



Alameda Voter

Volume 38 Number 3

April 2005

Mingle with elected and public officials at annual bash

Meet Your Public Officials fundraiser is Friday, April 29, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Harbor Bay Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Road.

Come meet the public officials who make things happen in your community Friday, April 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Harbor Bay Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Road.

"Meet Your Public Officials" night is a League tradition that brings together elected and public officials with anyone in the community who buys a ticket.

This is a wonderful opportunity to bring guests and introduce them to the League, as well as to meet those public officials whose work directly affects Alameda.

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



Some of the attendees at last year's Meet Your Public Officials fundraiser included, from left, Alameda Mayor Beverly Johnson, Leaguemember Connie Hanna, School Board member Mike McMahon, League President Kate Quick, Councilmember Frank Matarrese, Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker and East Bay Regional Parks Director Doug Siden.

We need your help!
We still need your help to make our fundraiser the best it can be. Look at the following and consider lending a hand.
■ Donating raffle prizes (we have three already but need at least seven more).
■ Selling raffle tickets at the event
■ Donations of wine
Please call Audrey Lord-Hausman at 510-522-4651 or email at alord@ix.netcom.com and let her know how you would like to help. Be sure to leave your phone number.

annual fundraiser and our chance to recognize and thank our public officials for their service to Alameda..

Tickets are \$10 per

person, which pays for food, drinks and a raffle for prizes. They may be purchased at the door or through League boardmembers. Call 749-9687 for more information.



President Kate Quick last year accepted a resolution presented by Assemblywoman Wilma Chan.

Spring ushers in a frenzy of possible initiatives

By **KATE QUICK**
President

Thanks to all of you who kindly volunteered for one of our League Committees for the upcoming year. It is wonderful to see how many people are willing to participate and learn. It looks like we may have quite an interesting time and much to do next year if the special election goes forward.

Lots of initiatives

There are many ballot measure initiatives out getting signatures, and it looks like many of them will wind up on the ballot, either in the anticipated special election, or the next regular election. I encourage you to log on to the California Secretary of State's web site to follow the progress of these initiatives. www.ss.ca.gov/elections/electionsj.htm

Housing study

This past month, in addition to the hard work on the part of the Nominating Committee and Board to fill our committee structure, we had our housing study consensus

meeting.

The Board will have the consensus recommendation before it at its April meeting.

Thanks to Sally Faulhaber and the members of the study committee for nearly two years of research.

I think that reading the carefully prepared "green sheets" (in League parlance, information gathered from the study, used as background to our consensus) attending the two meetings on housing and transportation, and going on the "field trip" where we visited most of the more

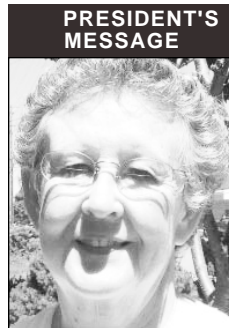
recent housing developments in town, gave us an excellent feel for housing and transportation issues in Alameda.

When our position is adopted at the Annual Meeting in June, we will be able to speak intelligently on housing and transportation issues.

If any of you have at-

tended the recent City meetings on Base Re-Use, you will know that there will be much to comment on!

MYPO April 29



"...only in Alameda do we get a chance to mingle with our elected and appointed officials so freely in an unstructured setting."

Audrey Lord-Houseman is moving quickly on the arrangements for our Meet Your Public Officials annual event, which this year will be held Friday, April 29 at 5:30 p.m. at the Harbor Bay Community Center. So get out your excellent appetizer recipes and call her with your auction/raffle items!

This year we would like more of the community to come, so when you get your tickets, ask your friends and neighbors to join you in the fun. It is always an interesting event, and only in Alameda do we have a chance to mingle with our elected and appointed officials so freely in an

unstructured setting.

If you haven't yet called Audrey to volunteer to do something for the event, It's not too late. Give her a ring, today!

Delegate needed

We are still looking for a third delegate to join Lena Tam and me at the State Convention in May (May 20-22) in Anaheim. Please call me if you would like to join us.

