

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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The VOTER newsletter is published nine times a year. Current and past VOTER issues are posted on our web site.

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

--LWV Mission Statement



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VOTER

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation

State of the Alameda League, July 2013

Our League, the League of Women Voters of Alameda, is strong in membership. Since January 2012 our League has grown from 92 members to over 120. Thanks to our able Membership Chair, Gayle Thomas, we have added many new members who are interested in being active and engaged: they have attached themselves to committees, volunteered for Board work, and shown up at programs and social events. We now have an updated membership information brochure. (Mentioning the benefits of membership and encouraging everyone to join us at each event throughout the year helped, too.)

Our League has been strong in Voter Service. Thanks to Anne Spanier, Marilyn Ezy-Ashcraft, and others for doing a tremendous job with youth voter registration. In the past school year—especially before the fall 2012 Presidential election—hundreds of youth registered during our visits to Alameda high school classrooms. We also distributed hundreds of the Easy Voter Guides and made sure the voter registration form boxes at public places were well stocked throughout the election season.

We held candidate forums for five levels of government and many pros and cons sessions for large public groups and smaller organizations during 2012. We recorded and posted videos of our public forums on the web. Thanks to Dorothy Fullerton and Jeff Cambra for their hard work on organizing these, and for all those who were moderators, pros and cons presenters, question sorters, pages, and co-sponsors: about a third of our members participated in delivering voter service information to the public during the 2012 campaign cycle.

We updated the LWVA's "Know Your Representatives" tri-fold brochure that lists our elected and appointed representatives, from the President of the US to our local officials and major boards. We have begun to distribute these to the public.

Our League has participated effectively in SmartVoter®, the League's premier web site for voter information. Thanks to Juelle-Anne Boyer and her able assistants for contacting candidates and coordinating the posting of their information on the SmartVoter site.

Our League has presented eight well-attended public programs on subjects ranging from "Obamacare" to the state of the public schools and the City of Alameda. Thanks to Ruth Dixon-Mueller for organizing these events, and to Jon Spangler and Jeff Cambra for publicizing them.

We had a very successful study and consensus session for the LWVC study on California's Initiative and Referendum (I & R) process. We started with a presentation by UC Hastings Law Professor Michael Salerno. Over eighty League members came—we had a full house representing all seven of the invited Alameda Leagues! The study committee, under Felice Zensius' able leadership, completed its work and organized a

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(> *cont'd. from prior page*) well-attended all-day consensus session. The Board ratified the results and submitted them to the LWVC before the deadline.

Our League took action on a variety of local, statewide, and national issues. We responded to over 20 Calls to Action on national issues such as the Voting Rights Act, fracking, and campaign finance reform. We acted on statewide issues such as the health of the Delta, public education funding, and the budget. Thanks to Karen Butter and Joe Van Winkle for initiating meetings on citywide campaign finance reform (with Mayor Gilmore, Council Member Tam, and City Attorney Janet Kern), and for submitting a proposal to our local school district to improve its level of “sunshine.” The AUSD is considering our proposal,

Our League sent three delegates to the LWVC’s statewide convention this year. Several members also came to San Jose to participate in workshops, caucuses, and to hear speakers on “subjects of interest”: we had it covered. Our participation in conventions gives us credibility among other Leagues and helps us to engage in state-level League actions.

Our finances are in good shape: we are one of the few Leagues in California with a reserve for contingencies. We have worked hard to budget accurately and spend wisely. Thanks to our able Treasurer, Ted Frey and the Budget Committee (Marian Breitbart, Li Volin, and Juelle Ann Boyer), we have great oversight of our budgeting and expenditure processes.

Our fundraisers, especially Meet Your Public Officials, were successful and well attended. We raised money through several the Friday Night Flights and Mojito Mondays at Angela’s Bistro. (*Angela’s has a new name: Cellar Door. ed.*) Very special thanks to Alice Fried for organizing MYPO, and to her able committee for all their hard work planning and executing our big event. (In recognition of her outstanding service, I prepared a special gift and letter of appreciation and gave it to her at the Board Retreat.)

Our League members have found great ways to bond socially as well as around our work. The First Friday Social Dinners have grown in attendance and are a great way to build interpersonal relationships. Thanks to Connie Hanna for organizing these!

