



LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF ALAMEDA

VOTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Quick – Co-President

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Felice Zensius – Co-President

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It is hard to believe that we are in the second month of the New Year already. Our February Board meeting was full of reports from various committees that have been working on behalf of the League over the Winter months. We also discussed the upcoming State Convention, our Program Plans for the coming months, and the progress on our annual big fund raiser, the Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO) event.

Fourteen members attended the position review meeting in January, held at Co-President Felice Zensius' home. We had soup and bread and lots of yummy desserts to fuel us for our long review of State and Local positions. Thanks go to Felice for her gracious hospitality and organization of the meeting. As we were asked, we chose three State position areas for emphasis in the coming biennium. They were: Campaign Financing, Election Systems, and Water. This work was approved by the Board and sent to the State as our local League report. We assigned most of our local positions to individuals for review and recommendation to the Board as we recognize that many of them are either out of date or no longer needed. You will all get the recommendations to consider at our Annual Meeting, coming up in June.

The Nominations Committee reported that they have completed most of the slate, but are still looking for a Secretary and a couple of other Board Director slots to complete their work. They have written new job descriptions for all the major officer and committee chair slots, too. Quite a thorough and dedicated group!

The By-Laws Committee has finished reviewing the by-laws and has come up with a group of recommendations which were presented and approved by the board. These will be presented to the membership as part of the work of the Annual Meeting.

Plans for the April MYPO are coming along well. Members have a few things to do to make this a success - when you get your mailing, open the envelope. It will have tickets in it. Either buy them and give them to friends to come, or sell them to your friends, neighbors or relatives and send or turn in the money to us at P.O. Box 1645. This is our one big deal thing we do each year to finance ourselves. Our dues mostly get sent to State and National as our Per Member Payments. When we do Voter Education, put on programs that require room rent, printing, etc. or send our representatives to convention it all costs money. You can also make some yummy appetizers to bring or offer to help the committee.

Much of this is covered more thoroughly in articles in this VOTER. As I said, the League is working, working, working to plan and execute quality voter education and advocacy efforts for our community. We need your help to succeed.

Kate Quick, Co-President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, March 6 – First Friday Social Dinner

5:30 p.m. 1400 Bar and Grill, 1400 Webster at Central (enter on Central) Reservations required; see Social Committee report

Wednesday, March 11 – Forum on Health Care in Alameda 7:00–8:30 p.m., Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A, 3rd floor. See Program Committee report.

Thursday, March 19 – LWVA Board meeting

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

Saturday, March 21 – Hot topics political discussion

2:00–4:00 p.m., Alameda Free Library. See Membership Committee report.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS!

Thursday, April 16 – Alameda housing & development panel and bus tour

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Morning panel, lunch, afternoon bus tour (optional).

See Program Committee report.

Thursday, April 16 – LWVA Board meeting

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

Thursday, April 30 – Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO) fundraiser

5:30–7:30 p.m., Harbor Bay Community Center. See MYPO report.

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. venue TBA

Saturday, June 13 – Annual Meeting & Luncheon

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., venue TBA.

Saturday, July 25 – LWVA Board retreat

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gayle Thomas - Chairperson

blaze00031@aol.com



March is National Women's History Month!

Welcome from your Programs chair!

Celebrating just how involved women have been in history and will continue to be, March and April Programs for the LWVA will be following that trend! We have packed these months with interesting and stimulating events that we know you will find fun and educational...and hopefully both at the same time!!

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.: Panel discussion followed by Q & A on "The State of Health Care in Alameda." How is Alameda Hospital contributing to Alameda Health System (AHS) and to Alamedans' health care? How is the hospital utilizing its parcel tax revenues now? What is the future of health care in Alameda with "Obamacare" and other changes? Panelists include: Bonnie Panlasigui, Chief Administrative Officer of Alameda Hospital and Alameda Healthcare District Board President J. Michael McCormick and an executive from Alameda Health System. Cosponsored by Alameda Hospital and the Alameda Chamber of Commerce. All are welcome. FREE. Conference Room A, Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Avenue (at Willow) in Alameda.

