

**The League of  
Women Voters of  
Alameda**

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The VOTER is published 9 times per year. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website

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**The League of Women Voters;** a non-partisan political organization – encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



**Volume 43  
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# VOTER

**Political Responsibility through Informed and Active  
Participation**

## **THE LEAGUE CELEBRATES ITS 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY WITH A FREE MOVIE!**

### **“Iron Jawed Angels”**

Starring Hilary Swank, Anjelica Huston,  
Julia Ormand, and Frances O'Connor

**Sunday, February 21, 1:00 p.m.  
Little Theater, Alameda High School  
Central Avenue & Walnut Street, Alameda**

"Iron Jawed Angels" is an engaging film about our foremothers' struggle to secure the right to vote. This winner of the 2004 Cannes Film Festival depicts how women organized, lobbied, marched, and endured to gain this precious right.

**CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF  
VOTER EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY  
BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**Event cosponsors: League of Women Voters of Alameda,  
Girls Inc. of the Island City, and Alameda Branch of AAUW**

**Bring family and friends to see this compelling story.  
There will be a discussion following the film.**

For information, call Anne at 522-3426 or visit  
[http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/Public\\_Events.html](http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/Public_Events.html)

*Check out the preview at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=StF3\\_Mj0tBg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StF3_Mj0tBg)*

**FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE!**



## CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Anne Spanier and Kate Quick  
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of  
Alameda

The year 2010 started off with a lively Issues Forum on Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup>. The event was held in the Stafford Room of the Alameda Library, to an overflow crowd of Alameda residents. The subject was Measure B which covered the topic of the Alameda Point development. A committee of League members worked hard over the holiday season, formulating questions for, and reviewing answers of the proponents and opponents. They were fortunate to secure the able assistance of Jeff Cambra who video taped the forum. It is now a link at our website, [www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org) It is available for all who would like to see it. Hats off to Karen Butter, Joanne McKray, Sally Faulhaber, Li Volin and Kate Quick for their stellar efforts.

The new membership committee met in January to learn about new ways to reach potential members. Our League plans to join the ranks of Facebook and Twitter. With the talents of Jon Spangler and Audrey Lord-Hausman leading us we will soon launch our first attempt, advertising *Iron Jawed Angels* a movie about the nineteenth amendment. The film stars Anjelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters and Hilary Swank as Alice Paul, the upstart suffragette who challenged her leadership using radical strategies to win the right to vote. The cast includes Julia Ormand and Frances O'Connor as colleagues and Patrick Dempsey. It is an extremely compelling film and all are invited, particularly young women who may not know this story(see page 6) .

In addition to showing the film, the Alameda League celebrates the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the League of Women Voters with articles in the Voter reminding our membership of the historical events (see page.1) and newspaper announcements heralding the film and the work of the League. Please look for these pieces honoring the women who went before us and left us such a legacy. As we look around the world and see so many women still disenfranchised by their lack of full citizenship we are truly blessed by the courage and tenacity of these women.

Anne

### **BECOME A LEADER! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Free training by **Women Lead** an organization to teach women how to get appointments to boards and commissions. February 18, 2010, UCSF. Call Dorie Behrstock for information at 864-8995.

Save the Date – March 25<sup>th</sup>  
PUBLIC PROGRAM FOR HEALTH CARE ISSUES  
CO SPONSORED BY  
**LWV-ALAMEDA** and  
**MASTICK SENIOR CENTER**

*Please join us on MARCH 25, 2010 .*

PLACE: Mastick senior center hall

TIME: 7 TO 9 P.M.

SPEAKER: Debra LeVeen

Debra Leveen teaches Public policy at San Jose state college. She is very active and knowledgeable about Health Care policies. She will talk about current Health Care status and issues.



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters (LWV) of the US will be celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in February. Our local Alameda LWV will be participating by showing “Iron Jawed Angels”, a film depicting the struggle for women’s suffrage on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3 p.m. at the Alameda High School Little Theater.