Convention is a wonderful way to experience the League more deeply, and get to meet and hear from people in other Leagues throughout the State. There are always exciting speakers and workshops, too.

Spring has sprung: our energy should be getting a welcome boost from the additional sunshine, beautiful flowers, and promise of the renewal of the earth. I encourage you all to share a little of your springtime energy with the League. It's like planting seeds, but ours are of democracy, open government, and an informed electorate. Let's all plant now, and see what we can grow!

Board Briefs for March

At its March 2 meeting, the Board:

- set our Meet Your Public Officials event for April 29 at the Harbor Bay Community Center;

- reviewed plans for the March general meeting;

- voted to contribute \$100 to support SmartVoter, our online voter information site; and

- heard that the nominating committee was having difficulty

- in filling positions, and brainstormed ways to carry on as an organization.

League applauds decision on Title IX

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) applauds the March 29 Supreme Court decision that upholds the rights and protections provided by the Title IX Education Act Amendments of 1972.

The Supreme Court ruled in the case of Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education that individuals who bring gender discriminatory practices to light are protected from retaliation and reprisal. In September 2004,

The benefits Title IX can also be credited with increasing the numbers of women graduating from high school and college, earning graduate degrees, and entering into traditionally male-dominated careers.

the LWVUS signed on to an amicus brief in this case in support of Title IX's original intent of broad and effective protection against gender discrimination.

Title IX is the federal law that prohibits gender discrimination in all aspects of education. It is best known, however, for creating opportunities for women and girls in athletics. The benefits Title IX brought to the playing fields of our schools can also be credited with increasing the numbers of women graduating from high school and college, earning graduate degrees, and entering into traditionally male-dominated careers.

Democracy Dinner serves up global issues

League supporters will meet some of California's movers and shakers, learn about the global issues facing the U.S., and bid on auction items from around California at the Democracy Dinner April 22 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

A VIP reception and the silent auction begin at 6:30 p.m. Dinner begins at 7:30 p.m.

The movers and shakers include Sen. Dianne Feinstein; members of Congress Zoe Lofgren, Anna Eshoo, and Mike Honda; former Congressman Pete McCloskey; and elected and former elected officials from southern San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda counties.

There will be an auction of items or activities, one from each League in California.

The banquet speaker is Ambassador Nancy E. Soderberg, Vice President for

Multilateral Affairs for International Crisis Group, formerly Alternate Representative of the U.S. to the United Nations, and author of the soon to be released book, *The Superpower Myth*. Her topic will be "Global Challenges, Global Realities."

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and the education funds of the local Leagues planning and coordinating the event:

Fremont/Newark/Union City, Los Altos/Mountain View Area, Palo Alto, Santa Clara Valley, San Jose/Santa Clara, and South San Mateo.

Tickets for non-members will be \$150, for League members \$100. Non-members can reserve a table for \$1,500, and members for \$1,000.

More information is available on our web site at www.lwvc.org.

Free Medicare counseling from HICAP

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) provides free counseling on Medicare, billing and claims, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Medicare HMOs, and Long Term Care Insurance.

Talk to a HICAP counselor today.

Who: Marlene Fong

Where: Supervisor Alice Lai-Bitker's Office, 15903 Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo.

When: First and third Thursdays of every month at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon.

Please call (510) 839-0393 to schedule an appointment.

Websites to keep on hand

- Oakland League: www.lwvoakland.org
- Bay Area League: www.lwvba-ca.org
- State League: www.ca.lwv.org
- National League: www.lwv.org
- LWV Smart Voter: www.smartvoter.org
- LWVBA Monitor: www.bayareamonitor.org
- Sen. Barbara Boxer: senator@boxer.senate.gov
- Sen. Diane Feinstein: senator@feinstein.senate.gov
- The White House: 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 jsfong1@comcast.net

Calendar of events

All members and the public invited

Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Board Meeting, home of Luann DeWitt, 2917 Central Ave., Alameda.

Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m. Democracy Dinner, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose. See story page 3.

Friday, April 29, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Meet Your Public Officials, Harbor Bay Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Road, Alameda. See cover story.

Friday, May 20 - 22, State Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Garden Grove. 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: \$53 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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