

# Alameda Voter

Volume 37 Number 4

April 2004

## Celebrating 25 years of Alameda activism

Come meet the public officials who make things happen in your community April 23, and top it off by stepping back in time to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Alameda League of Women Voters.

"Meet Your Public Officials" night is a League tradition that brings together elected and public officials and anyone in the community who buys a ticket. In the past, citizens have socialized and asked questions of Alice Lai-Bitker, Alameda County Supervisor; U.S. Congressman Pete Stark; Assemblywoman Wilma Chan; Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson, police chief Bernie Matthews; and Alameda councilmembers and school boardmembers.

This is the League's annual fundraiser. And since it's the 25th Anniversary, there will be lots of reflection from

### New Alameda League of Women Voters holds

Donna Vaughn elected president

If attendance in an invitation from the League of Women Voters of Alameda is off to a good start, so many members and guests turned out for the 25th anniversary and first official general meeting and election of officers held at the First Christian Church that more tables had to be set up to handle the enthusiastic crowd.

After facilitating more than 20 years as a trustee and of the Oakland League, a cross section of able minded women who believed the Alameda will now possess the will, money and woman-power needed to get things started on its own.

With the full blessing, help and assistance of the Oakland League, the state and national Leagues, the group, having gained the requisite 100 members and completed its preliminary status as a governmental league, is no longer considered a unit, but is the League of Women Voters of Alameda.

The California State League appointed Marilyn Carr of the Berkeley League to serve as Alameda's adviser and mentor.

Alameda League president Donna Vaughn chaired the annual meeting. Bylaws were approved as submitted. Alameda League treasurer, Nellie Sanders, former Oakland League president, and Kay Quinn, former Alameda membership chairman, presented a new budget which was adopted.

Future study programs will encompass areas of transportation, land use, charter and education.

Councilwoman Alice Diwanek, a former unit chairman, recalled the long struggle to form the Alameda League, and gave a historical account of the League this last year.

A program highlight was a call, "Local Government: Meeting with Regional Officials" presented by the speaker.



Elected officers of the Alameda League of Women Voters discussed coming activities during the post-lunch dinner and first annual meeting of the new Alameda League. They include (from left) Sally Faulhaber, vice president-administrative; Donna Vaughn, president; Penny Brewer, vice president-voter service; Adeline Cox, secretary; and Nellie Sanders, treasurer.

There will be lots of newspaper clips and photos from the past at the party. This one is the first annual meeting of the Alameda League in 1979. From left, Sally Faulhaber, vice president-administrative; Donna Vaughn, president; Penny Brewer, vice president-voter service; Adeline Cox, secretary, and Nellie Sanders, treasurer.

long-time members, and displays of newspaper articles and photographs on just what the League has done for Alameda. Such issues as studying and taking positions on air and water quality, open space,

the city library, the city schools, public safety and housing have all benefited from more public participation encouraged by the League.

Forming a new league was a momentous and dif-

ficult undertaking.

"Under the spirited leadership of Donna Vaughn, it took less than a year for dedicated League members to achieve the necessary membership to enable Alameda to split off from the Oakland League and form its own chapter," according to an editorial in the Alameda Times Star on May 7, 1979 congratulating the League on its success.

This two-for-one party is April 23 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Harbor Bay Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Road, Alameda.

Tickets are \$10 per person, which pays for food, drinks and a raffle for prizes, including two tickets to a new performance by Eve Ensler at the ACT in San Francisco. Tickets may be purchased at the door or reserved by calling Miriam Schiffman at 749-9687.

### Volunteers needed for set-up, clean-up and food preparation

The League needs everyone to take some small task (or bigger one!) to make sure the 25th Anniversary and Meet Your Public Officials party is a success, so that just a few people aren't going to have to do everything.

Call Audrey Lord-Hausman at 510-522-4651, or email

alord@ix.netcom.com, to volunteer for any of the following. Please leave your phone number and Audrey will follow up with you.

