



League of Women Voters Eden Area

# VOTER

Vol. 54 No. 8 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Sept, 2011

## JOIN US FOR AN LWVEA LUNCHEON FORUM

### WHAT IS THE FEDERAL ROLE IN PRE-K TO 12 EDUCATION?

Too little? Just right? Too much?

Hear our three expert panelists discuss:  
What the Federal role was and is now; Common Core  
Standards and Testing; Equity and Financial Issues.



**Speakers:**  
**Jo Loss**

Castro Valley School District Board Member and former State PTA President

**Dr. Dennis Byas**

Superintendent, San Lorenzo School District

And a Distinguished Teacher from San Leandro

### October 21 (Friday)

San Lorenzo Village Homes Association  
377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo, 276-4554

**11:30 – Registration and Welcome, Noon - Lunch**  
**12:30 - Program Speaker Panel, 1:15 – Q and A**

The cost of lunch is \$10 if paid by October 18<sup>th</sup>,  
otherwise cost for lunch will be \$15 at the door.

Please submit check with registration form on page 8.  
Make check payable to LWVEA and mail to  
LWVEA Treasurer, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

There is no charge for people who would like to attend just the program, without lunch.  
However, RSVPs are requested and should be sent to  
[suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net) or call Suzanne at 510-538-9678.

## PRESIDENT REPORT

This month I am thinking about the nation's issues with the budget, and how that will affect the education of my children, grandchildren, and me, not to mention everyone else.

Recently, AAUW sent out this analysis: *"Last week, Congress and the White House reached a last-minute agreement to avert default on the government's financial obligations. A default would have hurt market confidence in the U.S., affecting bond prices, the strength of the dollar, and stock markets worldwide. Yet although the Congress and president eventually reached a deal to lift the debt limit, questions remain about that deal's ability to significantly reduce America's deficit. The enacted legislation, known as the [Budget Control Act of 2011](#), allows the president and Congress to increase the nation's [debt limit](#) by \$400 billion immediately, with an additional increase in 2012."*

As I have followed the debate on the budget deficit, it is clear that implementation of the Act will require spending caps and future cuts in programs over many years. The question is where will these cuts occur? The article goes on to talk about reductions and/or limits on Pell Grants; elimination of funds to pursue graduate degrees; and cuts in K-12 programs, Head Start and others. These cuts are jeopardizing our communities' opportunity for education across the spectrum, affecting us all. Of course, these are not the only priority programs that will be impacted, just those that will make it harder for our children and grandchildren to benefit from a good education.

Why do I bring it up? Well, it is two fold, (1) Our local League will participate in a national study to establish an LWVUS position on the Federal Role in Education; and (2) the League will need to educate itself and the voting public to become strategic voters on a whole range of issues. Voter education is one of the primary roles for the League in our communities. It also appears that a good percentage of voters are what I

consider "lazy voters"--those who watch the news electronically to get snippets and then vote. To my mind these issues of deficits, budgets, and education cuts require a deeper understanding.

September is "Back to School" month. This year make it your personal mission to: (1) educate yourself on the education issues affected by the budget deficit; (2) educate your family members; and (3) join the League in programs or committees to educate our communities. It's important for all our sakes.

Linda Slater, President

## Board Operations

(1) Webpage - We need someone to help with keeping our webpage updated. The Webpage has been up and running for years, but updating it is a constant need. It can be done from home. All information for updating will be provided to the Webmaster. For more information, contact Nancy VanHuffel at [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com).

(2) VOTER Newsletter - The present VOTER editor has been doing it for too many years and would like to turn it over to someone who shares that love for putting together newsletters to keep the membership informed. Help is also needed in formatting the newsletter to "take it off the plate" of someone who has too much on her plate with other assignments. Training wheels available. If interested, contact Suzanne at [suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net) or call at 510-538-9678. Call now before you think about it!

