



VOTER

MAY 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Quick – Co-President

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Felice Zensius – Co-President

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I have to say first that Felice's warm words about me in the last VOTER were very gracious and much appreciated. In return, she has been a delight to work with. She is highly organized, remembers all the information about "League culture", as well as who the players are and how League goes about its work. I have loved working with her; have felt that she had my back at all times, and appreciated her "mothering" even though I tease her about it.

So many good things are happening with our League, it is hard to know where to start. We have a new person helping with our web site who I hear has great new ideas and is ready to jump in and make the changes we need. Her name is Lisa Yap and I think she will be a great asset to our League. Mari Clark, who put her toe in with Jeff Cambra when he was doing the VOTER on MailChimp has now gone full bore and is doing a great job with the VOTER and is on the Board. Anne Spanier, an "old League hand" has agreed to team up with Alice Wilson-Fried to be nominated Co-Presidents. I think they will be a new "dynamic duo" and am excited about the potential. The Nominating Committee has done a fine job of rounding up a full slate of officers, elected board members and elected Nominating Committee members, who will be voted on at our Annual Meeting June 13th. In addition, the Committee, particularly

Marilyn Ng and Audrey Lord-Hausman, worked hard to develop updated, accurate job descriptions for Board Members and Officers. Alice Wilson-Fried and Deborah Wright have led the work on this year's Meet Your Public Officials fundraiser and have engaged us all in making this a great event this year. Deborah is relatively new to active League work but has jumped right in and brought with her great organization skills and fresh ideas.

As I give up my half of the gavel and retire from Board Presidency, Co-Presidency, or role as an officer, I am gratified for the great work our League members have done and will continue to do. I hope to stay on the Board, not as a "go to" person, but as one of the troops. Thank you all for giving me so many leadership opportunities. Thank you all for your hard work and contributions. I hope I have been worthy of your trust and given you all "fire" for the goals and principles of the League. Those were my goals.

Kate

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 8 (note change of date)

First Friday Social Dinner

5:30 p.m. Asena, 2508 Santa Clara, between Park and Broadway.

Reservations required; Robby Kiley, rkiley7@comcast.net.

Wednesday May 13 – Communications Committee

9:15 a.m. The Beanery at Marketplace, 1650 Park Street For more information email

Mari Clark meclark922@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 21 – LWVA Board meeting

7:00–9:00 p.m., Alameda Hospital, Room C, first floor. LWVA members welcome.

Thursday, May 28 – Forum on AUSD and Measure I

7:00–9:00 p.m. Encinal High School (210 Central Ave) Room 605.

Monday June 8 – Book Club

3 pm, Applebee's, South Shore Shopping Center

Saturday, June 13 – Annual Meeting & Luncheon

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Cardinal Point Retirement Community.

Saturday, August 1 – LWVA Board retreat

9:00 am – 3:00 p.m., venue TBA. LWVA members welcome.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gayle Thomas – Chairperson

blaze00031@aol.com



WINDING IT UP!!

Well, another "program year" nearly gone by!

We had quite the diversity of events this year. If I was able to put it all down together...

*John Russo likes the direction the City is headed...as he heads South...

*"The Big One" (earthquake) is coming—the City and citizens are getting ready. And who knew the many uses of a plastic bag?!

*Immigration Reform is on the way for our country and even city...but taking the long route...

*Alameda hospital is growing in its new relationship with Alameda Health Systems, while bringing in a new CAO and Healthcare directors. Patients and money are coming in too, although the more the merrier!

*The film showing of "Miss Representation", cosponsored by AAUW and College of Alameda, shows the inequality women still face in the media and politics. Two weeks after our showing, Hillary Clinton started her run for Presidency. Coincidence?!?! Maybe...or maybe not?!

*"What Developments Are Coming To Alameda?" allowed developers, city officials and the public to converse on thoughts of city growth as well as offer a bus tour of future developments underway. Although a energized subject, no injuries noted...except a considerable dent made by attendees in the free lunch buffet served! Which was delicious, by the way.

*And lastly we will finish up the season looking at the new members, direction and outlook of the Alameda Unified School District. Although a decision may have been

made to keep two high schools, there is still PLENTY more to discuss!! (So, when is that fence at 2200 Central coming down?)

