



VOTER

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES!



Although the new LWVEA Board will hold its Retreat on July 29, some important events have already been set and should go on your calendar.

Saturday, August 28 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The LWVEA will host a State League Regional Training at the Castro Valley Library. Sessions will include improving communication by using online networks; painless fundraising, how to do effective League Studies and using “hot topic” sessions to educate on the major issues of the day. The cost is \$25 that includes light breakfast, lunch and handout materials. More information on this event to come.

Sunday, August 29

The Bay Area League will hold a reception hosted by the LWV Fremont, Union City, Newark League with the support of LWV Eden area league to raise money to keep our nationally-recognized Smart Voter website operating. Smart Voter provides up-to-date and comprehensive information on candidates and issues. Candidates can put their information on Smart Voter free of charge. Smart Voter is a valuable asset to the League and especially to voters and candidates. The reception will be held in Fremont. Watch for more details in an “email blast” and invitation.

Friday, September 24 – noon to 2 p.m.

Delaine Eastin, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be the featured speaker at a luncheon

Forum in San Lorenzo. In every survey, education is one of the top issues at the community, state and federal level. The National League has just agreed to conduct a study on the Federal Role in Public Education, especially since No Child Left Behind and Race to the Top programs were established. Ms. Eastin served as State Superintendent from 1995 to 2003. She also served four terms in the State Assembly. She now is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Mills College.

KUDOS TO OUTGOING PRESIDENT SUZANNE BARBA

Ms. Barba has completed her fourth full term as our President. She stepped in as our leader this year, and as she has done for her previous three terms, brought leadership, inspiration and motivation to our League Board.

This year as President, she did 98% of the Pro and Con presentations, continued in her role as Editor of the VOTER, and served on many committees.

On behalf of our membership, I want to express our appreciation and gratitude to Suzanne for all the time she has dedicated to our organization, and for her steady leadership throughout her terms in office. We are very proud of the significant accomplishments of our League under Suzanne’s direction and guidance.

Nancy Van Huffel, Incoming President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I conclude my term as a "recycled" president, I feel proud of all that we as a League have accomplished this past year and look forward to an even more successful 2010-2011 League year.

The LWVEA is one of the only organizations I belong to that doesn't have a budget problem. Our fundraisers have been successful, we receive funding for maintaining voter registration forms at multiple sites, income from doing homeowner association elections and through the contributions of generous members.

Because of our successful fundraising, we are able to subsidize our dues and keep them at a reasonable rate so that paying dues is not a barrier for anyone who wants to join the League. Our dues are still \$50 a year and from that we pay National and State League dues of \$55. There will come a time when we will have to raise local dues to at least a breakeven point.

In the program area, we kicked off the year with an education forum on what was going on in Sacramento to find solutions to our State Finance and Budget Problems. Our forum featured State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and a panel of experts speaking on the proposed Citizens Constitutional Convention, incremental initiatives, and the view from local and county agencies.

We also held our best attended ever Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials combined with a celebration of the National League's 90th anniversary. We held in the Hayward City Council Chambers and local elected were given a chance to report on their agencies biggest accomplishments and plans for the future. We made our first video commemorating the League's 90th anniversary.

We held our first Brown Bag Luncheon on the topic of Education Financing and Legislative Impact. There was a good turnout and exchange of information. The group agreed that this type of "hot topic" luncheon should be continued on other major issues.

I want to thank the outgoing Board members who helped with various programs and projects throughout the year. I wish the new incoming Board good luck for another exciting and productive year.

Suzanne Barba

Board Briefs - May 12, 2010

- **Proposed Budget** - Reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2010-2011 submitted by the Budget Committee. It will be mailed to the membership as part of the Annual Meeting Kit.
 - **Pro and Con Presentations** - Eight have been scheduled and more presenters are needed.
 - **Tribute to Gail Steele** - Invitations have been mailed out noting that a tribute Supervisor Steele will be conducted after the annual meeting business.
 - **Legislative Interview** - An interview with Senator Ellen Corbett has been completed as requested by LWVC.
 - **Abolishing Death Penalty** - Report received that the Bay Area League is looking for more representatives from local leagues to work on the Committee to Abolish the Death Penalty
 - **Affidavit Site Report** – Need updates from board members servicing sites where we have placed affidavit forms. Needed by June 30th.
- Date of next Board meeting not set yet. Will be determined at Board retreat on July 29th. League meetings are open to the public and agendas on the website.***

ELECTION OF 2010-2011 LWVEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the Annual Meeting on June 19, 2010, the following board members were elected for term length as indicated according to the bylaws:



Left to right: Jewell Spaulding, (President) Nancy Van Huffel, Shelia Young, Doris Marciel, (Treasurer) Linda Slater, Gail Lundholm, (Secretary), Maria Palmeri, (VP, Program) Helene Carr

Not present: VP Membership, Jennifer Ong; Directors Rene Besold, Jo Murdach, Beverly Reliford, and Connie Rusk

The Nominating Committee elected for 2010-11: Marian Handa, Sonya Howes, and Jo Murdach.