(3) Secretary - The Board is without a full-time secretary. The secretary takes minutes at monthly meetings and distributes the final minutes before the next meeting. We have been rotating this job among board members and it is not the most efficient way to do things. Being secretary is a good way to learn a lot about the League. For more information, contact Linda Slater at [slaterL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slaterL@sbcglobal.net)

## BOARD BRIEFS 6-15-11

- Affidavit Service - Doris Marciel was commended for her hard work in re-organizing and re-energizing the Affidavit Service Project—we now have 71 sites and 13 volunteers to service them.
- San Leandro Library Project on celebrating 100 years of women’s right to vote on Sept. 24. The LWVEA will staff a voter registration booth. Shelia Young is liaison for the League.
- Vacancies on the Board - In June we have two board vacancies—secretary and a director position. The Nominating Committee will be asked to help with recruiting new board members.
- Hayward Volunteer of the Year – The dinner honoring Volunteers of the Year will be held on October 4. LWVEA nominee is Nancy VanHuffel.
- Fundraiser - The Board agreed to not include sale of tickets for a skybox prize along with the request for renewal of membership invoice. There was a suggestion that when we next do that fundraiser, we target the income for a special program such as ways to educate high school students on the importance of voting.
- Board Meeting Place – Linda Slater arranged to have future LWVEA board meetings at the county building in Hayward at 24100 Amador Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

The board generally meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:45 to 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

## LWVEA RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

Although some of the dates are still tentative, and some speakers have not yet confirmed—the following is a “draft” calendar of event coming up in 2011-2012. You may want to save the date: Remember, these are tentative and confirmed dates will appear in future VOTERS:

**October 21 (Friday) - Federal Role in Pre-K to 12 Education**

**November 5 (Saturday) – Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials**

**December 2 (Friday) - Holiday Party**

### 2012

**January 14 (Saturday) Program Planning**

**February 4 (Saturday) Bay Area League Day on Housing.**

**March – Showing of Seneca Falls movie and presentation by the author of the book and director of the movie.**

**April – Program on Single Payer**

**May – Election Activities**

**June – Annual Meeting – speaker on State and Local Finance**

## HANCOCK INTRODUCES “THE TAXPAYER RIGHT TO VOTE ACT”

Senator Loni Hancock recently introduced a proposed state Constitutional Amendment to allow a majority of the legislature to place a tax measure on the ballot for passage by a majority of the voters.

The measure, SCA 15, “The Taxpayer Right to Vote Act,” would not replace the existing two-thirds requirement to pass taxes. Instead, it would create an alternative to it. It would allow a “double majority” to adopt taxes: a majority vote of the Legislature and a majority vote of the people.

“This is a common-sense proposal to help break the gridlock that is still gripping Sacramento,” Senator Hancock said. “We spent the past six months in fruitless negotiations that went nowhere. Now, many of the public institutions that once made our state great and provided opportunities for our citizens are in grave jeopardy. Voters should have the right to decide if they want to pay for teachers in the classroom and police on the streets.”

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

### Study Groups

(1) Federal Role in Pre-K to 12 Education Study - After the Forum (see page 1) a study group will meet for a further discussion of the topic and to come to consensus on the 15 questions given to us by the LWVUS. The date and time for the follow up study group has not been set yet and is open to member suggestions. For further information and to receive additional reading materials contact Suzanne at [suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net) or call at 510-538-9678.

(2) Privatization Study – A new LWVUS study for local Leagues. The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good. This study has a longer timeline and is just getting started. If you are interested, contact Linda Slater at [slaterl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slaterl@sbcglobal.net)

(3) LWVEA Position on Boards and Commissions – The short-term committee (can be done in one or two meetings) will review the position, recommend any updates, and suggest strategies for reinstating an Observer Corps to monitor specific governmental agencies such as city councils, school boards and special districts. For more information, contact Linda Slater at [slaterL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slaterL@sbcglobal.net).

(4) LWVEA Position on Mental Health - The short-term committee (can be done in one or two meetings) will review the local position on Mental Health and recommend any updates to the Board. The updated position will then be reviewed at Program Planning and the final will go to the general membership at the Annual Meeting for action. For more information, contact Linda Slater at [slaterL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slaterL@sbcglobal.net).

