



Alameda Voter

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Annual meeting brings changing of the guard

League is reorganizing the board structure. Instead of a few position-holders doing much work, many committees will take care of smaller jobs.

Our annual meeting was held last Saturday at Angela's Restaurant in Marina Village.

Outgoing President Kate Quick, in her State of the League address, referred to the two goals set two years ago: to increase our visibility in the community and to achieve financial solvency.

She detailed an impressive list including action on local, state and national issues, voter services, and other events. She noted that our efforts to replenish our once meager treasury have met with great success.

Bylaw Amendment: Board-member Miriam Schiffman presented the proposed amendment to Article IV, section 9 of the by-laws, which defines a quorum of the Board of Directors. The amendment would delete the words "of the authorized number," allowing the Board to conduct business more easily when not all positions on the Board are filled.

Concern was expressed with the lack of a number of directors in the provision, especially in light of the small number to be elected this day. After some discussion a consensus developed that the

words "currently in office" be inserted after "directors."

Kate announced a "retreat" on July 23, to organize for the coming year and orient committee members to the League culture, rules, and jargon. Lena Tam offered a room at Alameda Hospital for that meeting. The time will be 9 a.m. to about noon.

Miriam appealed for more members for the Action Committee, noting that there are many important ballot measures looming, especially at the state level.

Ruth Belikove said she would serve on the Action Committee.

Helen Sause volunteered for the Program Committee.

Liz Rogers agreed to serve on the Administrative Committee.

Andrea Pook, who serves as our web mistress, was added to the Communications Committee.

Directions to the Board:

Pat Caito and Alice Huie suggested that we put "a \$5 or more, donation request to Education Fund in the VOTER "Join the League" form (see page 4.)

Helen Sause asked that with the prospect of a highly political season in local government, look at ways to develop leadership. Kate noted that League has a history of members moving into elected and appointed office.

Boardmembers presented a card and gift to Kate, and expressed gratitude to Kate and Lena for continuing to serve as mentors on the Administrative Committee.

New officers and committee members

Elected Officers: President None; Vice President/Admin None; Vice President/Program Linda Hudson; Secretary Sally Faulhaber; Treasurer Pat Caito;

Elected Directors (6) – Three Agreeing to Serve: Juelle-Ann Boyer, Donna Vaughn, Cara Watkins.

Agreeing to Serve on Committees (New Leadership Method):

Administrative Committee: Dorothy Fullerton, Kate Quick, Pat Sahadi, Karen Scanlon, Lena Tam.

Action Committee: Karen Butter, Audrey Lord-Hausman, Felice Zenzius.

Communications Committee: Cara Watkins, Andrea Pook.

Membership Committee: Dorie Behrstock, Jean Fong, Connie Hanna, Stefani Komaru, Marilyn Ng.

Program Committee: Linda Hudson, Diane Lichtenstein, Shiela Turner

Voter Service Committee: Juelle-Ann Boyer, Pat Caito, Joanne McKray, Pat Sahadi, Helen Waldear

Nominating Committee: Nancy King, Chair, Honora Murphy, Jon Spangler.

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League in the black, but Ed. fund suffering

By Pat Caito
Treasurer

2004-2005 was a very successful fiscal year. Our checking account balance as of May 31 was \$12,716.13. Due to very low interest rates we delayed making our \$4,000-investment in an interest-bearing account. We are now in the process of opening a treasury account and will put the money in a U.S. Treasury security.

Our budget for 2005-06 was presented and approved at the annual meeting. We plan to duplicate the fund-raising activities and projects which proved so successful this year.

Things did not go well for our Education Fund. For the first time since I became Treasurer in 2001, not one member made a contribution to our Ed. Fund.

To refresh your memory, we raise money in two separate funds.

One is our operating budget in the checking account which is not tax deductible. These funds derive from your dues, special projects (eg. maintaining the voter registration sites in the city of Alameda), and fund-raisers (raffles, Meet Your Public Officials etc.). This money pays your national dues (\$24), your state dues (\$21) and your Bay Area

League dues (\$1). The \$7 left combined with our project and fund-raising money pays our operating expenses (voice mail, P.O. Box, postage, The Voter, insurance, etc.).

Our local Educational Fund is maintained in Sacramento and is tax deductible. Contributions for this fund do not

we can expend Ed Fund money on: All voter service activities, Pros/Cons, Easy Reader Voter Guide, Public Meetings, Conferences, Workshops, Citizen education, Candidate forums, Parliamentary procedure.

When we wish to initiate a project to be funded by Ed. Fund

Message from the Treasurer

"...Truly, the heart of much of what we consider our mission is accomplished with the use of these (education) funds."

pass through our checking account but are forwarded directly to the State Office in Sacramento.

These funds may only be used for projects which are educational in nature and that inform the general public in a fair and objective manner.

Specifically excluded are those that seek to influence legislation or are of benefit only to League members.

Examples of projects

money we must submit a "Local League Educational Fund Project" form to the office Administrator at LWVC. On this form we describe in full the project and expected expenses. The form will be reviewed by appropriate members of the state board with a decision or a request for more information. After the project is completed we must re-submit the form for reimbursement.

Our League heavily

relies on these funds for Voter Service Activities. We distribute hundreds of copies of Pros/Cons, and Easy Reader Voter Guides. All of our educational publications and videos are purchased with Ed. Fund money.

Truly, the heart of much of what we consider our mission is accomplished with the use of these funds.