The bottom line for LWV Alameda this past year is this: due to a lot of people doing a lot of hard work, we are a strong League and we are getting stronger. Alice Fried remarked at the end of the MYPO, “it takes a village.” Our League village is strong, proud, and effective!

--Kate Quick, LWVA Co-president

LWVA Treasurer’s Annual Fiscal Report—July 1, 2013

June Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| June Receipts: | \$1,400.00 |
| June Expenditures: | \$1,640.00 |
| NET REDUCTION IN ASSETS: | <u>\$240.00</u> |

June Bank Account Cash Flow

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Beginning Cash per 6/28 Bank Statement: | \$16,971.31 |
| Deposit 6/30/2013 | \$180.00 |
| Outstanding Check #112: | \$59.40 |
| Cash Balance per Books 7/1/2013: | <u>\$17,091.91</u> |

Year-End Balance Sheet July 1, 2013

ASSETS

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cash Balance per Books | \$17,091.91 |
| CD | \$10,000.00 |
| Ed Fund | \$135.12 |
| Subtotal Assets | <u>\$27,227.03</u> |

LIABILITIES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| PMP Payments due coming Fiscal Year | \$5,783.00 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|

NET ASSETS **\$21,444.03**

ANNUAL INCOME FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| RECEIPTS: | <u>\$15,806.60</u> |
| EXPENDITURES: | |
| CASH: | \$10,475.33 |
| ED FUND | \$1,783.17 |
| TOTAL | <u>\$12,258.50</u> |

FY 2012-2013

NET OPERATING INCOME **\$3,548.10**

--Ted Frey, Treasurer

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Summer 2013 President's Message

"April Showers bring May flowers," but in League, May also brings convention. Every two years we have a national convention and in alternate years the State League (LWVC) gathers. This year's state convention was at the Dolce Hayes Mansion in San Jose. Felice Zensius, Dorothy Fullerton, and I attended as the LWV of Alameda's voting delegates. Marilyn Ng, Joe Van Winkle, and Jon Spangler came to attend workshops and caucuses, listen, learn, and do some serious networking.

Dorothy, Felice, and I covered as many separate workshops and caucuses as we could. Because LWVA has identified priorities for education and advocacy for next year, we sometimes attended sessions together to soak up information on money in politics, transparency, and education: there is so much to learn! What we heard and the resource materials we gathered will help our League with next year's program and in discussing our options for education and advocacy.

I really like the new LWVC Board and officers elected by the assembled delegates. Jenny Waggoner will continue as president of LWVC and Helen Hutchinson as VP for Program. Kathy Souza (Sacramento) will be the new VP for the Education Fund (LWVCEF). Ellen Wheeler (Mountain View) will move from Social Policy Director to the become Secretary. Eleanor Gonzalez (San Francisco) will be the new Treasurer. New to the Board of Directors are Patrick Atwater, Sarah Diefendorf (Natural Resources), Mony Flores Bauer (Voter Services), Fatima Malik (Communications), Beth Pitton-August (Membership), and Kay Ragan (Social Policy).

The LWVA built on the state convention at our Annual Meeting June 22 at the Gold Coast Grill. We elected our new officers and directors at our "mini-convention," adopted our program and budget for 2013-2014, and recognized those who have served our League well in the past year. At our annual Board retreat July 27 we set our programs and priorities for 2013-14.

We have a lot to celebrate at the annual meeting. Our membership has grown well due to Gayle Thomas' hard work, assisted by Anne Spanier. We have had record public attendance at our 2012-13 programs and received great feedback on them. We have shown that we can make money and have a lot of fun while fundraising: thanks to Alice Fried and her able assistants, our MYPO (Meet Your Public Officials) event was a big success!

Unfortunately, I went to the emergency room after dropping off my carpool passengers on May 19 with a nasty bit of cellulitis in my left shin and ankle. I want to sincerely thank all those who let me know they were thinking about me and sending me healing thoughts. I was touched by your concern and friendship. I am now "done" with this episode of ill health and ready to tackle our new League year.

--Kate Quick, 2013 LWVA President

Notes on the League of Women Voters State Convention

As a first time attendee to a League of Women Voters State convention, I was immediately drawn to the excitement of this large group of mostly women talking about policy and program for 2013-2015. We had workshops starting at 7:30 am, plenary sessions that lasted most of the day, and caucuses from 8:30– 10:30 pm. Of course, as a delegate I didn't want to miss anything: it was exhilarating and exhausting but I was very happy to be there.