- Help with set-up and decorate (need 3-4)
- Obtain four nice raffle items worthy of the League
- Sell raffle tickets at event

(3-4)

- Get coolers, ice, and wine bottle openers
- Be a bartender (need 4 for two one-hour shifts)
- Coordinate member-donated food
- Sign up to bring a dish
- Clean-up crew (3-4)
- Make non-alcoholic punch and bring punch bowl

# League pleased with March 2 election efforts

By KATE QUICK  
President

We have had our elections, and thanks to the work of many in our League, we have done well in informing the public through distributions of the printed State, Regional and Local Pros and Cons, two nights of candidate's forums and Pros and Cons discussions, several individual presentations of Pros and Cons to groups, and some electioneering for County Measure A, Regional Measure R2, and Propositions 55 and 56, which the State League supported.

Proposition 55 passed narrowly, Measure R2 passed, and Measure A passed with more than 71 percent of the vote, surprising us all! While this means that the County will have more funds for health care at the Medical Center, Clinics, and other services, we will be watching the planning for the distribution of the money closely through our participation on the County Blue Ribbon Task Force on Health Care.

■ ■ ■  
Lena Tam and I attended the Eden Area

League's last luncheon meeting and heard Oakland City Attorney John Russo speak on the State Budget. He is a past president of the League of California Cities, and is very concerned about the shift of both decision-making and funds from the local jurisdictions to the State. He is heading up the drive to get an initiative on the ballot calling for a halt to the State's taking of local tax monies to fund its priorities and meet its Proposition 98 (requirement that a certain percentage of the State budget go to the schools) obligations. Petitions to put this initiative on the ballot are circulating now.

While the State League has not weighed in on its opinion of this proposal, I am sure that it will, once the measure qualifies for the November ballot.

■ ■ ■  
A group of us met recently at Alice Huie's home to review our League's historical materials, to prepare for our upcoming "Meet Your Public Officials" and 25th

Anniversary Celebration April 23 at the Harbor Bay Community Center. It was wonderful to sit and look at ourselves (we have many newspaper articles and photographs to display at the party) as we were 25 years ago.

Were we ever so young?

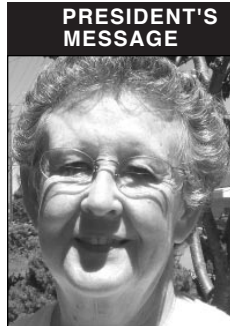
The main feeling I had looking at these things was of great pride in our League and the accomplishments of its members. We not only have survived, we have made a difference in our community through the work of many committed women (and men, too!) who have "stuck with it" over the years. Our struggle to become a "League of our Own" wasn't an easy one - Oakland didn't want to let us go, and some in the Oakland League at that time felt that we were far too unsophisticated in the ways of League-that we would surely either fail, or embarrass ourselves. I am proud to say, on behalf of your founding mothers, we did neither!

■ ■ ■  
Please be sure to come to the big party April 23

and celebrate our success. Bring your friends and prospective members, too. We will be receiving formal congratulations from the State Legislature, Congress, and the City and Board of Supervisors (see page 4), and there will be plenty to eat and drink and lots of elected and appointed officials to "schmooze" with.

■ ■ ■  
Later in April, or in early May, you will be receiving your Kit for the Annual Meeting in June. This is another event that should be a "don't miss" on your calendar. This year, we are having our Annual Meeting at Angela's Restaurant at noon on a Saturday. The whole restaurant will be ours, so we will not have the competing noise problem of the last two years. At the Annual Meeting we adopt our new year's program, elect new officers, and set the budget for the coming year.

■ ■ ■  
From June 12-15, I will be in Washington, D.C. with Lena Tam, as we are your delegates to National Convention. Looks like a busy spring and summer!