The incoming and outgoing Boards are planning to meet in July for a Retreat to plan the activities for the coming year.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS SESSION – JUNE 19, 2010

BUDGET - During the business portion of the meeting, the proposed budget for 2010-11 was submitted in a new format designed to make tracking of revenue and expenditures for each activity easier to determine. The new format was the work of the Budget Committee and Treasurer Linda Slater. The budget of \$16,500 was approved by the membership.

PROGRAM PLANNING

LWVUS

It was recommended that all 75 LWVUS positions be retained. Consensus was reached that Health Care Systems and Climate Change be recommended for education and advocacy emphasis in the coming year.

LWV Bay Area

No changes were recommended. Attendees approved LWVBA proposed plans for monitoring, education and advocacy on regional issues—water, land use and air quality.

LWVEA

It was the consensus that the local position on Mental Health be reviewed and updated. This was not done last year as recommended and there was a renewed request for action on this item.

There was also consensus that we should implement some of the items in our Boards and Commissions position such as finding out and publicizing appointed position vacancies on Boards and Commissions.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD

At the end of the annual meeting, members are asked to provide “directions to the board.” *(Those missing will be included in the next VOTER.)*

1. Review the League’s land use, air quality and energy positions to see if they can be used to advocate in opposition to the Calpine power plants being proposed for the Hayward shoreline. *Audrey LePell*
2. See what can be done to get a League study initiated, or use present League position(s) to improve the Family Court Service for children and families in Alameda County. *Gail Steele*

IN MEMORY

Jo McClellan - Jo passed away on April 21, 2010. Last year she was presented with the Life Member Award for 50 years of service to the League. Jo was a graduate of Michigan State University and served as a Medical Technologist in the U. S. Navy until 1944. In addition to the League, Jo was passionate about the park systems of the East Bay, California and National Parks.

John Partridge - John passed away on April 14, 2010 after a long illness. He was a supportive League member for over 13 years. John was a community activist, serving on many boards and commissions. He is survived by wife Dorothy, a 20-year League member, and their five children and families. A celebration of life service was held on May 23 in San Lorenzo that was attended by several hundred people.

Connie Rusk

VOTER READERS HAVE THEIR SAY

Eleanor Parker, a long-time League member and VOTER reader, submitted the following quote from, *"The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins—Social Security, Unemployment Insurance and the Minimum wage,"* by Kirstin Downey.

"Some allegations and counter-allegations became laughable. Walt Disney, a leading Hollywood conservative and militantly antiunion, believed the cartoonists drawing Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse were Communists because they were trying to unionize. He accused the **League of Women Voters** of being a Communist-front organization because he erroneously thought it issued a statement supporting the cartoonists.

The statement actually came from the League of Women Shoppers. Disney apologized after the League of Women Voters threatened to boycott Disney movies." Page 372

TRIBUTE TO GAIL STEELE DURING ANNUAL MEETING

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Doris Marciel that recently appeared in Carol Thornberry's column in the Daily Review.

After lunch, the League honored Supervisor Gail Steele who has been an active member and supporter of the League for 45 years, and is retiring after serving as an Alameda County supervisor for the last 18 years.

Gail was taken by complete surprise. She had been asked to give a speech at the annual business meeting, which she did. After her speech, her tribute began with her son Tim Steele, giving a PowerPoint presentation about his mother's life.

The large audience not only included League members, but also family members, past and present elected officials representing Hayward, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Castro Valley and Alameda County, and many friends.

The League presented Gail with a computer that is equipped with Speech Voice Recognition software. Then long-time League member and friend Eleanor Parker presented Gail with a poster-sized cartoon depicting her political career and her commitment to the mental health and well being of children and families, drawn by San Francisco Chronicle cartoonist Don Asmussen.

See pictures on the following page.



And a good time was had by all!!! This year at our Annual Meeting, the League gave a special tribute to 45 year member, Supervisor Gail Steele who will be retiring after 26 years of public service. Over 80 Leaguers, friends, and elected officials attended.

