League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

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FIXING THE STATE BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Luncheon Forum

Wednesday, November 6, 2009
11:45a.m. to 2 p.m.
San Lorenzo Village Community Hall
377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo

Featuring

State Treasurer Bill Lockyer

and

Representatives from

Repair California & California Forward

-- two major groups who plan to have initiatives on the 2010 ballot to make state government more responsive and solve the budget process.

"Voters are extremely pessimistic about the direction of California. Only 14 percent think the state is on the right track.,,,,,"—*Repair California*

"Californians need their elected officials to solve problems. They want to be sure that their tax money is being used wisely….." *California Forward*

✂- - - - - - - - - - - - **Cut here and return reservation form** -

___ I will attend and have lunch $10 ____ I will attend the program only—no charge

Name(s)_____ E-Mail or Phone_____

Enclosed is my check for $_____ payable to LWVEA—**Tickets will be held at the door**

Mail to: LWVEA Treasurer, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546.
Questions? Call Suzanne at 538-9678 or email lwvea@aol.com.
RESERVATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The importance of attending town halls and forums was brought home to me recently after attending many in the past few weeks.

I attended Supervisor Nate Miley's Town Hall on Repair California which featured Jim Wunderman from the Bay Area Council supporting a California Constitutional Convention, and Fred Keely, from CAForward supporting putting constitutional amendments on the ballot to address our state's inability to "take care of business."

I also attended a forum on the same topic, different speakers, put on by our sister League in the Fremont area.

After listening to the speakers and reading all the handout information, I changed my mind about which method for reforming state governance was the most effective.

I hope you will attend our League's forum on the topic on November 6, so that you can be an informed decision maker and voter as both these methods for reform will be on your ballot in 2010.

I also went to a forum on Abolishing the Death Penalty sponsored by the ACLU and supported by the State League. Hearing the presentation by a former attorney from the District Attorney's office, a former police chief from Newark, a union leader and pastor, and an attorney from the ACLU, was really informative and impressive.

I recently attended an Alamedqa County public Health Symposium which focused on "place counts" when assessing why certain segments of the population have shorter life spans and more chronic diseases. They showed on maps the "hot spots" in Oakland and Hayward that have the worst health outcomes. It was an eye opener.

The point of all reporting is to say that attending town halls and educational forums are important. It provides you with the information you need to make decisions, allows time for you to ask questions, and energizes you to take action.

Suzanne Barba

BOARD BRIEFS
September 16, 2009

- **Membership Report** – To date, 84 members have renewed and 46 have not. A second reminder will be sent and calls made.

- **Sullivan & Gilbert Ticket Sales** - Gail Lundholm reported that ticket sales are going slowly but she was hopeful that there will be a rush for tickets as the date got closer.

- **New Member Welcome Reception** – Board discussed handout materials, food and use of Board members for a "buddy" system to help new members.

- **Hayward Volunteer Recognition Dinner** – Four Board members indicated they would be able to attend the dinner on October 22 at Centennial Hall.

- **Fixing State Budget Process Forum** – The Forum is set for November 6 and will feature State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and speakers from Repair Calfornia and California Forward. Both organizations are planning to put initiatives on the ballot in 2010.

- **Board Electronic Voting** – The Board reviewed the process for implementing electronic voting as specified in the updated Bylaws to ensure that the same standards are used as applied to voting at regular meetings.

The next Board meeting is Wed., Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. at Maria Palmeri's home in Castro Valley – call for directions 728-7607. All League meetings are open to the public.

SPOTLIGHT ON LEAGUE MEMBERS

Sara Lamnin

Sara is a new member of the Eden Area LWV. A graduate of San Francisco State and Cal State East Bay, Sara has been a longtime community activist . She has led local events including the South Hayward Stroll, the Kinship Advocacy BBQ, and a Disability Awareness Week. Sara is a past Rotary Club President and chairs Hayward's Citizen's Advisory Commission.

In 2003, Sara founded the Alameda County Tools 4 Schools Collaborative, which has provided 11,000 backpacks filled with school supplies for needy students. Until recently, Sara managed the Southern Alameda County Kinship Program, working with grandparents and other relatives to help secure the services they needed to support the kin children they were raising.

