



VOTER

APRIL 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Quick – Co-President

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Felice Zensius – Co-President

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Time it is a passin'....I can't believe I started this journey with Kate two years ago and will soon be ending my two year term. Working on the MYPO and the Annual Luncheon will fulfill my final duties as co-president of our League. Then in June, both Kate and I will be handing the gavel to the next stalwart volunteers.

The next two months are very busy. I hope you all will participate 'mightily' in the MYPO. By that I mean please buy all five tickets even if you can't come to the event. We are running a budget deficit and don't want to have to cut our programs or have another fund raiser or raise dues. So if we can all step up and make this fund raiser a big success we won't have to consider those options. So please dig a little deeper and support our League as generously as you can.

On June 13 we will have our Annual Luncheon at Cardinal Point in Mariner Square. It was very successful last year and I am hoping you will all plan on attending. This year our new Interim City Manager Liz Warmerdam has agreed to be our speaker. She will speak about her vision for Alameda and answer any questions. We are likely one of her first engagements as Interim and I know it will be a very interesting exchange.

On a more solitary note, I want to say that there have been many high moments (and some lows which I won't go into), but without doubt I could not have done this work without the patient guidance and soft leading of Kate Quick. I am not a religious person but she is indeed a blessing to our Alameda League. She has a deep well of knowledge regarding the history and background of all our League's workings that she is more than willing to share. I can't recall

asking her a question she couldn't answer or couldn't find out. She was always available in a kind and mentoring way. I was very lucky that she had my back.

I also want to thank the wonderful active volunteers who do much of the ground work without fanfare. Most of our Board is very active on one or several committees. Some rise above the call by chairing busy committees while always answering emails, initiating ideas, getting to meetings on time – you know who you are and I will thank you personally for your time and commitment.

One special quality of our League is there is little back-stabbing or gossip and really no nastiness that I could detect. Maybe that's true of most Leagues – I certainly hope so – but our group is smart and dedicated and actually seems to like one another. Not that we don't have our policy differences on occasion, but we work them out – in the family so to speak. In this nasty, finger pointing world, social media world, this civility speaks volumes for us. Kate calls it the 'League Way' and she's right.

Finally just in case you thought this was a final goodbye – it isn't! I hope to continue serving on the Board in an at-large seat and contribute in any way the new leadership sees fit. Like I said, 'time it is a passin'. I look forward to working on our next challenges to make Alameda governance more open and transparent while helping inform the electorate in the process.

Volunteering for the League is an important community service – so say yes when asked to help. I don't think you'll regret it

Felice Zensius – Co-President

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

Friday, April 10 (note change of date)

First Friday Social Dinner

5:30 p.m. High Street Station Café, High Street at Encinal.

Reservations required; see Social Committee report

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE FUTURE EVENTS!

Friday, May 8 (note change of date)

First Friday Social Dinner

5:30 p.m. Asena, 2508 Santa Clara b/w Park and Broadway.

Reservations required; see Social Committee 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. Encinal High School (210 Central Ave) Room 605.

Saturday, June 13 – Annual Meeting & Luncheon

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Cardinal Point Retirement Community.

Saturday, August 1 – LWVA Board retreat

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

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gayle Thomas – Chairperson

blaze00031@aol.com

Thanks to our attendees, speakers and organizers of our "The State of Health Care in Alameda" and our co-sponsored showings of "Miss Representation". Check out "Hot Topics" later in this newsletter to read about further discussions and follow-up regarding this movie.

APRIL ACTIVITIES!!

April is always busy for our Alameda League with our annual Meet Your Public Officials fundraiser. I certainly hope you will attend, have a wonderful time and find your favorite public official to speed date!

April also includes a special co-sponsored event that you won't want to miss. See below!

Thursday, April 16, 2015

“What Developments Are Coming to Alameda?”

9:30–1:00 pm. (optional bus tour 1–2:30 pm):

City staff, including City Planner Andrew Thomas, and representatives from developers, such as Marina Shores and Alameda Point Partners, 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.

This event is selling out (actually, it's free) fast! If you would like to attend, please fill out the following form and submit. Space is limited.

