition at the Annual Meeting to acknowledge the outstanding volunteer work of certain members. This year we awarded Certificates of Appreciation to:

Regina Beatus: For her commitment for more than 25 years to the work of the League, including chairing the Climate Change Team and assisting with logistical arrangements for many events, spreading the word of the League’s environmental concern into the community.

Louetta Erlin: For keeping track of donations to the League and to our Foundation, and preparing gracious letters of thanks to those who contribute to us as well as assisting with other details small and large.

Mina Jenner: For her dedication as a League member for over 20 years, keeping our membership records current and providing welcome renewal reminders to members on her trusty Smith Corona, the last remaining typewriter in the office.

Linda Swift: For shepherding us through the process of determining where we want to go in making our League’s leadership structure more nimble and responsive, and for contributing to the energy of our efforts in bringing the issue of climate change to the forefront of League activities on the local, state, and national level.

Deputy Registrar Cynthia Cornejo Explains the Changes on the June 5 Primary Ballot

Our Annual Meeting speaker, Deputy Alameda County Registrar of Voters Cynthia Cornejo, explained the ballot changes resulting from the new Top-Two Open Primary which was implemented for the first time on June 5. A summary of her talk appears below, and on the Registrar’s web site at

<http://www.acgov.org/rov/top2openprim.htm>

On June 8, 2010, California voters approved Proposition 14, which created the “Top-Two Open Primary Act”.

Prior to the “Top-Two Open Primary Act”, candidates running for partisan office appeared only on their own party’s ballot. The top vote-getter from each qualified political party and any candidates who qualified using the independent nomination process would then move on to the general election.

Now, under the “Top-Two Open Primary Act”, all candidates running, regardless of their party preference, appear on a single combined ballot, and voters can vote for any candidate from any political party. The “Top-Two Open Primary Act” does not affect the election of President or County Central Committees, which are still party specific contests.

The “Top-Two Open Primary Act” requires that only the two candidates for voter-nominated offices who receive the highest and second-highest number of votes cast at the primary shall appear on the ballot as candidates at the ensuing general election.(EC8141.5)

The “Top-Two Primary Act” changes the way elections are conducted for all statewide offices including:

- Governor
- Controller
- State Senator
- Lt. Governor
- Insurance Commissioner
- State Assembly
- United States Senator
- Board of Equalization
- State Treasurer
- Secretary of State
- U.S. Representative
- Attorney General

Non-partisan offices such as judges, schools, special districts, municipalities and the Superintendent of Public Instruction remain open to all eligible voters.



Quick facts about the “Top Two Primary Act”

What does this mean for the voter?

It changes the way candidates are elected in a primary election.

How does this affect write in candidates?

You may write in a qualified write-in candidate’s name on the ballot in a Primary Election contest.

In the General Election, you may only write-in a qualified candidate’s name in a Party-Nominated contest. Write-in votes are not allowed in a voter-nominated general election.

You may view the slides Ms. Cornejo presented at <http://www.acgov.org/rov/documents/TopTwoPresentation.pdf>

Bill Chapman

What an Incredible Team!

This year has been especially challenging for our office volunteers. After the notification of eviction in November, we had little time to find a new location, pack and move. And as usual, our league members came through with lots of energy and time to make this move possible.

Once the location was found and a contract signed, many people worked to clean out, pack up, unpack and organize our new office. A special thanks to Jane Coulter and Bill Chapman who helped us rid ourselves of unused supplies and equipment. Li-hsia and Angharad came in before the move to load much of the old office into the big red cartons along with Jane Coulter and Diane. Jane Barrett packed and unpacked the items that the office volunteers needed immediately so we could have a seamless transition. During the move Jane Coulter opened the old office and supervised the movers taking things out and Sherry coordinated the logistics of the gate and parking for the movers as they unloaded everything into the new office.