Sara now manages the Hayward Community Action Network (CAN). Hayward CAN brings together individuals who are homeless, government officials, and people in the faith, business, and social service communities to develop sustainable solutions. More information about this program and an upcoming event can be found at www.haywardcan.weebly.com

JoAnn Smith Ainsworth

JoAnn joined the Alameda League about fifteen years ago to support fair and neutral elections and advocacy for women. She switched her membership to the Eden Area League after moving to San Leandro in 2003. She was recently featured in the Castro Valley Forum as the result of the publication of her second romance novel called Matilda's Song. Her first book, Out of the Dark is also a romance novel set in medieval England and features kings, queens, lusty maidens and sword fights.

When the Silicone Valley dot.com bubble burst and JoAnn was laid off as a database administrator, She opted for Social Security, but not for retirement.

Believing "it's never too late to create your dream," she resurrected a life-long desire to write. She is now at work on a paranormal trilogy set during World War II and featuring a group of American psychics recruited by the government to outwit Hitler's own team of occultists.

JoAnn graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a B.A.in a double major of English and Social Sciences and from Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Masters in Teaching English. Her M.B.A. studies are from Pepperdine University.

Even though she is busy writing her new trilogy, JoAnn said she will try to find time to volunteer with the League, especially in the area of Voter Service.

Helene Carr

By Connie Rusk

After extensive local volunteer work, Helene Carr of Hayward has joined the League. In AAUW she served as president recently after terms in various offices, including vice-president for program, and was on the state finance committee. She also headed up the legal advocacy program. Other volunteer service includes the board of the Friends of the Hayward Library.

Helene is staff accountant for local developer R. Zaballos and Sons, and has worked in business management and accounting for many years. She is an alumna of Arizona State University. Helene has four grown children, including a wine chemist and a computer specialist. She enjoys traveling the west coast to visit them, and has one grandchild.

"I admire the way the League and AAUW have worked together to co-sponsor events," she said. "I wanted to expand my horizons a bit, and appreciate the advocacy that the League provides."

Dr. Dennis Byas

In 2007, Dr. Dennis Byas joined the San Lorenzo Unified School District as Superintendent. Dr. Byas has taught at various colleges and universities throughout the past seventeen years and still gives lectures today. He earned both his Master of Arts and Master of Business Administration Degrees at Claremont Graduate School - Peter F. Drucker Management Center. He is also a 2005 Alumni of the Eli Broad Center's Superintendent Academy and is one of fewer than 100 Broad Fellows in the Nation.

Recently a San Lorenzo parent was quoted as saying "I've never seen a superintendent who takes everything on so personal. This shows me that he wants to make sure that kids are successful."

Dr Byas and his wife, Barbara reside in the San Lorenzo Village and are very involved in numerous community activities. They believe the League is an important community organization and are looking forward to participating in League activities.

Double Congratulations to Sherman and Alison Lewis

The Lewises—both long-time League members, recently purchased The Book Shop on 1007 B. Street in Hayward and held an Open House on 9-26-09. They have partenerd with Carl and Marilyn Baker Madsen, well known in Friends of Hayward Library circles as are the Lewises to keep this treasured independent book store open and hopefully providing the kind of personal service Hayward residents have come to expect from a hometown book store.

The "double" congratulations relates to another exciting event that happened to the Lewises, or rather two of their children—son, Sherman, Jr. and daughter, Eleanor-- both were married in August.

WHO WON THE SKYBOX RAFFLE?

Who won the skybox raffle is not as important as who she gave it to after she won it. On September 9, Supervisor Nate Miley pulled the winning ticket before attending a meeting in his conference room. The winning ticket belonged to Suzanne Barba.

However, she immediately turned the skybox tickets over to Hillary Bass who does an outstanding job working with youth in the Ashland-San Lorenzo area and now works for the Sheriff's Department working with these same kids. Hillary works with disadvantaged youth to promote leadership skills and preventing youth violence.