Here is a summation of the final program as voted on by the body and the statewide conclusions on the Initiative and Referendum Study.

The convention voted to emphasize two issues regarding **Education and Advocacy** in 2013-2015, specifically:

1. **Money in Politics:** Continue the current focus on action in the California legislature.
2. **Education:** Education financing, from early childhood through high school; maintaining the educational content and quality of all early childhood programs.

The LWVC will provide opportunities for local Leagues to participate in both advocacy and community education projects in both areas.

The convention also adopted two issues as a second tier of focus: **Health Care and Water**. These will be acted on as opportunities arise, insofar as they do not interfere with action on higher priority issues and it appears that the LWVC can make an impact. (>continued next page >)

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(> Notes on the LWV Convention, continued from prior page >)

Health Care: Community education about the Affordable Care Act and continued education and advocacy on a single-payer option for California.

Water: Community education and advocacy in preparation for the expected water bond measure on the 2014 ballot.

The LWVUS also has **Money in Politics** as a legislative priority along with the many facets of **Election Reform**. We will continue to work on election reform in California as opportunities present themselves.

Then Came the Exciting Stuff...

To make the convention even more exciting, a motion was made on the floor to do a state study on higher education, specifically, the University of California and California State University systems. After much debate, with both sides coming up to the microphone, the motion failed by one vote out of 164 votes cast. A recount was requested and was in order, so a second ballot was cast: this time the measure passed by one vote. It was a stunning victory for the folks who fought for the study. Now the State League (LWVC) will have to implement this new study, probably at a cost of less staff time for the second-tier issues above. (More on this in your next VOTER.)

One other contentious issue was a Resolution “to oppose the use of internet voting in all California elections.” Although there was some sympathy for the idea, in the end the motion did not comply with LWVC’s rules: it was not short-term and it related to all future votes. Therefore, the motion failed.

Finally, we voted on the Initiative and Reform Study on which our League and many others across the State spent so much time. All of our many recommendations were adopted. I urge those who are interested to go to:

<http://ca.lwv.org/position/initiative-and-referendum>.

Overall, I learned a lot and want to thank our League for sending me to the convention as a delegate. I also want to thank Kate Quick and Dorothy Fullerton for their expertise and assistance in all matters.

--Felice Zensius, Co-president and former Chair of the I & R Committee

Notes from the South Bay

Put 175 smart, informed, opinionated, and outspoken women—and some men—together in one room for three days and what do you get? The LWVC Convention 2013.

My adventure began with a workshop and dinner explaining the new and improved Smart Voter® web site. It's been more than a year in development and will be coming online in the next months.

I attended a workshop on how to produce a video for Pros and Cons. I'd like to look at pooling efforts with other Leagues for elections in 2014. I went to a caucus on early education—birth to third grade—and another on the need to update a 2003 study on community colleges. Both are important and potentially time-consuming projects. It is exciting to hear about the work that Leagues all over the state are doing.

One of the highlights of the convention was the variety and excellence of the main speakers. We heard from Meghann Farnsworth of The Center for Investigative Reporting. (I now have their app on my smart phone). It was wonderful to hear about a group that still practices old-fashioned journalism. One of their recent accomplishments was a yearlong investigation of the VA claims story. Their stories are published as open source and are picked up by regional newspapers and media sources and expanded on for the local community.

Kim Klein, who was the speaker Friday night, was billed as an expert on fundraising. But the message that I heard from her was that, as a community, our values are expressed by what we choose to spend money on: we can say education is important, but if we are not funding it appropriately, it actually isn't.

We also heard from the chair of the state Fair Political Practices Commission—whose message was almost as depressing as you can imagine—and from the executive director of the California Budget Project—who offered some news that was good but most was bad.

It was an amazing three days – I feel that I should be awarded college credit for all of the information that I absorbed. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to go.

--Dorothy Fullerton, Voter Service Chair

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LWVA Delegates Worked Hard in San Jose



The May State League Convention at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose was not always serious and challenging work. Above, left to right: LWVA voting delegates Kate Quick, Felice Zensius, and Dorothy Fullerton relax during happy hour after a hard day of deliberations on Saturday, May 19, with non-voting attendee Jon Spangler (second from left).

Over 100 more photos from the 2013 state LWV convention are available here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lwvc/sets/72157633790434997/>.