We got advice from architect Paul Canin, husband of long-time member Helen Canin, as to the best placement of our office furniture and our cork-board wall. Jane Coulter walked through the new office with me to determine the purchases that were needed to make the new office “workable”. Once everything was unloaded, the entire Board and others came in to get the office set up so we would be able to function. Bill managed the transition of our technical equipment including the phones, computers and internet. Thank goodness for his expertise in this area. Jane Coulter enlisted Tom and her son to set up the shelves in the new office and searched for and purchased the curtains. Diane’s

husband, Steve Schwartzberg, came and installed the poles to hold the curtains covering the supplies.

And then there are our office volunteers who provide hundreds of hours of coverage by answering the phones, getting and opening the mail, filing and doing special tasks. These special people provide a service that most League offices do not have. Thanks to each of you for making the effort and giving of your time to make the League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville special.

Jane Barrett

Bill Chapman

Suzanne Chun

Louetta Erlin

Vi Feinauer

Jinky Gardner

Helene Lecar

Juanita Peterson

Jean Safir

Li-hsia Wang

Phoebe Watts

Diane Akers
VP Administration

Climate Change Team Summary

Our committee is actively participating in the VOTE CLIMATE initiative of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC). This campaign is for Leagues to take action on climate issues utilizing social media, editorials, issue articles and more. The effort supports California’s landmark AB32 Global Warming Solutions Act (2006).

Former chairperson of our committee, Linda Swift, has written and submitted new Climate web pages for the State League that can now be viewed in time for the National Convention. The web pages include California’s legislative actions to combat climate change. In addition, our committee’s Priorities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, which our LWVBAE Board ap-



proved a few years back, also appear on the State League's web site. To view the web site you can search "LWV California.Climate Change" or go to: ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/climatechange/index.html

At the League National Convention, in June, our committee members held a caucus on Climate Change with LWVC President Jenny Waggoner and LWVC Program Director for Climate Change, Sarah Diefendorf. Committee members Jan Blumenkrantz, Gail Schickele and Linda Swift participated in the presentation and discussion. This is all part of the campaign to let Leagues know what California is doing and to get Leagues to take action on Climate. We need to keep Climate at the top of the conversation.

We have submitted questions for candidates to the Smart Voter. This will help voters see where candidates stand on climate change and what solutions they have to offer.

On the local level, we hosted a "Conversations with the League" with guest speaker Timothy Burroughs, Berkeley's Climate Action Coordinator, who gave an update on the City's Climate Action Plan. We have joined the Berkeley Climate Action Coalition which includes more than twenty groups, including the City of Berkeley. This group will take very specific actions to assist in the implementation of Berkeley's Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions.

Regina Beatus, Chair, Climate Change Team

Environmental Concerns Summary of Activities

We had a full year of Monday evening events starting in September with **Nicholas Targ** speaking about **Environmental Justice**. Targ is uniquely knowledgeable about this issue with 15 years experience addressing environmental, land use, and natural resources law issues in the public and private sector as Counsel, and later as Associate Director to the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice in Washington, D.C. as well as serving in the Solicitor's Office of the Department of the Interior.

In October we had **Mark Schlosberg**, the National Organizing Director of **Food and Water Watch** explaining **Fracking** Facts vs Hype. "Fracking" is the hydraulic fracturing technology that the energy industry is using to expand natural gas production in the United States. The process of fracking means injecting millions of gallons of water, chemicals and sand into shale rock formations at high pressures to break open the rock and release the gas. Is it safe? Does it cause earthquakes?

November found us discussing **Transition Towns**, a movement to re-localize the essential elements of the community

which are needed to sustain and thrive in a world increasingly challenged by dwindling oil supplies. Our speaker, **Trish Clifford** came as Rosie the Riveter of the **Richmond Rivets** Transition Town and brought a member of the Albany Transition Town.

Our annual December Pot Luck featured **Zoo Mystery Stories** with Portland, Oregon mystery writer **Ann Littlewood** presenting her journey as a zoo mystery author highlighting wildlife conservation issues.