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO REPRESENT THE LEAGUE

**Death Penalty Coalition** – LWV Alameda County Council is looking for a local League member to represent it on the Death Penalty Coalition. According to Marion Taylor, the retiring League representative who has served on the Coalition for many years, “Alameda and Contra Costa counties are the most aggressive Bay Area counties in seeking the death penalty. But Alameda County’s rank is lower on the list than it used to be because no death penalties have been sought since about 2007—the year when the League and others started talking about acting on the death penalty in Alameda County.” The Coalition meetings are the first Thursday of the month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 1000 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, across the street from the Oakland 12<sup>th</sup> Street BART station. For more information, contact Linda Slater at [slaterL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slaterL@sbcglobal.net)

Bay Area, State and National League Committees - Representation on the following issue committees is needed. For more information, contact Linda Slater at [slaterL@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slaterL@sbcglobal.net)

- Bay Area Transportation
- Bay Area Natural Resources
- LWVC Initiative & Referendum Study
- LWVC State and Local Finance Committee
- LWVC Single Payer Regional Committee

## LWV BAY AREA MONITOR

Each month our local VOTER has been including articles from the LWV Bay Area Monitor (BAM). The publication is packed with interesting and important regional information and has been published for over 30 years as a project of the LWV Bay Area Education Fund.

It provides coverage of transportation, air quality, water quality, open space, and land use issues in the nine-county Bay Area. Instead of republishing long articles from BAM in the VOTER, we are providing you with the website for the BAM and encourage you to visit the site and educate yourself on important issues. **(continue page 5)**

For example, the current issue contains articles on: *A Prescription for Parks; The Fast and the Furious—Debate over High-Speed Rail Rages On; Plugging in at Port: Shore Power; Solutions Ease Emissions; and No Plan is an Island.*

The June-July 2011 issue has an important article on the perilous problem of rising seawater and the impact it will have on our shoreline and the homes, businesses, parks and green space that we have situated there over the years. It's called *Facing the Wave of the Future.*

Click on: [www.bayareamonitor.org/](http://www.bayareamonitor.org/)  
Give BAM a look—you'll be glad you did.

## Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote

Join us on **Saturday, September 24** from 1 pm to 4 pm for a program that honors the women of California who fought for many years and endured terrible prejudice for the right to vote. That right was granted on **October 10, 1911**, nine years before the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The program, presented by the San Leandro Public Library, will be held at the Main Library's Lecture Hall, located at 300 Estudillo Avenue, in downtown San Leandro. Admission is free.

The program includes a living history portrayal by the San Leandro Players of those fighting for the right to vote and their fierce opponents. Then join vocalist Rebecca Sulek and pianist Tania Johnson in a sing-along of suffrage marching songs. Next, watch history unfold as you view the highly acclaimed film documentary "*One Woman, One Vote.*" Film length is 106 minutes.

Lastly, the League of Women Voters will register any attendee of this program to vote if he/she isn't already registered. This will be the day to celebrate Your Right to VOTE!

A "meet and greet" reception with cookies and tea will follow the program. For more information, please call the Library's Information Desk at (510) 577-3971.

## ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPT. NEEDS ASSISTANCE

At the League Annual Meeting in June, someone in the audience asked the speaker, newly appointed Chief Probation Officer David Muhammad, "what can we do to help?" This question was prompted by his presentation which outlined the many challenges he has in improving the Probation System, especially for juveniles.

Several weeks later, Muhammad followed up with a list of things the local League and the community could do to assist his agency. Here are some of the things from his list:

- Tutors to come into Juvenile Hall to help youth with homework during the soon to be established daily Homework Hour.
- Volunteer callers to help call youth and families to remind them of pending court dates. Many youth and families report that they forgot or didn't know they had a court date.
- Host community sites where Probation Officers can be stationed that is a location more conducive for youth receiving support and services in their neighborhood--For example, a church, a health center or community center.



- Tutors or mentors for youth on probation in schools, to provide academic and emotional support.

If you or someone you know is interested in any of these volunteer activities or would like more information, email [suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net) and your information will be forwarded to Chief Muhammad and his staff.

## **NANCY VANHUFFEL TO BE HONORED AS “VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR”**



The LWV Eden Area has nominated Nancy VanHuffel as its Volunteer of the Year. Nancy is a 20-year League member and served as president for

three plus terms and treasurer for eight years. She will be honored at the Hayward Volunteer Awards Dinner on Tuesday, October 4 at the St. Rose Hospital's Great White Tent in Hayward.

During her League tenure, Nancy has been instrumental in fundraising and has played an important role in almost every activity and program on which the League works. She has fought for issues and participated in educating the public on topics such as Juvenile Justice, libraries, health care, campaign finance reform, redistricting, education, open government and global warming.

Her most recent accomplishments include: initiating and coordinating a one-hour video of state proposition pros and cons; co-chairing a successful League event for Gail Steele's retirement from the Board of Supervisors; and she chaired a workshop on climate change which was jointly co-sponsored by LWVEA, the City of Hayward and Alameda County.

