

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Quick – Co-President

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Felice Zensius – Co-President

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With a great sigh of relief and a deep sense of gratitude that it is over, we wound up our election related activities in early November. Despite Dorothy's knee surgery, Juelle Ann's being called back to work at the City Finance Department and other minor hiccups, everything got done by our stalwart Voter Service workers. Our thanks to all who participated in this, one of our core activities.

The low voter turnout, while not totally surprising, was disappointing. It is the work of the League to help the voter not only register, but engage with the voting process, including educating oneself on the candidates and the issues and getting their vote counted. I believe we still have a lot to do to insure that that happens. We had some very close races this time, which should be a wakeup call to the voters that their vote does count. We should remember this and use it in encouraging voters to get to the polls next time.

We are thankful that our support of the School Bond Measure and the County Transportation Measure helped them to pass. The State League's support of the State Finance "Rainy Day Fund" measure and the Sentencing Reform measure also helped them to pass. We can make a difference!

We had a very successful program on Emergency Preparedness in November. A crowd of some seventy folks heard a great panel describe what is in place now for emergency response and some very basic ideas for survival and comfort during emergencies. Many good questions were asked and answered. Thanks, Gayle and her team for putting this together.

By the time you read this we will have had our wonderful holiday party. It's always a great time to bring your friends who may wish to get to know us, enjoy great food and beverages, and just plain have a good time.

We have nearly 200 people who have 'liked' our Facebook page. If you use Facebook, be sure to check it out and add it to your "likes." We post a lot of articles about issues of concern to the League, calls to Action on legislative matters, photos of our program meetings, and photos of our parties and other social events. Also, don't miss our web page that has our current and archived VOTERS, our calendar, list of board members and lots of other good League stuff. You can find it at: www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org

I am writing this on Thanksgiving Eve and want to know that Felice and I are very thankful to the League and its members for being a force for good in the community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday January 15, 7:00 pm -- Board Meeting, Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor) All are welcome

Saturday January 17, 2-4 pm -- New! Political Discussion Group, Alameda Free Library, Family Study Room. See Membership Report for details. RSVP dixonmueller@yahoo.com

Tuesday, January 20, 6:00 pm -- League Positions Meeting

LWVA general membership meeting to review local and state League positions on policy issues at the home of Felice Zensius. A light supper will be served.

Monday January 26, 3:00 pm -- Book Club, Applebee's

My promised land by Ari Shavit

Saturday January 31 9:30 am -- Bay Area League Day Keynote Address – Annie Notthoff, Natural Resources Defense Council Registration: WWW.LWVBAYAREA.ORG Deadline for prepaid registration is Friday January 23. For more information please call Alec MacDonald [\(510\) 839-1608](tel:(510)839-1608)

Save these dates in **FEBRUARY**

Friday, February 6, 5:30 pm Pier 29 -- First Friday Social

Monday, February 23, 3 pm Applebee's - Book Club

MYPO (Meet Your Public Officials)

Raffle and Auction Donations Needed for LWVA's MYPO 2015

As you browse post-holiday clearance racks, please look for donations for the League's Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO) fundraiser on April 30, 2015.

If you spot a good deal on something nice or are the recipient of an extra bottle of wine, gift card, or whatever consider donating it to the MYPO 2015 raffle or silent auction. You can also donate time in a time-share, a vacation rental, unwanted "white elephant" gifts, or baskets and other containers to hold our lovely donations. Your contributions will help make our only fundraiser a success.

Please feel free to contact me (dorisgee48@gmail.com or cell [510-910-5230](tel:510-910-5230)) to arrange pick up of your raffle items. Thanks very much, and Happy Holidays!

--Doris Gee, MYPO Raffle Committee Chair

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gayle Thomas - Chairperson

blaze00031@aol.com

With the election season now behind us, it is now time to start our Program line up for this next year. We have started the season with a very successful program on Emergency Preparedness given in November. We had speakers and informational tables representing seven agencies ranging from our City to Homeland Security. We thank all those who participated and attended. A special thanks to our fabulous Main library who hosted our room.

In January, our annual Positions meeting will take place at the home of Felice Zensius. We will review local and state League positions while enjoying a light supper. This meeting is open to all members. I certainly encourage you to attend, as these positions guide the actions of our local League right here in Alameda. Put a reminder in your outlook, set an appointment in your iPhone or just jot it down on your wall calendar! But do join us that night-January 20th, at 6:00 pm.

Speaking of tech-savvy individuals, I will be doing my best to get photos, links to relevant program education and comments on Facebook, our website and other social media. If you do have photos or other information from one of our given programs, please feel free to send them to me at my email address above. I'll get them posted!

We are currently working diligently on setting up some interesting, and dare I say, exciting programs for this upcoming year. Stay tuned!

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruth Dixon-Mueller - Chairperson

dixonmueller@yahoo.com

Membership renewals: It's time to renew your memberships for 2015!

For those of you who have already renewed and returned the questionnaire and checklist of volunteer activities as well, many thanks! The Membership Committee will respond in January to your expressions of interest and other suggestions. We are grateful for your continued support and welcome your participation.

If you haven't yet mailed back the form and questionnaire, please do so before the envelope is buried in piles of holiday greetings and solicitations. Many thanks!

Join LWVA:

If you're not a member or know someone who might like to join, e-mail dixonmueller@yahoo.com or sign up online at www.lwvalameda.org. Thanks to our webmaster Mike Williams, we now have PayPal to make payment easier!

Big welcome to new members!

Katie and Ken Cameron, kkcameron@comcast.net

Lisa Yap, lyap22@hotmail.com

New activity:

A monthly "Third Saturday" political discussion group will be launched on January 17th from 2–4 p.m. in the Family Study Room of the Alameda Free Library. Join a small group of passionate policy wonks for the first in a planned series of monthly discussions on national, state and local "hot topics" of your choice!

New LWVA member Elizabeth Tuckwell will facilitate the first topic: "Should the City of Alameda Adopt a Rent Control Policy? Pros and Cons." **These are nonpartisan discussions aimed at voter education and do not imply any League position on the issues.** Room size limits us to 12 people, so please RSVP to dixonmueller@yahoo.com. If you would like to propose and facilitate a discussion topic for future Third Saturdays, send your suggestions to the Membership Committee c/o Ruth. **Happy holidays!**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Connie Slattery–Hanna – Chairperson

connie.hanna@comcast.net

No First Friday social gathering in January. This no–host dinner gathering will resume Friday February 6, 5:30 pm at Pier 29. RSVP to Connie.

BOOK CLUB

Anne Spanier – Chairperson

annespanierleague@att.net

The League's book club selects and discusses books on a wide variety of subjects. The group meets at Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. on the 4th Monday of the month. Any interested individual who has read the book and is interested in the League's discussion format is welcome to join us. Call *Anne Spanier* at [510-522-3426](tel:510-522-3426).

Not a member of the League of Women Voters of Alameda?

A membership form is available

at http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/join_form.html

The League relies on membership dues and donations to support our educational programs, candidates forums, and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of Alameda is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your membership dues and donations are tax deductible. You can find a donation at http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/donate_form.html

Our address is PO Box 1645, Alameda CA, 94501

The VOTER editor can be reached at [510-769-6875](tel:510-769-6875)

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