January found us with a first-hand report of the **Durban South Africa Climate Talks**. This was the 17th UN Climate Conference and was attended by the Sierra Club's **Andy Katz** who gave us a first-hand report.

February found us discussing **Seven Billion and Growing: Population and Global Climate Change; the Big Taboo** with **Searle Whitney**, founder of the Institute for Population Studies. Present estimates are for the population to reach 8-12 billion before the end of the 21st century. Currently more than 1 billion human beings do not have enough food and safe drinking water. Global warming is disrupting our eco systems and sprawl destroys 2.2 million acres of forest habitat and farmland every year. How can we meet expanding human needs while ensuring that we do not destroy the natural resources and environment on which all life ultimately depends?

In March, **Development of Treasure Island** in San Francisco Bay was presented by **Kelly Pretzer** of the San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Treasure Island's development is set to break ground during mid 2012 and calls for all residences to be within a 10-minute walk of all basic goods. A new ferry terminal would connect to a retail center as part of an urban core with a 40-story tower and hotels. Also proposed are: five high-rise towers, a K-8 school, 450,000 sq ft (42,000 m²) of retail and commercial buildings, a 275-acre park, a 20-acre organic farm, and a 400-slip marina and beach along with state-of-the-art community facilities. The entire redevelopment would create 8,000 new households for approximately 20,000 people. The development is expected to cost \$1.5 billion.

We concluded our season in May with **Sam Chapman** of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory speaking about the proposed **New Second Campus of LBNL** to be built on the Richmond Field Station site to consolidate the LBNL biosciences programs. We touched upon some of the controversy concerning synthetic biology, which would be done at the facility.

Carol Stone and Gail Schickele,
Natural Resources Co-chairs

Celebrating Elected Women

Former political rivals hugged and greeted each other affectionately at the “Celebration of Elected Women: Past, Present and Future” on April 18 at Berkeley City College. Former City Councilmembers and school board members were touched to have been invited and to be thanked and honored for their service. Several commented that they had never been thanked for their service.

Cassandra Salisbury, President, and Gabriella Ledbetter, Event Coordinator, of Berkeley City College’s Civic Engagement Club emerged as the stars among a very engaging and talented group of speakers: Jennifer Waggoner, President of the League of Women Voters of California and Gloria Taylor, Co-President of the California American Association of University Women; Linda Maio, Berkeley Vice Mayor; Karen Hemphill, Director, Berkeley Unified School District; and former City Councilmember Andrea Washburn.

Rallying younger citizens to vote or take action. The two young women spoke about how they became politically engaged. Cassandra described how “I got angry.” With encouragement from their teachers, she and 500 of the 800 students at her high school walked out of school and marched to the school district headquarters. Testimony by 200 students and parents at a school board meeting led the board to reverse their plans to force the high school to give up essential space for another school.

“Just speak...we’ll listen.” Cassandra Salisbury and Gabriella Ledbetter also urged older folks to make the effort to reach out and work with younger people on issues or persuade them to register and vote. They described the methods they use to attract students to the Civic Engagement Club and its campaigns. Most important—just engage personally, ask questions, chat. Once a connection is made, then you can talk in more detail about issues and reasons to support or oppose a measure. Jennifer Waggoner and Linda Maio made the same point in their remarks. The first steps in engaging a new person are always: look directly, greet and engage in conversation. Jennifer Waggoner suggested that personal engagement is the key to all our efforts—to register voters, to gather support for a position; that’s what is important, use the method that works for the person—whether a telephone call or an electronic message.

Linda Maio observed that hearing the news every morning makes it hard to continue to the rest of the day, because “it’s pretty bleak most of the time,” but “today, listening to the two young women from Berkeley City College” and to Jennifer Waggoner and Gloria Taylor, “how much knowledge they had, how much spirit they had, how much insight

they had, how much energy they had was just really gratifying...and to watch, particularly the younger generation, how much verve they had for the future, so many ideas and so much commitment that it certainly went a long way to lift my spirits, and I certainly learned a lot.”

