

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville

IN MEMORY OF TRUDY SCHAFER

RUBY MACDONALD



Trudy Schafer was well known and admired by members of local leagues across the state, as well as many legislators, lobbyists and staff she had encountered in her long, accomplished career as Senior Director for Program of LWV of California. Based in Sacramento for almost 30 years, she evaluated and helped decide which of the several thousand legislative bills LWV should support each year. Her broad knowledge of public policy, especially in the areas of legislative action, voting and good governance, and her generosity in sharing her knowledge with those within and outside of the League was appreciated by so many—from Secretary of State Alex Padilla, whose tribute to Trudy is on the SOS website, to Leaguers just learning the legislative ropes. LWVBAE members who have attended legislative committee meetings in Sacramento were impressed by the deference of legislators and lobbyists alike towards Trudy, always cordial and smiling to everyone in her gentle way.

The Trudy Schafer Fellowship for Public Policy commemorates Trudy’s legacy through the training of emerging leaders to make a positive impact on public policy. Donations to the fellowship can be made on the LWV website in honor of Trudy, who passed away in June. She continues to be missed as senior lobbyist, mentor and friend.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ADENA ISHII

Greetings, LWVBAE!

At our Spring Celebration and Annual Meeting, we elected our 2018-2019 Board (see Board bios on our website). At the Celebration, our teams presented their work, we announced our new podcast: BAECast (www.lwvbae.org/baecast), and honored Berkeley High School’s Vote16 students with the “Spirit of the League” award for their work engaging their peers in democracy.



To support our partnership with Vote16, we won a Youth Voter Registration grant from the National LWV. As a result of our hard work, we registered over 400 students to vote! We will continue our partnership with Vote16 and join forces with the Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville NAACP Youth Council to create a summer training for high school students on running voter registration campaigns. Youth and community partnerships are two areas our Board wants to focus on this year.

The new Board created task forces to address our other areas of focus including: hiring a part-time staff person and increasing our diversity. Workforce demographics have changed drastically since our founding; there are more dual-income households, and ultimately, working people have less time to donate to the League. Paid administrative staff will allow our members to focus more on work they are passionate about. Our demographics do not represent the areas we are serving. The diversity task force will identify areas where we can make intentional changes and increase our organization’s accessibility.

As this is an election year, our main emphasis is on the voter registration events, candidate forums, and pro and con presentations we will hold this election season. We need all-hands-on deck for the next few months, so check out our website calendar and see how you can plug in. Alameda County had less than 40% voter turnout in the primary election. We can do better than that. We have the power to defend democracy, and that work starts locally!

In Solidarity,
Adena

JOIN LWVBAE
AT THE
44th annual
Solano Stroll
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018
10 AM - 5 PM
1709 SOLANO AVENUE
WANT TO HELP WITH OUR TENT? QUESTIONS? CONTACT OUR
PROGRAMS DIRECTOR AT PROGRAM@LWVBAE.ORG

2018 LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

ADENA ISHII



Picture of one of our plenary sessions in the grand ballroom

It was an honor to represent the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville League (LWVBAE) at the 2018 League of Women Voters National Convention in Chicago this June. I'm proud to share that our League was a finalist for the Community Connection Award for our work with Berkeley High School's Vote16.

Convention is a busy four days of workshops, trainings, caucuses, and plenary sessions, where the National budget, priorities, and bylaws are re-confirmed and decided. You can find Convention highlights in the daily briefings on the LWVUS website. Since the highlights and outcomes of the Convention are well documented, this report will focus on some of my personal reflections, observations, and experiences.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

As my third League Convention, I was prepared for the usual lack of diversity. Faces turn to stare at me when I enter a room. Not only am I always one of the youngest attendees, but I'm also one of the few people of color. I am seen as more than a representative of our League. I am seen as a representative of Millennials and Asians. It's a lot of pressure.

I experienced microaggressions, ignorant comments, and assumptions. I was even mistaken for wait staff. The silver lining was that diversity, equity, and inclusion were highlighted topics throughout the Convention. Training with Wellstone Action on organizing and mobilizing discussed how to bring everyone to the table and identified barriers to entry for potential members; there was a panel on diversity, as well as a three-hour training on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. It is clear the National League understands the importance of diversity and is making a serious effort to increase it.

We have a lot of work to do. Despite disappointing observations, I have hope. Both the LWVCA and the LWVBAE are creating task forces to address diversity, equity, and inclusion. This change will take time, but we're on the right track.

Caucus on The Case for Lowering the Voting Age

The San Diego, San Francisco, and Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville Leagues worked together to present a caucus on "The Case for Lowering the Voting Age." Our goals were to educate League leaders about:

- The history of cities and countries that lowered their voting age
- Cognitive research that supports 16- year-olds being developmentally prepared to vote
- The benefits of voting earlier
- Case studies from San Francisco and Berkeley

Although attendance for the caucus was low, our message was well received. Those who were neutral or skeptical were supportive of the idea by the end of the presentation. Many people argue that sixteen year olds are not educated enough to vote, and that they will just vote with their parents. When women fought for the right to vote, we were met with the same arguments. The League was created to register women and educate them on their rights and the issues. It is our job to assist youth in the same way.