Hillary said she gave the tickets to members of the Youth Leadership Council who were accompanied by their family members. The baseball game was September 21 and Hillary stated that the kids and families had a wonderful time and appreciated having the opportunity to attend and use the skybox.

Tutors Needed for Adults -- Why Not You? *By Connie Rusk*

Hayward Public Library's adult literacy program is looking for volunteer tutors to help adults learn to read and write, or to improve their skills. Several League members, including Jo Murdach find this a rewarding way to spend a little time.

Murdach, who has tutored the same woman for several years, said, "We've become good friends and she's made great progress." Literacy Plus, a free program of the Hayward Public Library, offers one-to-one tutoring in reading and writing to English-speaking adults. Over the past 24 years, Literacy Plus has helped well over 2,500 people learn to read and write. Most tutors meet weekly with their learners at the library or other convenient site.

Urged by League member Winnie Thompson and friend, Carol Markos, I started tutoring a couple of years ago and enjoy it thoroughly. While my learner has a high school diploma, he needs to improve his skills in comprehension and writing. The office provides endless resources and an answer to any problem a tutor might encounter.

The next free training for new volunteers begins with a Tutor Orientation class on January 11 and again on January 19, 2010. For information and application, call (510) 881-7912.

STATE AUDITOR RELEASES PROPOSED CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Process Moving Forward to Create Historic New Commission

SACRAMENTO, CA -- Elaine M. Howle, California's State Auditor, released for public comment the application that will allow Californians to apply for membership on the Citizens Redistricting Commission. The Commission will draw the state legislative and Board of Equalization lines.

"This is just the next step in this new process," said Howle, the official charged with the implementation of the selection and application process as identified in the Voters First Act.

"Earlier, we released proposed regulations for comment. We have now posted the application itself for public comment. After reviewing comments we receive, we will be able to finalize the regulations and the application and move forward.

All of this is aimed at providing the public the opportunity to provide input to the process and peaking the interest of the largest audience possible to secure thousands of applications from a pool of applicants that reflects California's diversity."

Proposition 11, the Voters First Act, changed the process by which the State Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization districts are drawn, transferring the responsibility to draw the lines from the Legislature to a new 14-member commission made up of citizens from throughout California.

The State Auditor is charged with establishing a process for individuals to apply to become members of the Commission and with selecting a panel to assess the applicants and select 60 of the most qualified applicants. The 14 commissioners, made up of five democrats, five republicans, and four from neither party, will then be selected from that pool.

Applications will be available on the Web site from mid-December 2009 through mid-February 2010.

To get all up-to-date information on the Redistricting Commission visit the State Auditor website at www.bsa.ca.gov/redistricting

AC TRANSIT PENSION BOARD OPENING *by Patrisha Piras*

AC Transit is recruiting for a "public" member of their pension board. There is no reimbursement for this service, other than for very occasional travel to training programs. The board has a very high fiduciary duty, and attention to detail is important. The board usually meets once a month.

AC Transit has extended the deadline for applications to NOON on Thursday, October 15th.

If you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please review the information at the website below. Applicants are preferred but not required to live within the AC Transit District boundaries.

Information about the position (which still has the old deadline) and an application form are available at: http://www2.actransit.org/news/articledetail.wu?articleid=c73d238e&PHPSESSID=2c0646e193899c57efbcd67e96c3fb03

If you have any questions, please contact the AC Transit District Secretary, Linda Nemeroff, at 510-891-7284.

STILL TIME TO GET TICKETS TO SULLIVAN & GILBERT PERFORMANCE

There are a few tickets left—all seats are good at the Hayward Little Theater 22311 N. Third Street, Hayward.

This musical comedy has gotten rave reviews—bring your family, friends and co-workers to see Sullivan & Gilbert on Saturday, October 10 from 8 to 10 p.m.

Call Gail, the ticket lady, at 537-3730 or email her at gala05@peoplepc.com

Local Revenues for Schools: Limits and Options in California

Has the turbulence of the state budget got you wondering whether there is a better way to fund schools and districts? This new EdSource report sheds light on that question.

