

# LWV Alameda Newsletter

## 13/12/25

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November has been another busy month for our League. I hope all you members out there - 129 - at last count are taking advantage of all our activities. Thanks again to Gayle Thomas for all her efforts to make our League the biggest EVER! If you haven't done so yet, please pay your dues! Since we are now a 501c3 your entire donation is tax deductible. So perhaps you will consider adding some much needed funds for our upcoming election and education efforts. Your generous contribution will be much appreciated.

I have been thinking lately about consensus and civil discourse. As our League continues to update and reorganize internally

while also being active on a variety of controversial public policy issues, there are bound to be differences of opinion and direction. Overall our League does an excellent job of working together and trying to find common ground. Some committee work can get contentious – we are not immune to our emotions. However, it is important to remember that we all have the same goals, namely, to educate the public and to support policies leading to a government that is representative, accountable, transparent and responsive. It's not easy. We have chosen, when we joined the League, to pursue those goals and that won't happen unless we are civil and respect one another. Let's keep working on this by listening and learning from one another.

As is often the case, we had another very busy month. Approximately 10 of us went to hear Kim Klein and her delightful workshop called ' Fundraising..It's Easier Than You Think.' We all heard good ideas on how to raise money for our community activities. The first rule you learn in fundraising is that you must ASK. If you don't ASK nothing will happen..so please refer back to my first paragraph for an example of that technique. The second rule is to thank the person! So I thank you in advance for your donation.

We wish to thank Shubha Fpanse for her work along with Ruth Dixon–Mueller in putting together a highly educational evening on California Care. Our speaker, Angela Blanchette of Covered California gave a slide presentation followed by excellent questions and answers.

Kate and I went to the Alameda Unified School Board meeting where Kate spoke of our joint efforts to enhance open government. She thanked the Board for its work toward more transparency. This is still a work in progress, but we received

high marks from the Board and the Superintendent for our leadership in this effort. Our Action Committee Chair, Karen Butter will continue to pursue these issues.

There will be changes coming in the next few months with our new electronic Voter. With the formation of a new Communications Committee and a focus on social media, we will continue to update our Website under the leadership of Mike Williams. Our eVoter will be overseen at least for now by Jeff Cambra . Our publicity will be very ably handled by Jon Spangler. We are very thankful for their efforts. Communications is the bedrock of our organization and their work is very appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Do I dare say Happy 2014!!!

**Felice Zensius,**  
Co-president

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **1 / 3 – First Friday Social Dinner**

No host informal gathering of League members and friends for dinner and friendship. Meet at [1400 Bar & Grill](#), 1400 Webster Street. Contact [Connie Slattery-Hanna](#) at (510)995-8672 to RSVP.

### **1 / 16 – Board meeting**

Board meetings are held at [Alameda Hospital](#), Conference Room C starting at 7 pm. All members of the League and the public are invited to attend.

### **1 / 23 – Membership meeting**

This meeting will discuss and develop the League's positions for the coming year.

### **1 / 27 – Book Club**

The League's book club discusses books on a wide variety of subjects. The reading for January is *Orange Is The New Black* by Piper Kermen. In this New York Times best seller, Kermen tells her story as a prisoner after being convicted of carrying drugs as a young woman. The group meets at [Applebee's Restaurant](#), 2263 South Shore Center from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. Contact [Anne Spanier](#) at (510) 522-3426 for additional information.

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## **SUMMARY of BOARD ACTION**

The Board met on November 21, 2013, took the following action, and heard reports from its committees as recapped below.

Anne Spanier nominated Jan Harrington to the board. The board approved the appointment. President Kate Quick reported that the survey of the LWVA policies was almost complete and asked for input from the board on any policies that may have slipped through the cracks. Bay Area League day is February 1, 2014.

The following committees reported on their activities:

### **Action – Karen/Joe**

Campaign Finance Forum: over 80 attended. The video has been posted on You Tube and LWVA website. The committee will research ordinances from other communities.

and continue to refine The Guiding Principles guidelines.

School District Sunshine – Kate Recommendations were received from the School Board and the LWVA. There has been a lot of movement on implementing both proposals including more transparencies with expenditures. A summary letter from the superintendent was received by LWVA,

### **Program V.P. – Ruth**

The program line-up for the next three months was reviewed. She suggested they record the names of visitors at upcoming public meetings.

### **Communications Committee:**

Mike Williams is the webmaster for the League's website. He will update the calendar-auto archives events, complete new front page pictures/visual aids, increase ease of finding Membership page, and establish link to Facebook.

If anyone wants to add/modify content to pages, direct to Mike Williams as the website point of contact. Committee will investigate a PayPal account. Process and content decisions to be made with committee consent. Jeff, Jessie, Mike, Jon, and Donna will be in charge of the Web, fb, & Voter. Issues with content to be referred to the Board Ex-Committee with the co-

presidents as ex-officio members. Jon will continue to manage Publicity.