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Notes from a First-Timer: the LWVC State Convention

I fell in love with hundreds of women—and a few men, too—at the statewide convention of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of California in San Jose May 17-19.

Although I had never attended a state or national LWV convention during my decade or so of membership in the League of Women Voters and the LWVA, the statewide convention so close by in San Jose was too strong to resist. Besides, I wanted to meet in person some of the League members I had emailed and spoken to on the phone while publicizing our events and editing the VOTER.

For the two days I attended (Friday and Saturday), I found myself surrounded by smart, capable, dedicated, and articulate women from all over California—and a few men, too—just as I am here in Alameda as a member of the LWVA. The women attending the convention ranged in age from their 20s to their 80s: and some have been consistently active in issues like voting rights, government accountability, gun violence, education, and the environment for many decades. (Again, just like my local League.)

You can see over 100 photos from the 2013 state LWV convention on the LWVC's convention Facebook page here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lwvc/sets/72157633790434997/>.

Attending workshops on LWV web sites, social media platforms, gun violence, and how to comment on CEQA reports was eye opening and informative. I also spent lots of time talking with LWVC staffers and volunteers away from the convention floor. Listening to the convention delegates' deliberations and keynote speeches was enlightening and the conversations I engaged in were uniformly stimulating, educational, and enjoyable.

I also enjoyed long and wide-ranging conversations while carpooling with Felice Zensius to San Jose and, later on, with Joe Van Winkle during dinner and our longish drive back to Alameda. (When the conversations are as engaging as these were, being stuck in traffic can almost be fun—at least for the passenger.)

The LWVA's ability to learn, implement, and enjoy new "best practices" offered by the LWVC is limited only by how energetically we join the efforts to launch a new Facebook page, improve the newsletter and web site, and more.

As I commented on the LWVC's convention Facebook page from the convention floor on May 18:

"Linda Hudson and I are 10-year family members of the League of Women Voters of Alameda, and I am attending my first statewide LWVC Convention this weekend. I strongly believe in the League's priorities—working effectively for voting rights, voter education, open and accountable government, etc.

I often tell people that I have had more fun 'stirring up trouble' as a League member than I ever have in any other advocacy group during my 40 years of work to make this world a better place to live.

As a man, being surrounded by so many strong, powerful, capable, and intelligent Leaguers here at convention—women and men—has been a terrific addition to my appreciation for the LWV of California. THANK YOU!"

--Jon Spangler, LWVA VOTER Editor pro tem

***Will Sea Level Rise 'Sink' Redevelopment at Alameda Point?
Find Out at Mastick Senior Center, September 26, 7 - 9 PM***

Join Us for Our First Friday Social Dinners!

***Help Host Our Chamber Mixer at Total Woman Gym + Spa at
South Shore Center on Wednesday, October 9, 5:30 – 7 PM***

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Initiative and Referendum Position Update: What Does it Mean?

The LWVC update study of the initiative and referendum process has been completed, and an updated position adopted. What do the changes to the position mean?

Drafting/Pre-circulation Review

In the past, the LWVC could advocate for a mandatory pre-circulation review of initiative language. We added to this a statement that the results of any such review should be made public. In addition, the League position now explicitly says that any initiative that would require funding should specify the source or method of providing the funding.

Title and Summary

Using the updated position, the LWVC can advocate for having the title and summary written by an impartial and nonpartisan official.

Signature Gathering

The updated position allows the League to advocate for internet and/or other electronic technology to be used for signature gathering as long as appropriate security safeguards are in place.

Qualification and Election

The updated LWVC position says that the standard to qualify an initiative constitutional amendment for the ballot should be higher than for an initiative statute. This is currently the case because constitutional amendments require a higher number of signatures than statutes. The League can advocate for keeping this requirement, or other possible changes that would make it more difficult to qualify a constitutional amendment than a statute.

In addition, the position says that the standard to actually pass an initiative constitutional amendment should be higher than a simple majority vote. This could include any of a number of options, including a higher vote threshold or passing at more than one election.

Post-Election

Using the updated position, the League can now advocate allowing the legislature to have some limited ability to amend initiatives. This could include fixing drafting errors without having to go back to the voters.

Principles

The Principles is a new section added to the position, listing principles to be used in evaluating proposed changes to the initiative and referendum process. These principles can be used for any proposed changes, including those for which there is no explicit statement in the position.