In addition, Nancy played a key role in the successful LWVEA Gala celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and was the editor of the souvenir program. She also initiated and coordinated a Sunshine Week Forum with six other Alameda County leagues.

On her recent work retirement after 23 years of service as Administrator of the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association, Nancy received a commendation from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. It was presented by Supervisors Wilma Chan and Nate Miley. Both commended her for being “dedicated to the community.”

## **EVELYN CORMIER RECOGNIZED FOR LIFETIME OF VOLUNTEERISM**

Evelyn Cormier joined the League of Women Voters in 1964 and has held many leadership and “behind-the-scenes worker-bee” positions. For many years she was chair of Voter Service that is the heart of League service to the community. She participated in developing League positions and working on state and national league studies. Her devotion to environmental issues is legendary.



In 2008 she was recognized as a Hayward Volunteer of the Year and this year, on October 4, she will receive the Lifetime Award for Volunteerism at the Hayward Volunteer Awards Dinner at St. Rose Hospital's Great White Tent.

She serves on the Fairway Park Neighborhood Association Board, Hayward Area Planning Association, Hayward Area Shoreline Protection Association, Starr King Universal Universalist Church Social Justice Committee and was president of the local Audubon Society.

Evelyn taught first and second grade at Fremont Elementary School for 31 years. After retirement, she felt she had to fill the void and would only be happy if she was being useful on a day-to-day basis. And, she has done that. Evelyn has been a community activist all her life and many of our communities are the better for it. Congratulations Evelyn.

Anyone interested in attending the dinner on October 4 and sitting at the League table, should call Suzanne at 510-538-9678 or email her at [suzbarba@comcast.net](mailto:suzbarba@comcast.net).

## Remembering Pat Baker, LWVEA President 1963-64

By Eleanor Parker



Former Hayward League President Pat Baker passed away June 26 after a lengthy illness. Memorial services were held for Pat August 27 at the Starr King Unity Universalist Church in Hayward. Friends who attended heard passionate words filled with wonderful memories of Pat from husband Ray and four children Elaine, David, James, and Robert. The Bakers have seven grandchildren.

Born in New Jersey, Pat attended the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Education. College sweethearts, Pat and Ray married the year after she graduated. She taught junior high school for two years and when they moved to Hayward, she taught French and English at Hayward High School. Pat often used her own money to buy books at Oakland's famed Homes Book Store for her students. When first-born Elaine arrived, Pat abandoned a career for full-time motherhood.

Pat was elected Hayward League President for 1963-64 year when the League was actively distributing Non-Partisan Voters Service Guides and leaflets on California Tax Facts.

During Pat's reign the League of Women Voters of the United States Convention was held in San Francisco and many Hayward League members attended that amazing Convention when LWVUS affirmed support for the Equal Rights Amendment and, in the spirit of equality, voted to include men as League members.

We all recognized Pat's good organizational skills, cheerful attitude and can-do manner that successfully carried her through the many duties required to keep a local League functioning well. A non-partisan, multi-issue organization, the League of Women Voters is complicated, especially when we recognize what it takes to move ahead the essential parts of League mission—education, advocacy, voters service, and studies of local, state and national issues that lead to positions for advocacy and action. Pat ably juggled these diverse demands while dealing harmoniously with a wide variety of strong female personalities. Bill Lockyer's quote from early in his political life as he served as elected state legislator for Hayward aptly summarizes the League President's role:

"It's kind of like joining the circus. You get to tame the lions, walk the tightrope, clean-up after the elephants and the audience all thinks you are a clown."

Pat would have loved this quote! We will miss Pat, her good humor and her sparkling smile.

So long, Pat... and thanks.

# WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

*Lee Lawrence, president, LWV Diablo Valle*

August 26<sup>th</sup> was the 91st anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote in the United States of America.

Forty years ago, Rep. Bella Abzug successfully introduced and passed a bill making August 26th "Women's Equality Day."

I've been thinking this week about Elizabeth Cady Stanton creating the first Women's Rights convention at Seneca Falls in 1848, which voted, at the urging of Frederick Douglass, to support the radical idea that women should be allowed to vote.