National Context

Despite the many situations causing hopelessness, fear, and anger around the country, we were reminded that hope is not lost. The National League wrote a joint letter with over 300 other organizations to protest the Federal Government's immigration policies and encouraged Leagues to take part in local rallies. The work that local Leagues accomplish around the country is inspiring. Organizing and mobilizing on a local level are essential to defend our democracy. As one of our speakers, Elaine Weiss, reminded us: "Suffragists suffered imprisonment, force feeding, and torture to win the right to vote... They experienced many losses in the Supreme Court and the legislature. Do not let this week discourage you." Our job is to "Defend Democracy." We must remind ourselves that, in a democracy, the power is with the people. Collectively, we have the power to lead what happens in our communities and in our country.

'TIS (ALMOST) THE SEASON FOR OUR ANNUAL FALL MEETING

BONNIE BAIN

Greetings League of Women Voters!

Our Annual Fall Meeting and Luncheon will be held on **Saturday, September 22nd from 10am-3pm**. Please mark your calendars now! Location TBA. Sign-up forms will be sent out through e-blast and up on the website shortly. Be sure to check out our website for updates.

We are seeking volunteers to support in preparing lunch, serving lunch, event set-up, and event break-down. Please contact me, Program Director, at program@lwvbae.org if there is a role you wish to fill.

We look forward to connecting with all of you and connecting prior to this election season.

READY TO START VOTING IN OCT. FOR NOV. 6 ELECTION—A PREVIEW

NANCY BICKEL



The days are ticking down to the November election. Locally, in our three cities, we will vote on our local leaders and on ballot measures on key issues.

Berkeley is proposing three measures to help with the housing issue: (1) \$135 million in housing bonds to pay for buying, building, improving, maintaining housing for low and moderate income families, disabled residents, and others, (2) increase the transfer tax when more expensive houses (over \$ 1.5 Million) are sold—from 1.5% to 2.5% to pay for municipal services including homeless services, rental subsidies, and more, and (3) Rent Control—updates the existing ordinance. Some provisions will apply only if the current state law, which forbids cities to enact new rent control measures, is repealed by the passage of state Prop. 10 on the Nov. ballot. Others will apply whether Prop. 10 passes or not.

Emeryville will follow up on its passage of \$50 Million for low income and other housing to propose a business license fee on cannabis businesses.

Albany has three ballot measures: (1) extend the existing half-cent sales tax, (2) replace the existing parcel tax bonds to fund improvements and maintenance for parks and open spaces, and (3) make the City Treasurer an appointed instead of an elected position.

Eleven propositions on the state ballot will again challenge voters seeking to understand these and the local measures described above. For more information on ballot measures, and on how to get involved this election season, visit our website: lwvbae.org.

VOTER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAE RACES

CHRISTINE WENRICH

Candidate forums will be held in Sep. through the beginning of Oct. Four forums are in the works for Berkeley City Council Districts 1, 4, 7, and 8, City Auditor, Rent Stabilization Board, and School Board. An Assembly District 15 forum will be on Oct. 2nd, 2 pm, at Berkeley Community College, co-sponsored by LWV's Oakland, Piedmont and West Contra Costa leagues. Albany and Emeryville will each have one forum for their City Council and School Board races.

Further, the LWVBAE Voter Services Team will work with the Political Science Department at Berkeley Community College to hold "Watch Parties" to view the Governor and other candidate interviews. We are also planning a "Political Party", a pro-con forum on the State Propositions so that community members can help one another in researching their ballots.

Please watch the calendar on our website for changes to our schedule of candidate and issue forums so you can get to know our potential community leaders before you vote. You can also email voterservices@lwvbae.org for more information.

LWVBAE 2018-19 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS SPEAKER SERIES

GAIL SCHICKELE

The series will convene in a **new location**: Belmont Village, 1100 San Pablo Avenue, Near Marin Avenue in Albany, free parking, ADA accessible.

Meetings are free and open to the public. Let the co-chairs know if you need a ride. We begin at 7:30 PM with announcements, followed by a speaker presentation and discussion, and end at 9 PM.

Join us in our first presentation on **Monday, September 17th, "Global Climate Action Summit."** We report on the Summit on Sep. 12-14, co-chaired by Gov. Jerry Brown, Jr. to showcase actions taken by states, regions, cities, companies, investors and civil society to reduce carbon emissions. The Summit endeavors to secure bold commitments to do even more, showing that decarbonization, job generation and resilient economic growth go hand-in-hand and galvanize a global movement for climate action that leaves no one behind.

The next one will be on **Monday, October 8th, "General Election Overview of Environmental Propositions."** We provide an overview of state and local environmental propositions on the ballot for the general election in November.

For more information, check our LWVBAE website or contact me at gail.schickele@gmail.com or (415) 922-6627.

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The Voter is published four times a year by the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Albany and Emeryville

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Current and past issues of *The Voter* are posted on our website <https://www.lwwbae.org/voter-pdfs/>

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

CALENDAR

All meetings at League office at 2530 San Pablo Ave. unless otherwise noted. Before attending please check our on-line calendar at lwwbae.org. Area code is (510) unless otherwise noted.

August

20	Mon	7 PM - 9 PM	LWVBAE Board Meeting
21	Tues	7 PM - 8:30 PM	Climate Change Team
22	Wed	4 PM - 9 PM	BAEcast Recording

September

9	Sun	10 AM - 5 PM	Solano Stroll
13	Thurs	7 PM - 9 PM	Action & Program Team Meeting
15	Sat	10 AM - 12 PM	Prop 13 Team Meeting
17	Mon	7:30 PM - 9 PM	Environ. Concerns Speaker Series "Global Climate Action Summit"
22	Sat	11 AM - 2:30 PM	LWVBAE Fall Meeting & Lunch
25	Tues	7 PM - 8:30 PM	Climate Change Team
27	Thurs		National Voter Registration Day