Surveys have shown that nearly 70% of women under 25 don’t know that women did not have the right to vote until 1920, when the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution was passed, nor do they know that there was a long, sometimes bloody struggle to secure the right to vote. The film is both educational and inspirational. It shows the same group of women who eventually became founders of the LWV fighting for the right to vote and educating the public on what that means.

The work of the LWV to educate voters by conducting candidate’s forums and pros and cons meetings and writing and distributing voter education materials goes on. Join us in this important work by going to our award winning web site at [www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org) and by coming to our event on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Kate Quick and Anne Spanier, LWV Alameda  
Co-Presidents

## City Council Requested to Declare February 2010 “Good Government Month”

The following Declaration has been submitted to the Council for its consideration:

**Whereas**, The League of Women Voters (LWV), is a nonpartisan political organization that works to improve our system of government and to impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy, and

**Whereas**, The League of Women Voters of the United States is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010, and

**Whereas**, The 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2010, as well, and

**Whereas**, Today, the LWV works to effect change on diverse issues in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy, and

**Whereas**, The LWV is organized on three levels – national, state, and local, and

**Whereas**, The LWV Alameda has faithfully and tirelessly served to promote good government in Alameda for over thirty years, and

**Whereas**, For nine decades, the League at all levels has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective, and truly representative, and

**Whereas**, Alamedans depend upon the League’s voter service programs for unbiased, informative analysis of ballot measures and candidate information, and

**Whereas**, All are welcome to join the LWV and to become part of this respected and effective organization; and to help in its work safeguarding democracy and furthering civic improvement,

**Now be it resolved that**, The City of Alameda, in honor of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the LWV and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, declares the month of February 2010 “Good Government Month”.

# 90 YEARS OF ADVOCACY FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a nonpartisan political organization that works to improve our system of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy, is celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary together with the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the United States Constitution that gave women the right to vote.

In 1920, after a 72 year struggle, passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment appeared to be imminent, and members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters, an organization to educate the newly franchised women to effectively use the vote. The formation of state and local Leagues followed.

Initially, the LWV was primarily concerned with the status and rights of women, but interests were gradually expanded to include issues affecting men as well as women. Today, the LWV works to effect change on a wide variety of issues in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. In 1973, the LWV invited men to join the organization, and their numbers continue to increase.

The Alameda League was founded over 30 years ago by women who belonged to the Oakland League and felt that Alameda had its own, special, local concerns which could be better addressed by an Alameda local League. The Alameda League has held candidate's forums and pros and cons on the ballot measures meetings for every election during those 30 years. It has produced and distributed voter education materials and has seen to it that voter registration forms are available in many locations in our City. Through its award winning web site, it has provided information on issues and candidates in written and video formats, and linkage to the LWV California [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) website which provides similar information on a state level.

The non-partisan LWV never supports or opposes candidates or parties, but the LWV is political and takes stands on issues. These stands are based on positions which are the result of intensive study, discussion, and, eventually, member consensus, all at the grassroots level. These positions and are the basis for advocacy of the government at the national, state, and local levels.

As the organization celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it has much to look back upon, but the work is not yet complete and is ongoing. The LWV continues to work towards meaningful citizen participation in the government processes. "For nine decades, the League has worked to ensure our democracy is transparent, effective, and truly representative," said Ms. Mary Wilson, President of the LWVUS. "Those challenges are as real today as they were for our suffragist foremothers who struggled for their right to vote so many years ago."

All are welcome to join the LWV and become part of our respected and effective organization. As the League is where hands on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. For more information about the League of Women Voters, contact the Alameda League through its web site at [www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org)

Letter to the Editor submitted to Alameda newspapers by *Kate Quick*.

## Three League Members in the News

In the December issue of the *Alameda Magazine*, three of our fellow members were highlighted. Alameda physician, Dr. Robyn Young, was honored as one of the East Bay's Best Doctors. In addition to her interview on p. 23, she was on the cover of the issue! Congratulations on receiving the honor and on being our League's first cover girl.