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## Board Briefs for March

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At its March 3 meeting, the Board:

- planned for our Meet Your Public Officials with Audrey Lord-Hausman, who will chair the event;
- continued preparations for our Annual Meeting;
- heard a report from the

Nominating Committee, hearing that they have found candidates for all positions except the next nominating committee;

- began planning for our annual meeting;
- heard reports on Voter Service and Action in the November elec-

tion;

- heard that our phone line received numerous calls re: the election; and
- voted to recommend continuing the housing study for a second year.

# A preview of November ballot initiatives

By MIRIAM SCHIFFMAN  
Action Chair

The past month has been taken up with sending Letters to the Editors for publication in our local papers voicing LWV of Alameda's support of State proposition 55 (School Facilities Bond), Alameda County Measure A (County Essential Health Care Tax) and Measure C (School Bonds for Alameda).

In addition we distributed "Vote Yes" cards to the public indicating the issues that League supported for the March election.

In response to a call from National LWV, emergency e-mails were sent to Sens. Feinstein and Boxer urging them to Vote No on S1019 (Unborn Victims of Violence Act), which, in the opinion of even its sponsors, does not address the issue of violence to women but is instead designed to be a threat to women's right to reproductive

choice.

Here in California there is talk that there will be an unusually large number of initiatives appearing on next November's ballot.

## Women's March April 25

In 2000, when presidential candidate George Bush stated that he would unite women, we had no idea how effective he'd be. Progressives are united as never before.

On April 25, more than 1,000 groups are co-sponsoring the biggest women's march in more than a decade: The March for Women's Lives.

Would you like to join the march? To participate, or show your support, go to: <http://www.marchforwomen.org>

The March for Women's Lives is less than a month away - please sign up now.

sions requiring voter approval before the Legislature removes local tax dollars from the control of local government "as described in this measure" and allowing local governments to suspend performance of state mandates that are not reimbursed.

■Improving Classroom Education Act. Increases school funding for K-12 education and provides funds for a voluntary universal preschool program. Funds would come from an increase in taxes on commercial real property.

■Mental Health Services Expansion and Funding. Provides funds to counties to expand services and develop innovative programs and integrated service plans for mentally ill children, adults and seniors. Funds come from an added 1 percent tax on incomes of \$1 million or more.

We'll keep you posted on any other initiatives that are to go on the ballot and on the positions that League takes, if any, on them.

LWV California has NOT yet taken positions on any of them. Those initiatives that are likely to appear so far are as follows:

■Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Protection Act. Purpose is to protect and stabilize local government revenues. Includes provi-

## Date, place set for annual meeting

We have already reserved a restaurant for the League's annual meeting. This year we have a restaurant all to ourselves! That means no competition with other rowdy meetings (those of you who attended last year's meeting understand...)

The meeting is scheduled for lunch, Sat. June 19 at Angela's Restaurant in Marina Village. Many of us have eaten there and we think the food is excellent.

So save the date, and look for future *Voters* for more information!

## Websites to keep on hand

■Oakland League:  
[www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)  
■Bay Area League:  
[www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org)  
■State League: [www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)  
■National League: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
■LWV Smart Voter:  
[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

■LWVBA Monitor:  
[www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)  
■Sen. Barbara Boxer:  
[senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)  
■Sen. Diane Feinstein:  
[senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)  
■The White House:  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

## Keep in touch with your League

Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number or email address? Does your League have the best ways to get in touch with you? Don't let the League lose contact with you.

Send any new contact information to Jean Fong, membership director. Write her at 734 Palmera Court, Alameda, CA 94501. Call her at (510) 522-7797. Or email her at [jfong1@comcast.net](mailto:jfong1@comcast.net)



# **CHOICES Forum studies access to health care**

Alameda is generally thought of as an affluent community, and on average the city does have a high per capita income.

What is not as well-known is that more than 6,500 city residents are uninsured, according a report recently released by the League of Women Voters of Alameda.