As the single largest expenditure in California's budget, K-12 education funding (and consequently the very ability of school districts and schools to operate) has been mired in the chaos that has characterized California's budget process in recent years.

School districts have endured deep cuts in state funding with little recourse, since California law severely limits their revenue-raising authority, leaving the K-12 education system vulnerable to economic volatility and Sacramento politics.

Concise and easy to read, *Local Revenues for Schools: Limits and Options in California* paints a comprehensive picture of how school funding got to be the way it is and the challenges and opportunities for changing it.

Best of all, you can download it **free** from the EdSource website.

U. S. Department of the Interior Sends Response to California's Water Crisis

More than state and local efforts will be needed to repair, replace, or rebuild California's water infrastructure. The current system for water storage and water delivery was developed when the population of California was 25 million residents; it is now at 38 million and counting. The federal view on what needs to be done and when help may be available is contained in the DOI document titled "Reality Check: California's Water Crisis." The document contains numerous links to more information.

MessageFrom the Director U.S. Census Bureau—*Steve H. Murdock*

Every decade since 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau has conducted a constitutionally mandated census to determine the number of people living within the United States and our territories. These data are used by our nation's leaders to help make vital decisions on behalf of all residents, including reapportionment and redistricting. Census data also affect how more than $300 billion in federal funds are distributed to tribal, state, and local governments each year.

One of the primary goals of the 2010 Census is to increase the national mailback response rate. This not only reduces the overall cost of the census, but it also increases the accuracy of these data as well. Tribal, state, and local governments, as well as community and business organizations can help us achieve this goal by bringing local knowledge and expertise to the process.

The Complete Count Committee is a major vehicle for planning and implementing local, targeted efforts that will uniquely address the special characteristics of your community. The role of the Complete Count Committee will be to plan and implement local outreach efforts to publicize the importance of the 2010 Census. The work of this committee will be innovative, exciting, and rewarding.

The *2010 Census Complete Count Committee Guide* provides guidelines for the active involvement of government officials, community leaders, and businesses in promoting the 2010 Census to residents in =your area. The guide suggests a structure for organizing a local campaign, provides examples of activities that may be implemented, and gives a timetable for these activities. If you have any questions about the guide or how to get started forming your own Complete Count Committee, please refer to the back of this guide for your local Census Bureau Regional Office or visit *<www.census.gov/2010Census>*.

Your participation in the 2010 Census program is voluntary. However, many government officials and community leaders understand that their participation is vital to help ensure an accurate and complete count of their community. The Census Bureau is strongly committed to the most accurate and efficient census in 2010. With your help, we will ensure every resident is counted once—only once—and in the right place. We look forward to partnering with you to obtain an accurate count for your community.

Why do we take the Census?

• The U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2) mandates a headcount every 10 years, of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and noncitizens. The first census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.

• The next census occurs in 2010. The population totals from this census will determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. States also use the totals to redraw their legislative districts.

• The U.S. Census Bureau must submit state population totals to the President of the United States by December 31, 2010.

• The totals also affect funding in your community, and data collected in the census help inform decision makers how your community is changing. Approximately $300 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year.

Will the 2010 Census be the same as 2000?

No, there are some important changes:

• 2010 Census will be short form only—just 10 easy questions.

• The long form is now part of the annual American Community Survey.

• Handheld computers with Global Positioning System will be used to check our address list in 2009.

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:
League of Women Voters of Eden Area
Treasurer, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name_____

Address_____

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Dues: Regular $50 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.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

DATE & TIME	EVENT	PLACE
Oct 10 8 to 10p.m.	Sullivan & Gilbert Musical Comedy	Douglas Morrison Theater, Hayward
Oct 21 6 to 8p.m.	Board Meeting	Maria Palmeri's Home, Castro Valley
Oct 22 6 to 9:30p.m.	Hayward Volunteer Recognition Dinner	Centennial Hall, Hayward
Nov 6 11:45a.m. to 2p.m.	Fixing our Broken State Budget Process· Speaker: Bill Lockyer & 2 panelists	San Lorenzo Village Homes Association Hall

Please visit our website for up-to-date event information— www.lwvea.org