Wednesday, March 18th and Tuesday, March 24th, 2015

MISS REPRESENTATION- A film exposing how mainstream media contribute to the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence in Alameda (87 minutes; TV-14). The League will be partnering with American Association of University Women (AAUW) at College of Alameda, who is graciously hosting this event. After the film, representatives from the LWVA and AAUW will be available for a debriefing/discussion session. All are welcome. FREE.

March 18th from 7-9:00 pm at College of Alameda, Room C208

March 24th from 12-2:00 pm at the College of Alameda, Room D237

Flyer: http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/alameda/files/miss_representation_flyer_march_2015.pdf

For more movie information, visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_Representation

Thursday, April 16th, 2015

9:30-1:00 pm. (optional bus tour 1-2:30 pm): "What Developments Are Coming to Alameda? (Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask). City staff, including City Planner Andrew Thomas, and representatives from developers, will directly inform the public about

upcoming housing developments. Panel presentations will take place at the Elk's Rathskeller, followed by an optional bus tour to the actual sites of planned housing developments in Alameda. This event is in partnership with Alameda Home Team and Alameda Association of Realtors (More information to come in the future!!).

Thursday April 30th, 2015

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER—MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS (MYPO)

(See separate MYPO segment below for further information)

If you would like to assist with any of these events, please contact Gayle Thomas @ 510-289-1268.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruth Dixon-Mueller – Chairperson

dixonmueller@yahoo.com

Membership Directory updated:

LWVA has 110 active members as of the end of February, thanks to those of you who renewed for 2015 and six who joined us in the past month. Everyone is listed—correctly, we hope—in the updated Membership Directory sent to LWVA members only as an email attachment in February. A printed Directory will be issued in booklet form in time for the annual meeting in June. Please send any updates or corrections to Ruth.

Welcome new members!

Keasha Martindill (KJBbarretts@sbcglobal.net) with family Brett and Jessica Barrett

Kelly M. Harp (kmharp@yahoo.com)

David Eck (Davideck1311@comcast.net)

Georgia Gates Derr (t.derr@comcast.net)

Hot topic policy discussions:

The second group of 12 “policy wonks,” including 8 LWVA members, met at the library on Saturday Feb. 21st to talk about “VOTING: How do California’s election systems determine who wins and who loses?” Anne Spanier facilitated a lively discussion of how open vs. closed primaries and ranked choice vs. single choice voting systems affect the range of candidates and the outcomes of our state and local elections

Next discussion group: Join us on Saturday March 21st from 2–4 pm in the Family Study Room (first floor) of the Alameda Library when LWVA’s voter education chair Dorothy Fullerton will introduce the lineup of voter initiatives that are already contending for space on the state ballot in the next round of elections! How does the system work? How do initiatives get on the ballot? Who are the sponsors? What role does money play? Are voters overwhelmed?

Room size limits us to 12 people, so please reserve at dixonmueller@yahoo.com or 865-2439. Let us know if you have an idea for a future topic that you’d like to facilitate!

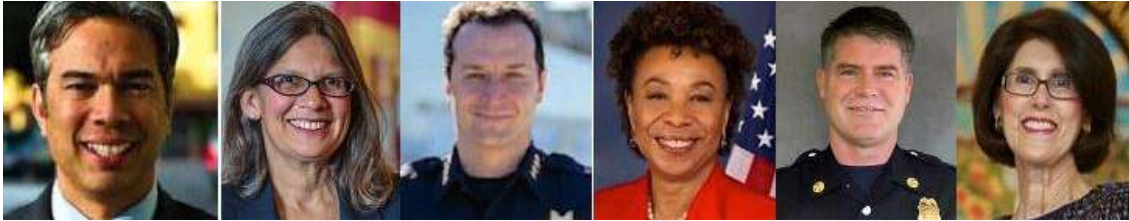
LWVA’s Membership Committee: Are you interested in recruiting and meeting new members of the League? Join us in our outreach activities and bring us your ideas! We meet informally every month or so. Contact Marian Breitbart, Anne Spanier, Shubha Fanse or Ruth Dixon-Mueller.