As I write, a two-and-a-half-hour edited video called Celebrating Berkeley Elected Women, Recruiting Young Women Voters; Encouraging Future Women Candidates can be watched on line at <http://vimeo.com/42172975>.

I hope that by the time you read this, I will have divided it into short sections of the photos, panel discussions and interviews with individual participants, so that you can take a look at what interests you without committing to viewing the whole thing.

Nancy Bickel, LWVBAE Representative
Berkeley Women Vote California Suffrage Centennial
Committee

What’s Next for Health Care Reform?

The next Health Care Committee meeting agenda will include:

- a report from the national LWV meeting in Washington DC by Li-hsia Wang. Li-hsia attended the session on Health Care Reform and presented a talk entitled “The League Of Women Voters And Health Care Reform”

- a discussion of the Supreme Court ruling regarding the legality of the Patient Protection and Accountable Care Act.

Where do we stand and how do we proceed now?

Interested members are welcome to join the discussion and action!!

Also:

The Campaign for a Healthy California is joining with California Nurses Association for an Improved Medicare for All Bus Tour throughout the state of California. The bus will be in Oakland on July 3. Join the Improved Medicare for All Bus Tour Near You.

Save the date: July 3. Time and location to be announced.

For more information contact me at 848-5765.

Li-hsia Wang, Health Care Director

April — May Donations

To the LWVBAE General Fund

Brady/Kates Living Trust
Phyllis and Gordon Gaines
Jinky and Mike Gardner
Joan Grossman
Almalee Henderson
Patricia Kates
Charlotte Lichterman
Jeanne McHugh
Allie Norton
Susan Pownall
Claudine Torfs
George Trilling

To the LWVB Foundation

Jean Allen
Eleanor Jane Bade
Cecile Briar
Ann-Marie Hogan
Charlotte Lichterman
Marie Lagarde
Meredith Stout
Claudine Torfs

Many thanks for remembering our League.

Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

of many other worthy nonprofit organizations. It is the perfect space for volunteers to visit and help out!

We have been asked to consider joining with other local Leagues to convert to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Some of the benefits include: Membership dues and contributions are tax deductible to members/donors who itemize on their individual tax returns; it may be easier for a local League to qualify a foundation or government grant for League activities; some vendors give discounts to 501(c)(3) organizations but not other tax exempt organization. There are costs to filing application and related paperwork with Federal and state government agencies but these costs would be shared among the Leagues that decided to make the change.

The restructuring of your Board was approved at the Annual Meeting held on May 24, 2012. The new administrative/ leadership structure, is based on a team approach. The Leadership Team is supported by several teams including those currently extant and new teams to be formed. Communication within and among teams will, it is hoped, lead to efficient operation and will further foster member engagement and involvement.

On top of all this, your Board also participated in the LWVUS Privatization Study, conducted a highly successful Annual Meeting, and looks forward to an equally successful Annual Community Luncheon, to be held at H's Lordship's restaurant on August 16, 2012.

We look forward to full membership participation during this presidential election year.

Angharad Jones, Secretary

Board Briefs

For the first half of 2012, your Board has been focused on three issues: Finding new accommodation; considering becoming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and absorbing the Foundation; investigating the restructuring of the Board in an attempt to encourage greater participation from the membership at large.

Our search for new accommodation was occasioned by the bankruptcy of Andronico's, the landlord of our previous office. We were fortunate to find the perfect suite of offices at 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite F, where we are neighbors

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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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

June

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

July

3 Tues Medicare for All Bus Tour L. Wang 848-5765
25 Wed 3:00-5:00 pm Team Meeting, LWVBAE Office S. Smith 548-1769
2530 San Pablo Ave

August

3 Fri 5:00 pm *Voter* deadline F. Packard 845-3037
16 Thur 11:30 -1:30 pm Community Luncheon S. Chun 528-4335
Hs Lordships