Thursday April 30, 2015

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER-MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS (MYPO)

(See separate MYPO segment below for further information)

Thursday, May 28, 2015
Forum on AUSD and Measure I

7:00–9:00 p.m. Encinal High School (210 Central Ave) Room 605.

(More information to come!!)

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

Welcome new members!

One additional renewal and one new member in March bring our total active membership to 116. Please welcome Jay Garfinkle, garsurg@comcast.net. Jay comes to us by way of our Hot Topic policy discussions at the Library.

Hot topic policy discussions:

As noted in the March Voter, the second group of 12 “policy wonks” met on **Saturday Feb. 21** with **Anne Spanier** to talk about “VOTING: How do California’s election systems determine who wins and who loses?” Check these sources for some fascinating information about how open vs. closed primaries and ranked vs. single choice voting

work: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_primaries_in_the_United_States

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/no-party-preference.htm> (open primaries)

InstantRunoff.com; FairVote.org (search ranked choice); <http://www.acgov.org/rov/rcv/faq.htm>

On **Saturday March 28**, LWVA’s Voter Services Chair **Dorothy Fullerton** facilitated a lively discussion of “California’s Ballot Propositions: What’s Coming?” at our third Hot topics session. For key resources check out the California League’s position on the Initiative and Referendum Process (lwvc.org/position/initiative-and-referendum); explanations of initiatives, referendums and other ballot propositions in California and other states (knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/elections-101-initiatives-referendums-and-other-ballot-propositions); and what’s in line for California in 2016 (and what made it and didn’t onto the 2012 and 2014 ballots) at ballotpedia.org/California_2016_ballot_propositions. This is a great web site!

Saturday April 25: Reserve now for April’s Hot Topic discussion at the Alameda Free Library Family Study Room from 2-4 pm on Saturday April 25. **Dorrie Guess Behrstock** will facilitate a discussion of the question, “**Do Sexist Media Portrayals Keep Women Out of Leadership Roles and Politics?**”

One of the messages of the film *Miss Representation* (LWVA cosponsored two showings in March) is that the often stereotyped or disparaging portrayals of women and girls in the mainstream media contribute to women’s under–representation in positions of influence starting as early as their teen years. Is this the case? How much have things changed? What action can we take? Join us, and share your ideas!

Room size is limited to 12 people; please reserve at membership@LWVAalameda.org or call Ruth 865–2439. Do you have an idea for a topic you’d like to facilitate in May?

LWA's Membership Committee:

Interested in helping us build our membership and involve new members in the League's activities? Join us! 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)

YOUR ELECTED AND APPOINTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS

at LWA's popular annual mixer and fundraiser

Thursday April 30, 2015, 5:30-7:30 PM

Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle

3195 Mecartney Road in Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center

Your MYPO 2015 planning committee has sent speed-dating invitations to dozens of public officials including the Mayor and City Council, Health District and AUSD Board members, various city officials, and county and state representatives. Also invited are members of Alameda's many citizen advisory boards and commissions.

Those of you who wish to speed date will have easy access to local officials in four-minute sessions during three rounds of speed dating from 5:50 to 7:00 pm. **New this year: arrive early to sign up for a date!** Participating official's names, positions and time slots will be posted at each of the five tables. Others will be "working the room" so be sure to say hello, express your appreciation, and ask your questions.

You can also enjoy appetizers, a glass of wine (cash bar), and great deals on a wide selection of raffle and silent auction items.

Your mailed invitation includes a request for an urgently needed (and tax-deductible) donation of \$50 to cover the costs of five \$10 tickets, an event flyer, a copy of a letter you can use to solicit raffle or auction items from local businesses, and a list of **"Six Things You Can Do to Make MYPO a Big Success."**

We're counting on you to spread the word about this fun event, bring your friends (you have tickets to give away or sell), and enjoy yourself! Additional \$10 tickets can be purchased at the door or online at Brown Paper Tickets, <http://lwvalameda-mypo2015.bpt.me> (BPT fees are charged).

Questions? Ideas? Contributions? Ready to volunteer?