There are also significant health disparities and service gaps in our community.

The report, "Summary of Choices Forum Proceeding," highlights the issues identified and the potential solutions to improve health care access proposed by Forum participants from more than 15 Alameda health and human services organizations.

The community forums were sponsored by a Choices Forum grant from the Hewlett-Packard Foundation to promote community education and participation in pol-

icy reform by examining an important issue and then informing the community's elected officials and policy makers of the results of the deliberations.

With the closure of Alameda Clinic in 2002 and the threat to Alameda Hospital's continued survival, the League believed that Access to Health Care was just such an issue.

The report is timely, given community efforts to successfully save Alameda Hospital and, most recently, Alameda County's safety net for the uninsured and low income seniors, children and families.

Forum participants talked about the impact of having only one psychiatrist in Alameda for children and youth; the lack of physicians who accept Medi-Cal payments; and the need for culturally competent service delivery. The Forums

were met with enthusiasm as participants got together in the rare opportunity to collaborate and focus on common concerns. The League is pleased that collaboration on issues is continuing. And, how timely! The state and county budget crises means that local agencies and organizations will be challenged to serve more with less.

The Choices Forum illustrates what can be achieved when communities begin to dialogue about common issues, coordinate services, and work together to solve problems.

The report is being sent to city and county elected officials and members of the state and federal legislative delegation.

Copies of the report may be obtained by contacting the League at 869-4969.

## **ALWV to receive congressional commendation**

*(At the 25th Anniversary Party, the League will be receiving congratulations from several public entities, including a Congressional commendation. Below is the letter sent to various public officials.)*

**Member of Congress Fortney (Pete) Stark**

**Dear Congress Member Stark:**

Soon you will receive a formal invitation to our "Meet Your Public Officials" event that will be held on Friday, April 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at the Harbor Bay Community Center on Bay Farm Island in Alameda. The purpose of this event is to invite members of the Alameda Community to meet the many individuals who represent them as elected or appointed officials in a relaxed setting. It will be widely publicized and we expect a good turnout.

As we are also celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Alameda, we are requesting a resolution from your office to mark this very special occasion. Below please note some background information and/or text

that you may wish to include in your resolution. I will be happy to provide more information if it is needed. I may be contacted by telephone at (510)523-3612, or via e-mail at [katequick@comcast.net](mailto:katequick@comcast.net)

Proposed text for resolutions, etc.

■ The League of Women Voters was founded on the principle of the dependence of our Nation's democracy on an informed and participative citizenry.

■ The League of Women Voters has established itself into State Leagues, comprised of working units, called Local Leagues, throughout the United States.

■ The League of Women Voters of Alameda became a fully approved Local League in September of 1978, twenty-five years ago.

■ The Alameda League has made significant contributions to the City of Alameda (Alameda County; the State of California; the Nation) by supporting good government initiatives, providing voter education on ballot measures, conducting candidate's forums and registering voters.

■ The Alameda League has studied, reported, and taken positions on issues, such as clean air and water, education, libraries, civic safety preparation, housing, planning and development, open space, and City Boards and Commissions.

■ The Alameda League has participated in local and regional civic committees.

■ The Alameda League has taken action in addressing City, State and National issues from its many positions, arrived at through study and consensus.

■ The Alameda League provides neutral observers to monitor the activities of the City Council, School Board, and other Boards and Commissions throughout the City.

■ Therefore, (please insert appropriate wording for the Congressional Record entry.)

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

**Sincerely,  
Kate Quick,  
President, League of Women  
Voters of Alameda**

# State League to study voluntary preschool

**To:** All local Leagues and interested League members in California

**From:** Kathy Webb, LWVC Social Policy Director Re: Regional meetings on voluntary preschool for all

By Board action last month (3/14/04), the LWVC has agreed to be a cosponsor with Children Now and Preschool California in holding regional meetings around the state. The topic will be voluntary preschool for all. The meetings will be held in Riverside, Fresno, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego and Santa Clara during April, May, June, exact dates to be deter-

mined.

