

LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF
ALAMEDA

VOTER

September, 2014

Volume 46, No. 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Quick – Co-President

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Felice Zensius – Co-President

felicez@ymail.com

Our last Alameda League Voter was sent out in June. We skipped July as your Presidents have another life and yay we are back now. Hope you all missed us! Our Annual Board Retreat on August 9th was filled with reports and discussions about our achievements last year and our goals for 2014/2015. We want to thank Li Volin once again for her hospitality and all the outgoing and incoming Board members who spent the entire day thinking about, discussing and working on our plans for this coming year. It was a hectic day and we have lots to do!

Each Committee Chair gave a full report and they will need your help. If you have any available time, below are some activities you might do to help the League. I've listed some emails. The rest along with phone numbers are in your red members 2014 directory.

Membership Chair is Ruth Dixon-Mueller dixonmueller@yahoo.com She will be welcoming new members and holding orientations throughout the year.

Program Chair is Gayle Thomas blaze00031@aol.com She will be putting together and planning programs for the year. If you have any ideas for a hot topic, give her a call. She also needs assistance at the events.

Voter Services chair is Dorothy Fullerton Dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com The next few weeks will be extremely busy and your help is extremely important. Call Dorothy if you wish to work on the pros and cons, be a speaker, be available to assist at the forums.

Action Committee chair is Karen Butter karenbutter@comcast.net Her committee has been working on campaign finance reform tracking campaign contributions and expenditures as well as current events like Crab Cove and sunshine issues. She has asked for more membership involvement.

Health Care committee chair is Shubha Fanshe shubhaf09@gmail.com With Alameda now involved in enlarging health coverage through our hospital, she would like to hold a public forum on how it all works now.

Communications is chaired by Jeff Cambra jeffcambra@earthlink.net We have several ways to communicate with our members and the public. We have the Voter which goes through mailchimp and that is what you are reading now. **Mari Clark**

meclark922@gmail.com formats mailchimp so send articles to her. **Jon Spangler**

jonswriter@att.net works our Publicity for all events. **Donna Vaughn**

dbvaughn@comcast.net sends out email blasts on individual happenings. **Mike Williams**

williams26m@gmail.com formats our League website. All articles need to be sent to him to keep the site up to date.

In addition to the above committees we have others seeking your assistance. **Meet Your Public Official** led by **Alice Wilson–Fried** will need a full committee to plan and implement the annual fund raiser. Other active committees are the **By–Laws committee** chaired by **Li Volin**, **Budget Committee** headed up by **Ted Frey**, **Nominating Committee** led by **Marilyn Ng** and **First Friday Dinners** organized by **Connie Slattery–Hanna**.

Those are our Committees and Chairs. So reach out – get involved. In order for this League to function well, we all must play a part and anything you feel you can contribute will be very much appreciated.

In addition we reviewed and re–adopted our nonpartisan and diversity policies. If you want a copy please contact either one of us. Finally, League wouldn't be League without lots of socializing and good food. It was a full day and now the work will begin in earnest for this coming year!

Felice Zensius felicez@ymail.com and **Kate Quick** katequick@comcast.net

Co–Presidents League of Women Voters of Alameda

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Thursday September 11th, Forum: The State of the City with Alameda City Manager John Russo, 7–8:30 pm at Cardinal Point Retirement Community (see programs)

Thursday September 18th, LWVA Board Meeting, 7–9 pm, Alameda Hospital Conference Room C (members welcome)

Monday September 22nd Book Club 3pm, Applebee's

ACTION COMMITTEE

Karen Butter – Co–Chair

karenbutter@comcast.net

The League of Women Voters of Alameda Action Committee is lead by co–chairs Karen Butter and Robbie Kiley. The Committee meets as needed and also does its work electronically. It addresses national, state, county and local issues that fall within the scope of LWV position statements.

The Action Committee:

- Responds to requests from LWV US and LWVC to contact elected and appointed officials about issues of importance to the organization
- Follows issues that come before local governmental organizations and identifies opportunities for action that fall within league positions and where the league could be effective
- Works with the Communications Chair to develop publicity around LWVA actions/issues
- Makes recommendations to local elected/appointed bodies around issues that fall within league positions
- Develops recommendations for LWVA support/opposition on local initiatives

Currently, the Action Committee has a committee that is working on Campaign Finance Reform recommendations for the Alameda City Council. In 2013/14 it made recommendations to the Alameda Unified School District Board to increase

transparency, many of which were adopted by the Board. In taking on new issues the Action Chairs consult with the LWVA board.