So please join us for this last forum of our "program year", Thursday, May 28 on State of the School District (AUSD). Discussion will also cover the Measure I bond funding allocations and the associated transparency expected in the decision making process. Featuring Dr. Sean McPhetridge, Superintendent and Barbara Kahn, AUSD Board of Education President.

7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Junior Jets Hangar (Room 605), Encinal High School, 210 Central Ave.

Thank you to everyone for making this a fabulous Program year!!

Don't forget about our Annual Meeting and Luncheon June 13th!! 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Cardinal Point Retirement Community.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruth Dixon–Mueller – Chairperson

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The April 16th panel on "What Developments are Coming to Alameda?" co-sponsored by LWVA with Alameda Home Team and the Alameda Association of Realtors attracted over 150 people to the Elks Lodge and bus tour. Dynamic events like this offer an excellent venue for the League to increase our visibility and outreach, and we distributed membership brochures and MYPO flyers all around.

Our membership focus for May will be to reach out to--and follow up with--elected and appointed representatives, friends, and other Alamedans who attended our "Meet Your Public Officials" mixer and fundraiser on April 30th. We hope that this fun event provided plenty of opportunities to spread the word about the League and encouraged people to join us.

Many of the two dozen or so public officials in attendance (Mayor, members of the City Council, AUSD and Health District Boards, City officials, and others)--including four of the six representatives shown below in the MYPO flyer photos--are LWVA members.

You can help by encouraging your friends and colleagues to join LWVA and get involved in what we do! Go on line for more information on how to join at www.LWVAalameda.org or contact Ruth at 510–865–2439.

MYPO (Meet Your Public Officials)

Deborah Wright

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Thanks to the work of the many volunteers, donors, LWVA members, guests, community members and public officials who participated, MYPO 2015 was the best yet!

In the warm early evening hours of April 30th over 150 enthusiastic and civic-minded “mixers” filled the salon and overflowed onto the patios overlooking the lagoon at the Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle.

Sporting name badges from volunteers at the front tables, community celebrants flocked to the wine bar and food tables to partake of luscious libations and tasty treats contributed by local restaurants and generous League members.

Seventy-five enthusiasts signed up at the easels by the speed-dating tables for a four-minute conversation with one of 15 of Alameda’s elected and appointed representatives who reserved space. (More than 50 dignitaries such as BART and EBMUD District representatives, County and City office holders and staff, and members of Boards and Commissions made an appearance.) MCs Jeff Cambra (in top hat and tails) and Gayle Thomas (in princess gown and heels) cheerfully kept everyone on schedule through three rounds of dating amidst the surrounding buzz of activity and conversation.

Meanwhile, hopeful bidders patrolled four tables of over 50 elegantly displayed raffle and auction items—wine collections, specialty beers, tours, gift baskets, theater and dinner tickets, and even memberships in LWVA—dropping raffle tickets into little bags by their chosen items or writing their names and bids on the silent auction sheets, upping the ante from the previous bidder. Volunteer organizers announced and distributed the prizes to (and collected money from!) the happy winners.

As you know, MYPO is not only LWVA’s signature event, it's also our one and only annual fundraiser. As our Treasurer tallies the final “take” and subtracts the inevitable expenses of putting on an event such as this (advertising, printing,

supplies), we thank each and every one of you who bought tickets, contributed food and wine to the event, donated valuable items for the raffle and silent auction, and offered your time, energy and ideas. It was a lot of hard work, fun to do (well, most of the time), and a big success!

Watch for more information in the June Voter.

MYPO 2015 Event Committee: Deborah Wright (Chair), Alice Wilson–Fried (Honorary Chair), Ruth Dixon–Mueller (Co–chair), Doris Gee, Jon Spangler, Audrey Lord–Hausman, Marian Breitbart, Felice Zensius.