**Membership:**

Total members: 129. New members include Trish/Joel Spencer, David Needle, Sandy Sidorsky. 12 renewals.

**Voter Services – Dorothy**

Payment received for the WABA Election supervision.

Youth Voting – Anne. Training workshops for Voter Registration will begin in January. A large number of *Guide to California Government* has been received and will be distributed to the Library, H.S. civic teachers and other city sites.

**Health Care – Shuba**

31 people attended the Forum. Shuba will be traveling several weeks in 2014. Ted and Anne will replace her to update the database end of January.

**Nominating Committee – Anne**

The committee continues open to suggestions for new people to take offices and/or become Board Members. They plan to present the slate at the beginning of March.

**On-going Business:**

Jon and Joe are working on Positions that need to be rewritten and expect to be completed by February or March in time to be included in the Annual Meeting kit.

**New Business**


It was agreed Donna will not renew the bulk mailing permit since we will be sending most copies of the Voter electronically.

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## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**



League Member Jeff Cambra has volunteered to take on the duties as VOTER editor until such time as a permanent member can be found. Welcome to the first electronic version



of the VOTER. Your comments are welcome and invited.

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## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

On the first Friday of each month, League members meet at one of Alameda's wonderful restaurants for a chance to get to know each other socially. All dinners have a no-host cocktail period followed by a casual meal. Most restaurants provide separate checks for League members.

Schedule of First Friday Socials

January 3 1400 Bar & Restaurant – 6 PM.

For restaurant information, click [HERE](#).

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## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

### **Chamber Mixer huge success**



On September 11, 2014, the League took advantage of its Alameda Chamber of Commerce membership and hosted a chamber membership mixer. Membership chairperson Gayle Thomas put together a great team of women owned businesses to support the League's event and introduced chamber members to the League and the organization's mission of education and advocacy.

Over 80 League members, Chamber members, and patrons of the spa attended to learn about the League and enjoy the appetizers provided by Grand Catering and the no-host wine bar courtesy of R & B Cellars. The event also provided League members to socialize and recruit potential new members.



The official ribbon cutting ceremony was provided by the Alameda Chamber of Commerce as part of its business recognition program and featured Mayor Marie Gilmore.



Mayor Marie Gilmore cuts the ribbon commemorating the two year anniversary of Total Woman Fitness, who co-hosted the LWV Alameda mixer.

## [NEWS FROM OTHER LEAGUES](#)



League of Women Voters  
of the Bay Area

[www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org)



**VOTER**

December 2013

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## Bay Area League Day to Explore Open Space on February 1

### Register Now!

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area invites you to attend its annual Bay Area League Day forum, this year entitled

### A New Vision for Bay Area Open Space.

Topics will include the extent of lands now permanently protected and areas still at risk; the economic value of open lands in terms of agriculture, tourism, and public health; the role of natural areas in offsetting sea level rise; and the importance of linkages between open spaces.

The event will be on Saturday, February 1 in Oakland's MetroCenter Auditorium at 101 Eighth Street. Registration and breakfast begin at 9:30 a.m. with the forum to follow from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 prepaid (\$20 without lunch) or \$40 at the door (\$25 without lunch).

**Online registration** may be completed by visiting the calendar section of [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org).

To **register by mail**, please write a check to the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area and send it to 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.

For more details, call (510) 839-1608.



Not a member of the League of Women Voters of Alameda?  
Click [here](#) to download a membership form.

The League relies on membership dues and donations to



The League offers 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 by clicking [here](#).

**League of Women Voters of Alameda  
Board of Directors 2013 – 2014**

Co-Presidents	Administrative VP	Program VP
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Earleen Hamlin	Ted Fry	Karen
Butter	Voter Services Chair.	Membership Chair.
Communications Chair.		
Dorothy Fullerton	Gayle Thomas	Jeff Cambra
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Marian Breitbart	Jessi Bushey	Juelle-Ann Boyer
Shubha Fanse	Donna Vaughn	Mike Williams
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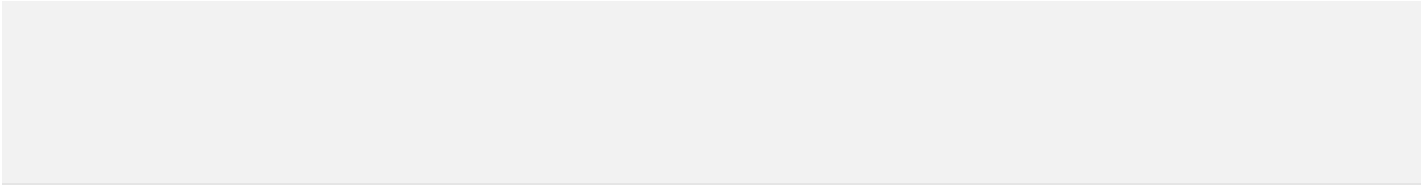
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