BOARD BRIEFS

The Board voted to increase LWVA dues for the 2015–2016 budget to correspond to a National increase in PMP.

BOARD RETREAT MINUTES

**2014 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA
ANNUAL RETREAT
AUGUST 9, 2014**

PRESENT: Shuba Fanse, Marilyn Ng, Sally Faulhaber, Marian Breitbart, Ruth Dixon–Muller, Dave Needle, Mari Clark, Ted Frey, Juelle Ann Boyer, Robby Kiley, Karen Butter, Dorothy Fullerton, Earleen Hamlin, Kate Quick, Li Volin, Felice Zenius.

Meeting opened at 9:30 a.m.

Committee Chair Report:

Membership: Ruth and Gayle

The membership brochure is now on–line. The problems with the membership list are being addressed; it is a work in progress. The committee continues to reach out to non–renewals. More members are needed plus a schedule of meeting dates.

Program: Gayle and Ruth

The emphasis this fall will be on Voter Services. Also the City Manager will present his State of the City address.

Action: Karen and Robby

Goals from Annual Meeting:

* AUSD sunshine recommendations and implementation.

* Campaign Finance Reform programs and letters to editor; goal is recommendation to City Council.

* Legislator interviews – participated in Senator Hancock interview.

By-Laws (volunteers Robby, Li, Dorothy, Shuba.)

Need to review for conformation to current practices.

Present policies to be added as a separate document for future work.

Goal –March, April Board approval for Annual Meeting vote.

Budget: Ted and Marian

New Committee Marian, Li, Dorothy, David

January meeting to review cash status.

Voter Service: Dorothy

Nov 4 election – means forums in early October.

Seven state propositions and some local measures.

Need volunteers for roles at forums.

Affidavits – more service needed closer to election.

ACC is renegotiating contract with/ROV.

COMMUNICATIONS: JEFF

(Felice presented Jeff's written report)

Converted from paper Voter to self-authored Mail Chimp.

Mari Clark will help with publishing in Mail Chimp

Deadline: Monday after third Thursday.

Updating Mail Chimp list – members v. “all”. Shuba maintains national member database.

Need back up to press release list.

Need to prepare communications flow chart.

Health Care – Shuba

Three programs were presented 2013–14.

Seems to be lagging interest in this issue.

MYPO: Alice (not present)

Board will request an October report on the 2014 event.

Nominating: Marilyn Mg

Interim report will be made in Jan/Feb.

First Friday: Connie Hanna

Thanks to all who attended. Events will continue.

Thoughts/Suggestions

Fair Campaign Statement

Use Smart Voter rules and draft article for Kate/Felice's review.

Action:

Need more volunteers. Target recommendations after November election based on experiences.

Communications:

Send website documents to Make Williams (not automatically extracted from Voter.)

Ruth to manage filtered member list (filter-retaining confidential information as requested by member).

Shuba to manage national database and send correct member count to treasurer to submit PMP.

Directions to the Board

FAA to withdraw plans to alter flight paths to Oakland Airport.

Dave Needles reported that the FAA is in the process of preparing documents with the suggested information. No action presently necessary. Dave Needles to prepare Voter article.

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).

The selection for the September 22 meeting is *Flash Boys* by Michael Lewis. As noted in a March 31, 2014 review in the New York Times, this book takes a look at how technology replaced the trading floor of screaming brokers, slamming telephones and hysteria-inducing ticker tape, and how that change impacted the market.

The selection for the October 27 meeting is *The True American: Murder & Mercy in Texas* by Anand Giridharadas. As the New York Times described the book in a review on May 8, 2014, this centers on executed murderer Mark Stroman and a survivor of one of his shootings, Rais Bhuiyan. The work explores Bhuiyan's forgiveness of Stroman and his campaign to save the death row inmate from capital punishment. At the time of the shootings, Stroman had thought that he was exacting revenge for the September 11, 2001 attacks, but his victims were immigrants from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruth Dixon-Mueller – Chairperson

dixonmueller@yahoo.com

Greetings to our continuing and new members as we open our "Fall season!" We hope to have some new outreach activities this year in addition to the public forums and other events. The membership and program committees will be working closely together to grow our membership and engage us all in the issues of the day. Any ideas you have will be greatly appreciated!

One of our first projects is to make sure that the contact information we have for all of you in the 2014 LWVA membership directory is correct. Please send any corrections or changes you wish to make in the published listings to Ruth. If you haven't received the 2014 directory (in a red cover), let us know and we'll mail you a copy. These directories are produced annually in June and are distributed to current LWVA members only.