MYPO

(Meet Your Public Officials)

Deborah Wright

wrightwaydesigns@hotmail.com



MEET (AND SPEED-DATE) REPRESENTATIVES SUCH AS THESE at LWVA's popular annual mixer and fundraiser on **Thursday April 30th, 2015, 5:30–7:30 pm, at the Harbor Bay Community Center.**

LWVA members will receive a letter of invitation to this fun event that includes five \$10 tickets (to sell or give away) and a request for \$50 donation for ticket costs.

AUCTION AND RAFFLE ITEMS. Big-ticket items for the silent auction are especially welcome: think vacation rentals, dinners for six, Bay cruises, season tickets to concerts, theater or sporting events! Raffle items include gift certificates or other contributions from local businesses and restaurants, bottles of wine, gift baskets, personal services (gardening advice, makeovers, dog walking!), etc. Contact Doris Gee at atdorisgee48@gmail.com, 510–521–2117 for ideas and delivery.

FOOD AND WINE. We're soliciting donations of finger-food platters from local restaurants; feel free to do the same. Platters of fruit, cheese and crackers, chips and dip, cold cuts, veggies, cookies, brownies, and other goodies from home are welcome. Wine contributions will go to the bar for sale at \$5 glass.

VOLUNTEERS. We need greeters, "escorts" for the public officials, food managers, bartenders, ticket takers, raffle and auction organizers, raffle ticket sellers, new member recruiters, photographers, setup and cleanup people, and many more. Email Deborah (above) if you're willing to help. (We'll be calling you!)

ACTION COMMITTEE

Karen Butter – Chairperson

karenbutter@comcast.net

Felice Zensius and Karen Butter met with then Interim Superintendent Sean McPhetridge, and AUSD Board President Barbara Kahn in January to review the actions taken by the District under the previous superintendent and Board to increase transparency and provide more information to the public about issues and actions that come before the District. The superintendent and Board President were familiar with the report and progress.

Simplify the Budget In 2013 League members recommended posting of bills paid with each board packet (and thus available to the public), to begin a repository for native documents so members of the public could download the data and to include audited financial report on the website. Simplifying the budget (a civilian budget) is on this year's goals for the chief financial officer. The League strongly supports this recommendation.

Meeting Notification The league recommended that the Board posts its agenda (and accompanying materials) 7 days prior to the meeting. The Brown Act requires 3 day notification. The district is posting its agenda 5 business days prior to the board meeting (Wednesday prior to the Tuesday meeting.) To prepare the materials 7 days in advance would mean that not all meeting materials would be available at the time of initial posting. After considerable discussion the League will accept the 5 day notification.

School Board Sunshine Committee The League's earlier report included a recommendation that the School Board form a Sunshine Committee. The Superintendent described the current complaint process starting with the local school officials and working up to the district and Board. Additionally, there is a Complaint Officer in the District Office that parents/community members can call when they have issues. The Superintendent also mentioned that he is forming a Community Advisory Committee. This is an informal group of business organizations – the Chamber of Commerce, WABA, GABA, etc. to discuss issues of common interest. We suggested that the League would be interested in joining the discussion.

Communications The League discussed the value in having board meetings televised when possible and using twitter to report on board actions. While the League used to have members 'monitor' board meetings in person now many watch the live stream or view twitter feeds. We discussed the possibility of a report in the League newsletter about Board actions. We also discussed the ongoing challenge of public relations. Another suggestion was to redesign the District's website to make information easier to locate. The League supports an updating of the AUSD website.