The agenda will be an overview of the value of preschool for kids and society; overview of statewide momentum; what is happening locally; and establishing local support groups. Although current legislation and initiatives will be mentioned, support for any will not be promoted.

While we have positions which deal with this--LWVC Child Care, Children and Family Issues position paper (Working Party for Children), and the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity and Early Intervention for Children at Risk--for our current up-

date on Education, this would be good background information.

Leagues in the areas where meetings will be held will be contacted to see if they are interested in participating. If anyone has any questions, please contact Kathy Webb.

**Kathy Webb**  
Social Policy Director,  
LWVC

H-559-229-3607  
Wknd-510-232-6610  
W-559-227-8324/559-248-7060  
745 W. Harvard, Fresno  
93705  
kwebblwv@aol.com

## Nominations are in for the Board of Directors

The League nominating committee has concluded its work for the year. The results are:

**President:** Kate Quick  
**VP Administrative assistant:** Luann DeWitt  
**VP Program:** Linda Hudson  
**Secretary:** Sally Faulhaber  
**Treasurer:** Pat Caito

### Directors nominated Board without assigned portfolio

Juelle -Ann Boyer  
Jean Fong  
Miriam Schiffman  
Cara Watkins  
Li Volin  
Liz Rogers  
Other board members are to be appointed by the board

### 2004/2005 nominating committee :

Nancy King  
Bill Smith  
Joanne McKray

## 'Laugh Yourself Safe' April 10

The AAUW is hosting a luncheon on "Laugh Yourself Safe"--How NOT to be a victim of crime in today's world April 10, and is hoping that you would attend.

Checks for \$15 include luncheon of quiche or chicken crepes at the Elks and may be mailed to Joan Narahara, 106 Garden Road, Alameda 94502. Social hour begins at 11:30am. You will learn:

- How criminals plan and victims don't
- How to keep your families safer
- Ways to incapacitate a criminal

■ What to yell to get help in a street crime

■ How to diffuse violent behavior

■ What to do if your car breaks down on the freeway

■ How to keep your home safe from home invasion

■ The danger of weapons like knives and guns

■ How criminals pick victims and how to avoid looking like one

■ What to do if a criminal orders you to get in the car

■ Current info on chemical defense sprays

## Four new members in Alameda League

Please welcome the newest members of the Alameda League of Women Voters:

They are:  
■ Betty Purvis Hatch, 433 McDonnell Rd. Alameda, CA 94502. BettyPurvis@worldnet.att.net

■ Arthur and Gretchen Lipow, 2442 San Antonio, Alameda, CA

94501. 814-9592. email: artlipow@aol.com

■ Karma DeWitt, 1359 Regent Street, Alameda, CA 94501. 864-8653. kdewitt@berkeley.edu

■ Emlei Kuboyama Gonzales, 6281 Valley View Rd., Oakland, CA 94611. 339-2175.

# Calendar of events

*All members and the public invited*

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**April 7, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** - Board Meeting, home of Luann DeWitt, 2917 Central Ave.

**April 23, Friday, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** – Meet Your Public Officials and Alameda League's 25th Anniversary Party. (see cover story)

**May 5, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** - Board Meeting, home of Luann DeWitt, 2917 Central Ave.

**May 20, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.** - General meeting, Third Floor Alameda City Hall.

**June 19, Saturday, noon** – Annual Meeting Lunch, Angela's Restaurant, Marina Village. (See story page 3)

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education.

## Join the League of Women Voters

Cut out, fill in and mail this coupon with your check to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.

**Dues:** \$50 for a single membership; \$20 for an additional membership at the same address. Make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Alameda.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: Local, county, Bay Area, state and national.

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

The League of Women Voters  
of Alameda  
P.O. Box 1645  
Alameda, CA 94501

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