WELCOME TO NEW LWVA MEMBERS!

Maxine Hubbard-Cole, mhubbardco@gmail.com

Kathryn Saenz Duke, kathryn.saenz.duke@gmail.com

Elizabeth Tuckwell, elizabethtuckwell@gmail.com

Nancy Rideout, nanrideout@aol.com

Beverly Blatt, bevblatt@outlook.com

Jeanine Rodgers, j9rodgers@mac.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gayle Thomas - Chairperson

blaze00031@aol.com

**The League of Women Voters of Alameda
presents**

Alameda City Manager John Russo

The State of the City



**Thursday, September 11, 7:00–8:30 PM
Cardinal Point Retirement Community
2431 Mariner Square Drive, on the estuary
A free public forum**

Alameda Point development, sea level rise, transportation;
Crab Cove/Neptune Pointe parks and housing; city budget

Bring your questions and concerns!

More info: events@lwvalameda.org or [510-869-4969](tel:510-869-4969)

http://lwvalameda.org/Public_Events.html

Also stay tuned for our Election Forums taking place during the month of October.

Location–Mastick Senior Center Dates to be determined.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Connie Slattery-Hanna – Chairperson

connie.hanna@comcast.net

Look for an e-mail Blast about First Friday, a no-host gathering at a local restaurant.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ted Frey – Chairperson for 2013–2014

frey.ted@gmail.com

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS
FISCAL YEAR 2013–2014**

During the 2013–2014 Fiscal Year, the LWVA Bank of Alameda operating account received a total of \$15,563 in deposits and disbursed checks in the amount of \$17,685 . The checking account balance on June 30, 2014 per the bank statement is \$17,549 resulting in an operating deficit of \$2,122. After deduction of outstanding checks and deposits, the League's checking account had a balance of \$14,901.

Total assets effective June 30, 2014 are \$24,971 which reflects the bank balance of \$14,901 plus a CD in the amount of \$10,070 .

Primary sources of Operating Income during the Fiscal Year were Dues (\$6909), Donations (\$1847), MYPO (\$4062), Community Projects (\$928). Primary expenses were Operating Costs (\$1232), Conventions (\$2,975), PMP Dues (\$5,283), Voter Education (\$4,248) MYPO (\$906) and Forums \$665).

VOTER SERVICES

Dorothy Fullerton – Chairperson

dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com

Election season is upon us which will include several forums. The tentative schedule is Thursday, October 2 for the 18th Assembly District candidates (not confirmed at press time) and the health care district candidates – most confirmed. Thursday, October 9 is for the mayoral and city council candidates, all but one confirmed. Thursday, October 16 is for the AUSD school board and Alameda County Superintendent of Schools, mostly confirmed.

The Oakland LWV is presenting several forums on candidates we will be voting on, AC Transit at large and Bart board. Check their website for dates and times.

The pros and cons has not yet been scheduled, just in case the Assembly candidates have to be re-scheduled.

All the meetings will be 7 pm to 9 pm at Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue.

Watch the website for updates and / or changes to the schedule.

As always, we'll need lots of volunteers. I expect the Easy Voter Guides to be delivered by the middle of September. They'll need to be distributed to about 35 different sites around the city.

We'll also need volunteers for each of the forums, greeters, question gatherers, sorters, and timers.

For the pros and cons we'll need presenters, a 3 – 5 minute presentation on one or more of the state or local propositions. There is lots of material available online and guidance is readily available. Remember that the pros and cons are non-partisan, just the facts, ma'am.

In addition to all of the above, the affidavit project is ongoing. By contract with the registrar of voters, all sites must be checked once a week for the 6 weeks prior to an election. Lots of extra volunteer opportunities available.

LWV HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Shubha Fanse – Chairperson

shubbhaf09@gmail.com

If you are interested in HealthCare related topics to explore, discuss and help arrange public programs, then please join LWVA Health Care committee.

We get together to discuss current Health Care related topics. Committee arranges Educational public forums and discussions on Health Care. So far we have arranged public programs on the Affordable Care Act, Health Care Exchange, state of the Alameda Health Care District and many more.

If you are interested, please, contact Shubha Fanse at shubhaf09@gmail.com or Call at [510 865 0548](tel:5108650548)

Not a member of the League of Women Voters of Alameda? You can download a membership form at

http://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 download a contribution form at http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/donate_form.html.

League of Women Voters of Alameda

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