When I became Treasurer in June 2001 the Ed Fund balance was \$4,662. Today the balance is \$5,053. We have been blessed to have had a few very generous donations over the past years and this has kept our Ed Fund very stable.

Unfortunately in 2004-2005, as noted, we received no donations.

I hope that you will add our Ed Fund to your list of charitable donations.

At the annual meeting, the Board was directed to focus on replenishing our Ed Fund. Each month we will remind you of this by furnishing a coupon to accompany Ed Fund donations in our monthly Voter.

Due to a special election, primaries and a general election we will be very busy with voter service projects in the next year and half. Educational Fund money will be needed. We're counting on your support.

State League takes stand on special election initiatives

Information about all these initiatives is available on the Secretary of State's Web site www.ss.ca.gov/election/elections_j.htm. The identifying numbers provided there can be used to find the texts of the measures at the Attorney General's site, www.ag.ca.gov/initiatives/activeindex.htm, and the Legislative Analyst's fiscal analyses

lao.ca.gov/ballot_source/Initiatives.aspx.

Months of uncertainty came to an end June 13 when Governor Schwarzenegger called a special election to take place on November 8, 2005. Five initiatives have already qualified for that ballot. Signatures are being verified for three more that are expected to be certified by the June 30 deadline. (The state constitution provides that an initiative is placed on the ballot of the next election held at least 131 days after it qualifies.) It remains to be seen whether the legislature will place other measures before the voters in the special election.

The LWVC board has already decided to oppose two initiatives which will be on the November ballot. In March the board decided to oppose the Parental Notification initiative (Termination of Minor's Pregnancy, Waiting Period and Parental Notification), and at its May meeting the board voted to oppose the "Live Within Our Means" initiative. Details on each of these measures appear below.

The Legislation Committee is reviewing the remaining initiatives to prepare recommendations for possible action at the July board meeting. They are:

- * Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.

- * Public Employee Union Dues. Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions.

- * Reapportionment. (The LWVC has not yet taken a position on this initiative. We have urged the legislature and governor to negotiate to place an alternative measure on the ballot.)

- * Prescription Drug Discounts.

State-Negotiated Rebates. (This is the first of two competing measures.)

- * Electric Service Providers. Regulation.

- * Prescription Drugs. Discounts.

Three of the measures—the Parental Notification, Live Within Our Means, and redistricting (reapportionment) initiatives—are proposed constitutional amendments; the other five are statutes.

Information about all these initiatives is available on the Secretary of State's Web site www.ss.ca.gov/election/elections_j.htm. The identifying numbers provided there can be used to find the texts of the measures at the Attorney General's site, www.ag.ca.gov/initiatives/activeindex.htm, and the Legislative Analyst's fiscal analyses

■ Parental Notification Initiative—*Oppose*

■ 'Live Within Our Means' Act—*Oppose*

lao.ca.gov/ballot_source/Initiatives.aspx.

The LWVC will provide an Action Guide before the election, analyzing in depth the measures on which we have taken a position and informing local Leagues how they can advocate for the League's positions.

"Live Within Our Means" Act—Oppose

The LWVC strongly opposes the initiative known as the "California Live Within Our Means Act" which has been proposed by the Governor. The official title on petitions for the measure was School Funding. State Spending" This complex measure is a constitutional amendment that imposes a new state spending cap, gives the governor broad power to make budget cuts unilaterally, and changes the formulas for state support of education. Its provisions are contrary to some of the League's most important positions in State and Local Finances, Constitution, and Education. Our analysis of the measure indicates that it would

* effectively exclude the possibility of increasing revenue in the near term to meet current needs

- * make an extraordinary shift of power from the Legislature to the Executive Branch of state government

- * increase "autopilot" spending

- * reduce the adequacy and reliability of education funding.

Parental Notification Initiative—Oppose

The LWVC opposes the Parental Notification Initiative that has qualified for the ballot. This measure would amend the California Constitution to prohibit a minor from obtaining an abortion until 48 hours after the physician notifies the minor's parent or legal guardian, except in a medical emergency or with a parental waiver. The initiative permits a judicial waiver of notice based on clear and convincing evidence of the minor's maturity or the minor's best interests. To obtain a waiver the minor must file a petition and appear personally in juvenile court.

We believe that parental notification laws are unwise. Most parents want what is best for their children and for them to be safe. Most teens voluntarily involve their parents or another trusted adult in the intensely personal decision to terminate a pregnancy. But if for any reason a teen could not do so, most parents would want their daughters to get professional medical care and counseling in a timely way. The initiative could cause young women who feel they can't confide in a parent or face a court of law to prolong pregnancy until it is too late to obtain an abortion or their health is jeopardized. Alternatively, they may seek dangerous and illegal ways to terminate their pregnancies.

The judicial bypass option in the proposed initiative is unrealistic. Teenagers fear the court process, and navigating the judicial system requires significant financial and psychological resources. Furthermore, it is difficult, if not impossible, to guarantee teens' privacy, especially in rural areas.

We should focus professional counseling, comprehensive sex education, and birth control.

Calendar of events

All members and the public invited

Saturday, July 23, 9a.m. to noon - Board Retreat, Alameda Hospital.

No board meeting in August.

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

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

Return Services Requested

nonprofit org.
u.s. postage paid
alameda, ca
permit no. 112

Please consider making a donation of \$5 or more to our Education Fund, the lifeblood of our public outreach activities. No amount is too small. Last year we had no donations, so we are trying to increase awareness this year. Your donations are tax deductible.

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.

Include your name, address, phone, and email and the amount you've enclosed.

Thank you!