ACTION TAKEN AT LWVUS CONVENTION JUNE 11-15

LWVEA was represented by two delegates, Suzanne Barba and Nancy Van Huffel, at the 49th Biennial Convention. Over 800 people attended, with nearly 600 as voting delegates. Here is a summary of what was accomplished at this very important convention.

- **Two** new Studies were approved: Federal Role in Public Education; and Privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services, and assets to the private sector.

Because of the acknowledged cost of studies, after the vote a collection was taken up to help underwrite the Privatization study, and it was announced as the convention closed that nearly \$5,000 had been donated, plus other promised pledges. (A study costs about \$10,000 for the first year start-up and another \$25,000 for the second year).

- An increase in Per Member Payments (PMP) was approved, to \$29.60 for FY 2010-2011, and a rate of \$30.00 for FY 2011-2012 (this supports a national budget of nearly \$4M)

The following Resolutions were approved

- calling upon LWVUS to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all
- concurrence to amend and update the Arms Control position
- concurrence on Marriage Equality to be added to the Equality of Opportunity position (to support legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law)
- concurrence to add a third sentence to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the

Electoral College is accomplished".

- support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
- calling upon the LWVUS Board to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources.
- calling upon the US Senate to change its rules, to limit the use of the filibuster.
- requesting LWVUS to highlight the need for those responsible for the oil flowing from the out-of-control BP oil well in the Gulf of Mexico be held accountable and that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up. In addition, the Resolution urges the legislative and executive branches of the federal government immediately to take all necessary steps to maximize the ability and efforts of all relevant federal agencies and departments to take action.
- adding the principle of Transparency to the SARA resolution, having to do with the security, accountability, and re-countability of votes in the selection of election equipment.

It should also be noted that among the awards given to Leagues was the "Making Democracy Work" award, to our League of Women Voters of California, for their efforts and success in passage of Proposition 11, the Citizens Redistricting Commission initiative.

HELP WANTED

Positions: Voter Registration, observing governmental agencies, candidate forum moderators, VOTER writers, event set up, and lots more to fit your interest.

Job Length: An hour, a day, a week, a month, or a lifetime.

Experience: Lots to none. Training and mentoring available 24/7.

Pay: Feeling good about making a positive difference, lots of pats on the back.

More info? suzbarba@comcast.net

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY FOR WOMEN by Jennifer Ong

The following article by League member Jennifer Ong is supported by LWVUS positions and principles: Social Policy -- Support of the Equal Rights Amendment (1972). International Relations -- Campaigned for the ratification of CEDAW (2002). Advocated for raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls—in all parts of the world (2008).

Fact: To this day, we are the only industrialized country to have failed to ratify the United Nations treaty referred to as CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women). Our Senate has not ratified CEDAW, a human rights treaty for women, after at least four attempts going back to President Jimmy Carter. President Carter helped draft the treaty for the United Nations in 1979. The most recent attempt to adopt CEDAW was during President Clinton's administration. Opponents insist on their version of unintended consequences of this treaty on the sanctity of marriage and family. Meanwhile this treaty clearly imposes no enforcements in its articles. Its sole requirement is for ratifying countries to submit regular progress reports on existing forms of discrimination within their nation. CEDAW does NOT require changes to existing laws or the creation of new ones.

CEDAW comprehensively defines women's rights and creates a framework for preventing discrimination against women while



Sphere at the Palais des Nations in Geneva

identifying clear standards for gender equality. It establishes models for gender equality without requirement of an enforcement authority. The CEDAW treaty requires a ratifying country to submit regular progress reports without changes to and creation of new or existing laws. To

many, the articles defined in CEDAW are at first glance comparatively redundant to the existing measures that the U.S. already practices to protect women's rights.

For reference, strong opposition to CEDAW identified during its failure in Congressional considerations warn that this treaty creates a mandate of the gender feminist movement's agenda. This treaty has

been described as a tool for distorting male and female roles while destroying definitions of traditional family in accordance to what amounts to a federal ERA. Its provision stating the need for equal access to health care, including those related to family planning, has been suspiciously labeled as a step towards supporting abortion.

I recently joined the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women and enthusiastically accepted a position as Chair for the Gender and Racial Equity Committee (GREC). One of my first charges as Chair was to continue the extensive work accomplished by the previous GREC by working towards the adoption of the CEDAW resolution by the current Board of Supervisors of Alameda County. CEDAW's principles have received outright support from many in Alameda County; however, it does quickly evoke a reaction that this is unnecessary in an area that is already sensitive to the articles defined by the treaty. It seems outdated by at least 30 years compared to what has been standard practice in Alameda County. What is the significance then of adopting a CEDAW resolution in Alameda County?