League Issues An ongoing League issue is adequate school funding and the fact that Alameda receives less state funds per student than neighboring cities. The Superintendent has discussed this issue with our state legislative officials. He frames the issue about adequacy of state funding in general. We invited him to submit an article to the Voter and/or local newspapers about this topic. We also invited him to a State of the Schools presentation in the Fall as a League program and he readily accepted.

BOARD ACTION

At its February 19th meeting, the Board

1. Approved the recommendations of the January 20 membership meeting's review of existing State League (LWVC) positions; confirmed LWVA's choice of three State action priorities: Campaign Financing, Election Systems, and Water Resources; and called on selected members to submit updates to the Board of LWVA's local positions.
2. Accepted recommendations of the LWVA Bylaw review committee, including formalizing the option of co-presidents.
3. Received recommendations of the Nominating committee for a slate of new officers, to be voted at the Annual Meeting in June.
4. Appointed Robby Kiley to the Executive Board, to join Felice Zensius, Kate Quick, Marian Brietbart, and Ruth Dixon-Mueller.
5. Voted to provide funds for a third delegate from LWVA to the State convention in San Diego.
6. Received a report on an upcoming State League study on access to higher education that will be sent to local leagues for consideration in Sept. 2015; received and commented on activity updates from the Program chair, Communications, Membership, Voter Services, and MYPO (see relevant sections in this newsletter).

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.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Connie Slattery-Hanna – Chairperson

connie.hanna@comcast.net

Reserve now for LWVA's no-host First Friday social dinner on March 6th, 5:30 p.m. at the 1400 Bar & Grill, 1400 Webster at Central Avenue (enter on Central). Members and guests welcome! Robby Kiley, rkiley7@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marian Breitbart – Chairperson

mbreitbart@me.com

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2015

The Treasurer's mood continues to improve. We had a cash balance of \$16,215.47 and a CD containing \$10,070 as of January 31. Our operating balance per the bank statement was \$16,165.47 with outstanding checks of \$90 and deposits of \$140 not yet credited to the account.

During January, we received a total of \$2,614 from member renewals/new member payments and from member donations (\$338). During the month we spent \$895 mainly for PMP payments to the State (\$532) and webhosting (\$160) advertisements for MPO(\$90) and miscellaneous other expenditures(\$113 for room rental, voice mailbox and copying).

Total income through January was \$8,502 while expenses were \$7,237. The Budget Committee currently estimates an approximate \$970 operating loss for the year which is about \$2,900 better than the budgeted loss of approx. \$3,870 due to lower than budgeted PMP payments and videography savings.

NEWS FROM OTHER LEAGUES

Global Warming in the Bay Area

As usual this year's Bay Area League Day had an excellent array of panelists. The theme was global warming, and the meeting was evenly split between efforts to slow down its inevitable progress and what it means for sea level rise.

AB 32, which passed in 2006, mandates a decrease of global warming pollution to 1990 levels by 2020. Since then, the annual flow of clean technology venture capital into California has increased tenfold, making the clean energy sector the fastest growing sector of California's economy.

Data collected from 69 multihousing developments in the Bay Area show that all but two have more parking spaces than their residents use. Some, but not all, are "affordable" or for senior citizens. The cost to include these excess parking spaces was \$19,389,000 for a 443-unit complex in San Francisco and \$20,000 for a 25 unit one in Oakland. Parking requirements of cities are responsible for most of this. Some of these developments are near transit hubs; all use some traffic reduction strategy, e.g., car sharing, transit passes, bike parking. What does this have to do with global warming? By housing people closer to jobs and other destinations such as shopping and providing alternatives to automobiles, we decrease the 50% of greenhouse gas emissions that come from cars and light trucks.

Sea levels are expected to rise by one to three meters by the end of this century, putting the East Shore Freeway, major rail lines, and San Francisco and Oakland air ports under water at high tides. Sea rise will continue until eventually waves will be lapping at the base of the Campanile, a thing to consider in long range building plans.

The speaker videos, along with Q & A sets for the keynotes and each panel, are now available for viewing at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org/documents.html>

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

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