BOARD ACTION

At its monthly meeting on Thursday April 16th, the LWVA Board agreed to:

1. Defer discussion of possible dues increase to Board retreat on August 1st;
2. Set membership cutoff date of May 14th for eligibility to vote at the Annual Meeting on June 13th;
3. Approve proposed changes to LWVA Bylaws to forward to Annual Meeting for membership approval;
4. Confirm that LWVA will send four delegates to the State LWV convention in May (Kate Quick, Felice Zensius, Alice Fried, Anne Spanier);
5. Accept the report of the Nominating Committee with its full slate of officers and elected Board members to forward to the Annual Meeting for the vote of the membership.

NEWS FROM OTHER LEAGUES

For the latest news from the national League visit www.lwv.org and from California visit www.lwvc.org. Bay Area League news can be found at www.lwvbayarea.org; Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville news at www.lwvbae.org; and Oakland news at www.lwvoakland.org.

BOOK CLUB

Anne Spanier – Chairperson
annespanierleague@att.net

The League’s book for April was “Whoredom in Kimmage – Irish Women Coming of Age” by Rosemary Mahoney, a collection of her experiences and interviews with a large variety of women, focusing on current and historical perceptions of womens’ status and and how their roles are perceived.

Because of the Memorial Day holiday, the next meeting is Monday June 8. The book selection is West with the Night by Beyrl Markham. It is a story of a woman adventurer who at one time was a Bush Pilot. The story takes place in the early part of the 20th century.

We meet the 4th Monday of each month (except holidays) in the back room of Applebee's restaurant in Southshore. We read non-fiction books, preferably paperbacks, chosen by the group upon the recommendation of one of us who has read the book. Discussion is lively, interesting, and challenging. League members are encouraged to join us—no charge, of course! Contact Anne Spanier for more info 522-3426, spanier.anne@gmail.com.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Connie Slattery-Hanna – Chairperson

connie.hanna@comcast.net

Friday May 8. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE 5:30 p.m. Asena, 2508 Santa Clara between Park and Broadway. Reservations required: Robby Kiley, rkiley7@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marian Breitbart – Chairperson

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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MARCH 2015

With March's receipts of \$1,406.65 exceeding expenditures of \$463.95 our cash balance increased to \$16,894.51, \$100 less than the bank balance of \$17,224.89 largely due to outstanding check to LWVCA for our contribution to Smart Voter of \$500 offset by \$200 in deposits not yet credited by the Bank. In addition, we have a CD maturing 5/23 in the amount of \$10,070.

During March, we received approximately \$302.65 from the County affidavit project (which is running approximately 2 years behind in disbursements), received \$194 in new membership and renewals and received \$910 in MYPO donations/ticket sales. During the month we spent almost \$500 for our Smart Voter contribution, \$152 for publicity, \$39 for ATT messaging and \$30 for MYPO mailing costs.

We began the fiscal year with a balance of \$14,900.74. During the first 9 months we had revenue of \$10,409.97 and expenditures of \$8,416.20 resulting in an ending balance of \$16,894.51.

MYPO donations continue, and until I receive MYPO expenditure requests and annual convention expenses....I remain a happy camper.

ACTION COMMITTEE

Karen Butter

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Robby Kiley

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The Action Committee is focusing attention on open government, transparency in decision making and how Alamedans can become involved in government. The city of Alameda made significant progress when it formed an Open Government Commission and adopted the Sunshine Ordinance a few years ago with strong support from the League. The Commission's role is to advise the City Council on appropriate ways in which to implement the Sunshine Ordinance, to develop goals to ensure practical and timely implementation, to report in writing to the City Council at least once annually on any practical or policy problems encountered in the administration of the Sunshine Ordinance, and to issue public reports evaluating compliance with the ordinance by the City or any Department, Office, or Official. Since the Commission is a newly formed body many members of the community are not aware of its existence and the Commission is still working to understand its charge.

The Action Committee recommended that the League sponsor an early Fall program on what boards and commissions exist in Alameda, how they operate, the process for citizens to get involved, and how to follow their work. The meeting should focus specifically on the Open Government Commission--its roles, how the Commission is implementing its charge and what types of issues the public can address to the Commission.

If members are interested in working on the Action Committee on this issue or working to plan the Fall program please contact Karen Butter.

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)

League of Women Voters of Alameda Board of Directors 2014 – 2015

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