I've been thinking about Susan B. Anthony, who devoted her entire life to the cause of women's suffrage, and who dared to vote in the election of 1872, and was arrested for doing so. "Failure is impossible!"

I've been thinking about Elizabeth Cady Stanton's daughter, Harriet Stanton

Blatch, who developed the idea of marching  
I've been thinking about Carrie Chapman Catt, who led the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA) over the finish line, first by victories in many states including California and New York, and then in the Congress, which passed the amendment by one vote in the House and one vote in the Senate. She was a spectacular organizer, nicknamed "The General." In 1920 her organization transformed itself into the League of Women Voters, with chapters across the nation.

These women continue to inspire our work today. And women's votes have had a spectacular impact on our policies and laws. Thanks to all of you, and to all you continue to do for the League, and for our communities.

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## REGISTRATION FORM FOR FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION FORUM 10-21-11 San Lorenzo Village Homes Association, 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I am coming and bringing \_\_\_\_\_ guest(s). Luncheon Cost \$10 each
- Yes, I am coming and just for the program, no lunch.
- No, I can't make it, but here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the League.

Enclosed is check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for #\_\_\_\_\_ lunch(s)  
payable to LWVEA and mailed to:  
LWVEA Treasurer, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

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**If you wish to review Federal Role in Education Materials and a copy of the consensus questions go to our website ([www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org)) and click on Federal Role in Education**

## FROM ELIZABETH MACNAMARA, LWVUS PRESIDENT

Feeling the earth move under your feet in Washington, D.C. may seem to be a once-in-a-lifetime event, but this week with the dedication of a statute of Martin Luther King, Jr. we mark the anniversary of the March on Washington, an event in our lifetime that shook American democracy to the very ground. Dr. King had a dream that we have yet to fully realize. The March on Washington, and the fall of the Soviet Union (which occurred twenty years ago this week), the Arab Spring, and the fall of Tripoli this week clearly demonstrate that Dr. King's dream of a society that welcomes the participation of all its members is universal.

Dr. King dreamed of a peaceful march toward real equality of opportunity. History shows, all too painfully, that it usually takes earth-shattering action to realize any opportunity at all. Is that, perhaps, because around the world, so many governments are dominated by those who, by virtue of their race, class, ethnicity and gender, have never known what it is to be powerless? We hear a great deal these days about American Exceptionalism. This week, as we absorb the news of earthquakes, hurricanes and rebellions and mark the anniversaries of significant milestones for democracy, not the least of which is the ninety-first anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment, let us renew our resolve to make sure that American Exceptionalism does not become synonymous with American Exclusivity. Let us keep shaking up our own communities by reminding them that it is the openness and diversity of our society that makes us exceptional.

Let us all have a dream.

**ACTION ALERT: Make the Clean Air Promise** In 1970, Congress made a promise to future generations by passing the Clean Air Act to protect us from pollutants like smog, soot and mercury. It is up to us to keep that promise and to make our own promise to generations to come. For too long, the debate about pollution has focused on "overregulation" and featured false assertions that environmental protections hurt our economy. Clean air is an issue of public health. This is not about corporate bottom lines.

Urge your Senators and Representative, other elected officials, and community leaders to make the "Clean Air Promise:"

*I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution. because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths. I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.*

Clean air and public health protections work for our families and protect our kids. We need to do everything we can to reduce harmful air pollution from toxics like mercury and arsenic and other pollutants like carbon and ozone and oppose the big polluters who say our kids aren't worth the minimal cost to reduce these dangerous emissions.

League of Women Voters of Eden Area  
 P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678  
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro  
 and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,  
 Cherryland, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and San Lorenzo

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

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:  
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**Dues:** Regular \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> member same Household \$25,  
 Student \$20

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

**CALENDAR**

<b>DATE &amp; TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>PLACE</b>
Sept. 21 (Wed.)	LWVEA Board Meeting	24100 Amador, Hayward
Sept. 24 (Sat.) 1 to 4 p.m.	Women's Right to Vote Celebration	San Leandro Library 300 Estudillo, SL
Oct. 4 (Tues) 6:30 p.m.	Hayward Volunteer Award Dinner	St. Rose White Tent 27200 Calaroga, Hayward
Oct. 21 (Fri) noon-2 p.m.	Federal Role in Education Luncheon Forum	377 Paseo Grande SanLorenzo Homes Assoc.

**Please visit our website for information—  
[www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org)**