Then on p. 26, League members Arthur and Gretchen Lipow are pictured with the headline of "Pushing Democracy". Their belief in having an informed public led them to found the independent, nonpartisan organization, Alameda Public Affairs Forum. Kudos to you both on your work and recognition!

*Marilyn Ng*

## Why the MYPO Fundraiser is Important to the League's Mission?

Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO) is our yearly fundraiser that increases our ability to provide non-partisan information and resources, Candidates' Forums, Ballot Pros and Cons panels, and many other League activities throughout the year.

It is a unique event where Alamedans, in a relaxed, social atmosphere, can mingle and speak directly with various elected and appointed public officials who have influence on issues affecting our community.

We want to surpass last year's event and increase our fundraising amount. This is going to be an active political year in Alameda, and at state and national levels and LWV wants to be in the forefront providing non-partisan information for voters to have as they evaluate the many ballot issues.

April 22 is the date – Mark Your Calendars. We need creative, energetic members to come together to ensure that the chapter's fundraising goals are met, that all attendees leave feeling it was time well spent, that new and potential League members have a broad understanding of the organization, its members, and its accomplishments, and that everyone enjoys good food and drink.

We especially need one or two volunteers to head up the raffle and silent auction component of the event. We need an early start in order to put together items that will be exciting for attendees. Can you do this? Call Audrey at 522-4651.

MYPO is a rewarding way to contribute to our League's work. We cannot do it without members' support. Please join us.

Contact League members Liz Rogers, 865-1786; Audrey Lord-Hausman, 522-4651; Li Volin, 522-3242, for more information.

# The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

*Submitted by Anne Spanier*

The development of formalized progressive governments throughout western European societies after the demise of monarchies gave men of property the right to vote. The right of women to vote for their government wasn't popular and it was met with strong resistance. It wasn't until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that the idea of women's rights gained acceptance in such countries as Australia, and New Zealand with England as an early proponent. In 1848 activists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott called a Convention at Seneca Falls N.Y. and presented a Declaration of Sentiments with eleven demands for women's rights including the right to vote. Lucy Stone and Susan B. Anthony organized the National Women's Rights Convention. Thus began a seventy year movement to gain suffrage for women. During that period some individual states granted suffrage but national suffrage was elusive. The largest organization, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) was formed during those years.

During the early twentieth century the movement gained popularity when strong advocates Lucy Burns and Alice Paul broke from the traditional mold of genteel lobbying (NAWSA) and took to the streets to march and picket the White House and President Woodrow Wilson. When these women were beaten in the streets and sent to jail where they were badly treated, an outcry followed. Under public pressure President Wilson signed the pending bill, the nineteenth amendment to the Constitution

In 1919 Carrie Chapman Catt called for a league of Women Voters to be formed to carry out the role of Women as voters and reformers. She said: *Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government.* In the decades following the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment The League of Women Voters has:

- Helped to "make the general welfare" the **primary agenda** of the newly formed League. Agenda items critical to the independence of women included support for collective bargaining, child labor laws, minimum wage, a joint federal-state employment service, compulsory education, and equal opportunity for women in government and industry. Many of these items were enacted into laws that are still in force today. They have been part of American life for so many years most of us take them for granted.
- Since the 1930's, the League of Women Voters has built a sequence of broad national positions and expanded its concept of grassroots organizing and citizen advocacy into the areas of world peace, civil and human rights. Not long after its founding, the **League worked for U.S. membership in the League of Nations**, the predecessor to the United Nations, and in the World Court. It mobilized support for global disarmament.
- **Civil and human rights issues** were embraced by the League in the 1960s and 1970s. The League studied the problems of poverty and discrimination, particularly unemployment, underemployment and inequities in public school education. As a result of a two-year study on these issues, the League built a foundation of support for equal access to education, racial integration in schools, fair employment and fair housing.
- The 1970s was the decade in which the League overwhelmingly supported ratification of the **Equal Rights Amendment**. The League viewed "equal rights for all regardless of sex" as a fundamental elaboration of its long-term support for equal opportunity in education, employment and housing.