MYPO 2015 Chair:	Deborah Wright, 908-3939, MYPO@LWVAAlameda.org (invitations, speed dating, event organization)
Event volunteers:	Alice Fried, 593-9572, alicefried89@gmail.com (MYPO 2015 Honorary Chair and volunteer coordinator)
Raffle & Auction:	Doris Gee, 521-2117, dorisgee48@gmail.com (business solicitations, individual donations)
Appetizers:	Ruth Dixon-Mueller, 865-2439, dixonmueller@yahoo.com (restaurant and members' home-made contributions)
Money:	Marian Breitbart, 769-1604, mbreitbart@mac.com (mailed checks, invoices, cash management)
Publicity:	Jon Spangler, 864-2144, jonswriter@att.net (calendar notices, press releases, flyers)

BOARD ACTION

At its March 19 meeting, the Board:

1. Received progress reports from the **MYPO 2015 planning committee** for "Meet Your Public Officials" (April 30) and from the **Nominations Committee**, which presented a preliminary slate of candidates for Board positions beginning July 1 to be voted at the Annual Meeting;
2. Confirmed the **Annual Meeting luncheon** on Sat. June 13 at Cardinal Point Retirement Community. The speaker is Assistant City Planner Liz Warmerdan, who will become Interim City Planner on the departure of John Russo in late May;
3. Agreed that LWVA will participate in the planned **California LWV Special Study of access to higher education**, which will begin in Sept. 2015; discussed proposal to coordinate with Berkeley and Oakland Leagues, to begin with the appointment of an LWVA member to attend planning meetings and to chair LWVA's committee;
4. Received a report from Sally Faulhaber, LWVA's **liaison with the Bay Area LWV**, regarding its work on State legislative actions related to global warming; local environmental risks of moving crude oil by rail to Bay Area refineries; and the future involvement of high school students in candidates' forums. The Bay Area League is seeking an Administrative Vice President. Contact LWVBayArea.org.
5. Received additional reports from LWVA's **Action Committee**, which will focus in 2015 on local issues of open government and citizen involvement; **Budget Committee**, which presented a budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 to be voted on at the June Annual Meeting (possible future dues increase to address projected deficit will be discussed at the Board retreat); **Program Committee**, which announced upcoming public and member-only events; and **Membership Committee** (see reports in this newsletter). The **Board retreat** has been moved from Sat. July 25 to Sat. Aug. 1. All LWVA members are welcome to participate.

BOOK CLUB

Anne Spanier – Chairperson

annespanierleague@att.net

APRIL 27 BOOK CLUB book is “Whoredom in Kimmage” by Rosemary Mahoney, looks at Irish women and their efforts to bring Ireland--in terms of personal choice and freedom--into the late 20th century.

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

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Reserve now for LWVA's no-host Friday social dinner on April 10, 5:30 p.m. at the High Street Station Cafe, High Street at Encinal. Members and guests welcome! Robby Kiley, rkiley7@comcast.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marian Breitbart – Chairperson

mbreitbart@me.com

With February's receipts of \$457 almost offsetting expenditures of \$463.95 our cash balance dropped to \$16,208.52, \$100 less than the bank balance due to outstanding check to Elk's lodge for upcoming event.

During February, we received a total of \$457 from 3 member renewals and 3 new member payments. During the month we spent almost \$464 for insurance (\$279) room rental for Elk's Lodge(\$100) stamps and supplies(\$46) and voice mailbox (\$39).

NEWS FROM OTHER LEAGUES

The Bay Area League is pressuring the State League (LWVC) to take a position on new legislation on global warming, especially on planning for sea level rise.

While we no longer have trains in Alameda, those of you who occasionally cross the Estuary might be interested in an excellent article on the hazards of oil trains in other parts of the nine counties that make up the Bay Area. It comes in the form of power points from a presentation by Leslie Stewart on Crude (Oil) by Rail, available on the LWV Berkeley Albany Emeryville website, www.lwvbae.org, under Environmental Concerns Team. This is a thorough and thoughtful discussion. Among other things, it identifies communities at risk and refinery plans.

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

Our address is PO Box 1645, Alameda CA, 94501
The VOTER editor can be reached at [510-769-6875](tel:510-769-6875)

League of Women Voters of Alameda Board of Directors 2014 – 2015

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