Much like other counties around the country, adoption of this treaty highlights awareness of issues in the treaty that have not received high priority for action such as human trafficking. Highlighting priorities will accomplish relevance of CEDAW's adoption in Alameda County. San Francisco, frustrated by Congress's failure to ratify CEDAW, adopted a local ordinance in 1998 reflecting CEDAW's principles. GREC along with other supportive women's advocacy groups can build from what counties like San Francisco have created: a momentum for formal adoption of this resolution by the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County and the eventual steps leading to further national support. Collaboratively we can shed light upon the need for the United States to combat gender inequality by committing to CEDAW's global effort to comprehensively define women's rights.

SEC. 12K.6. SUMMARY OF CEDAW.

Article 1. Defines discrimination against women as any “distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of marital status, on the basis of equality between men and women, of human rights or fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field.”

Article 2. Mandates concrete steps, implementing laws, policies and practices to eliminate discrimination against women and embody the principle of equality.

Article 3. Requires action in all fields—civil, political, economic, social, and cultural - to advance the human rights of women.

Article 4. Permits affirmative action measures to accelerate equality and eliminate discrimination.

Article 5. Recognizes the role of culture and tradition, and calls for the elimination of sex role stereotyping.

Article 6. Requires suppression of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitutes.

Article 7. Mandates ending discrimination against women in political and public life.

Article 8. Requires action to allow women to represent their governments internationally on an equal basis with men.

Article 9. Mandates that women will have equal rights with men to acquire, change or retain their nationality and that of their children.

Article 10. Obligates equal access to all fields of education and the elimination of stereotyped concepts of the roles of men and women.

Article 11. Mandates the end of discrimination in the field of employment and recognizes the right to work as a human right.

Article 12. Requires steps to eliminate discrimination from the field of health care, including access to family planning. If necessary, these services must be free of charge.

Article 13. Requires that women be ensured equal access to family benefits, bank loans, credit, sports and cultural life.

Article 14. Focuses on the particular problems faced by rural women.

Article 15. Guarantees equality before the law and equal access to administer property.

Article 16. Requires steps to ensure equality in marriage and family relations.

Article 17. Calls for the establishment of a committee to evaluate the progress of the implementation of CEDAW.

Article 18-30. Set forth elements of the operation of the treaty. (Formerly Sec. 12K.5; added by Ord. 128-98, App. 4/13/98; renumbered by Ord. 325-00, File No. 001920, App. 12/28/2000).

LEAGUE LIFE MEMBER LIST GROWING

Last year, two more members joined our exclusive list of members who had reached the 50-year membership mark and been designated Life members. Our first was Malca Chall, who still attends many of our programs. In fact, Malca showed up at our Annual Meeting in June after sustaining a serious injury in a fall the week before. She is an amazing lady

Last year two others joined the ranks of life members—Joan Webber and Jo McClellan. Joan also attended the Annual Meeting in June and was the one who drove Malca to the event.

Unfortunately, Jo McClellan passed away several months ago as noted in an adjoining article.

Other members who are on the cusp of being Life members are Eleanor Parker with 48 years of League service, Evelyn Cormier, 46 years of service, Gail Steele, 45 years of service and Alison Lewis with 44 years of service.

Congratulations to our Life and soon to be 50-year members.

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, and San Lorenzo

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*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 |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Week of July 4 th | Mail out invoices for FY 2010-2011 with Baseball Raffle Tickets Invoices are due within 30 days | |
| July 29, 5 to 9 p.m. | LWVEA Board Retreat Meeting | San Lorenzo Village Conf. Rm |
| Aug 28, 10 to 3 | State League Regional Training | San Leandro Library |
| Aug 29 | Reception for Smart Voter | Fremont |
| Sept 24, noon to 2 | Delaine Eastin/Education Forum | San Lorenzo Village Hall |

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Our League welcomes the following new members and hope they will become active members as well as supporting the League with their membership dues: **Joining are:** Hon. Minane Jameson, Board Member, Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District; Hon. Laython Neal Landis, Board Member, Oro Loma Sanitary District; and Hon. Carol Severin, Board Member, East Bay Regional Park District. **Also joining are:** Nelda A. O'Neil, Susanne Scott, Leonore Turner, Patricia Bass, Annamae Bookbinder, Miriam Lens, Robert Shannon and Liz Figueroa.

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