The League was on the forefront of ERA ratification efforts at the state and national levels.

- **In the 1970s, the League of Women Voters of the United States began sponsoring televised Presidential debates.** .
- League worked tirelessly and successfully in the 1990s for the passage of the **National Voter Registration Act, or "motor voter"**, as a means of registering more Americans, simplifying voter registration procedures in the states and reshaping government's role in the registration process.
- In the 2000s, the League successfully secured **campaign finance reforms** intended to curb the influence of special interests; ensure fair competition by setting spending limits; and closing "soft money" loopholes so that large, unregulated contributions would not be used to circumvent existing campaign laws.
- Following the Presidential election of 2000, League became more visible in the area of election administration reform. **Ensuring that all eligible citizens have the right to cast their votes and that those votes are properly counted continues to be one of the top priorities of the League of Women Voters.**

## **The New York Times.**

Thursday, June 5, 1919

### **Suffrage Wins in Senate; Now Goes to States**

**Constitutional Amendment Is Passed, 56 to 25, or Two More Than Two-thirds**

**Women May Vote In 1920**

**Leaders Start Fight to Get Ratification by Three-fourths of States in Time**

**Debate Precedes Vote**

**Wadsworth Explains His Attitude In Opposition - Resolution Signed with Ceremony**

WASHINGTON, June 4 - After a long and persistent fight advocates of woman suffrage won a victory in the Senate today when that body, by a vote of 56 to 25, adopted the Susan Anthony amendment to the Constitution. The suffrage supporters had two more than the necessary two-thirds vote of Senators present. Had all the Senators known to be in favor of suffrage been present the amendment would have had 66 votes, or two more than a two-thirds vote of the entire Senate.

The amendment, having already been passed by the House, where the vote was 304 to 89, now goes to the States for ratification, where it will be passed upon in the form in which it has been adopted by Congress, as follows:

"Article-, Section 1. - The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Section 2. - Congress shall have power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article."

Leaders of the National Woman's Party announced tonight that they would at once embark upon a campaign to obtain ratification of the amendment by the necessary three-fourths of the States so that women might have the vote in the next Presidential election. To achieve this ratification it will be necessary to hold special sessions of some Legislatures which otherwise would not convene until after the Presidential election in 1920. Miss Alice Paul, Chairman of the Woman's Party, predicted that the campaign for ratification would succeed and that women would vote for the next President.

Suffragists thronged the Senate galleries in anticipation of the final vote, and when the outcome was announced by President Pro Tem. Cummins they broke into deafening applause. For two minutes the demonstration went on, Senator Cummins making no effort to check it.

# Join or Renew your membership in the Alameda League Today!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Names \_\_\_\_\_

(if a family membership)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

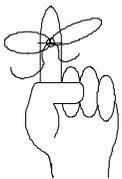
\$68 Single Membership  \$85 Family Membership  \$25 Student Membership Dues year is Jan 1 – Dec 31.  
Dues assistance is available for those on limited income – Contact us at 869-4969. Make Check payable to LWV Alameda and mail to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501

## Education Fund donations are Tax Deductible

Donations to the League of Women Voters Educations Fund are tax deductible. Consider sending a check for \$5 or more made out to LWV Ed Fund with your renewal, or at any time to LWV Alameda, P. O. Box 1645. Alameda, CA 94501

## Turn your Trash into Cash for the Ed Fund

Lynn and Jim Groh collect aluminum cans, sell them and give the proceeds to the Ed Fund. Drop your aluminum cans on their front porch at 1546 Eastshore Drive, Alameda, and help the League educate voters.



## Dates to Remember

**February 18th, 7:30pm, Board Meeting, Alameda Hospital**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>, 1pm, “Iron Jawed Angels” Alameda High School Little Theatre**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm, Program Meeting on Health Care at Mastick Senior Center**

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Meet Your Public Officials, Harbor Bay Community Center**

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