--from Helen Hutchison and the LWVC

Book Club Meets Monthly at South Shore Applebee's

On Monday, September 23, at 3:00 pm, the LWVA Book Club will meet at the South Shore Center Applebee's to discuss "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," by Nicolas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. This is a passionate call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation—the oppression of women and girls in the developing world. Applebee's restaurant is at 2263 South Shore Center in Alameda.

On Monday, October 28, we will discuss "My Beloved World," by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayer. Beginning at Applebee's (2263 South Shore Center) at 3:00 pm, we will talk about the first Hispanic woman appointed to the Supreme Court and her journey as a child with juvenile diabetes from the Bronx housing projects to the federal bench.

On August 26 we discussed "The Shock Doctrine," by Naomi Klein, which describes the rise of "disaster capitalism" over the last four decades. (Conservative proponents of privatizing public resources like libraries and schools often create chaotic conditions that underfund and erode these traditionally public assets in order to promote their transfer to the private sector.) The League's recent study on privatization informed our consideration of this book.

November's book review will move to 3:00 pm on Monday, December 2, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Our book selection is another NY Times bestseller, "Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth," by Reza Aslan. This meticulously researched biography challenges long-held assumptions about the man we know as Jesus of Nazareth.

Please call Anne Spanier (522-3426) if you would like to join us.

--Anne Spanier

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Upcoming LWVA Programs for Fall 2013

Here is a list of our upcoming Fall 2013 League programs and events. Please save the dates and invite your friends and neighbors. For the latest info on LWVA public forums and programs, please visit:

http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/Public_Events.html. (Note the new forum topic for September and the date change for November's public forum.)

Friday, September 6 First Friday Social Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 pm

All LWVA members, families, and guests are welcome.

Location: 1400 Bar & Grill, 1400 Webster Street (@ Central Avenue).

Thursday, September 19 LWVA Board meeting 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Location: Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor). *All members are welcome.*

Monday, September 23 LWVA Book Club 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Meet and discuss "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide," by Nicolas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

Location and Time: Applebee's @ 2263 South Shore Center.

Thursday, September 26 Public Forum on Alameda Point 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Public Forum on Alameda Point Plans in Light of Sea Level Rise

(How will the latest plans for Alameda Point—including the EIR and Master Infrastructure Plan—be affected by rising sea levels and the increasing pace of climate change?)

Location and Time: Mastick Senior Center Social Hall, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue.

Presenters: Eric Fonstein or Jennifer Ott from the City of Alameda, plus Randy Rentschler from MTC.

More Info: www.Alamedaca.gov/Alameda-Point

Organizer: Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Program Chair

Friday, October 4 First Friday Social Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 pm

All LWVA members, families, and guests are welcome.

Location: High Street Station Café, 1303 High Street (@ Encinal Avenue).

Wednesday October 9 Co-host Chamber Mixer 5:30 – 7:00 pm

LWVA is Co-hosting the October Chamber of Commerce Mixer with Total Woman Gym + Spa.

Please come and help us host this event.

Location: Total Woman Gym + Spa (510-521-1149), 2247 South Shore Center (near Walgreen's).

More Info: www.alamedachamber.com/, www.totalwomanspa.com/

Organizer: Gayle Thomas, Membership Chair

Thursday, October 17 LWVA Board meeting 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Location: Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor). *All members are welcome.*

Thursday, Oct. 24 Public Forum: Campaign Finance 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Public Forum on Campaign Finance Reform in California

(Review of Senate bills and their implications for state and local campaigns)

Location: Harbor Bay Landing Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Road (in Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center).

Presenters: TBA

Organizers: Karen Butter and Joe VanWinkle, LWVA Action Committee

Monday, October 28 LWVA Book Club 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Meet and discuss "My Beloved World," by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayer.

Location and Time: Applebee's @ 2263 South Shore Center, 3:00 – 4:30 pm.

Friday, November 1 First Friday Social Dinner 6:00 – 8:00 pm

All LWVA members, families, and guests are welcome.

Location and Time: La Penca Azúl – Bay Farm, 891-B Island Drive, Alameda.

Wednesday, November 20 California Health Insurance Exchange 7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Health Insurance Marketplace Comes to Alameda

(>continued next page >)

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(>Upcoming LWVA Fall Programs—continued from previous page >)

Location: Alameda Hospital—Dal Cielo Conf. Room (second floor), 2070 Clinton Avenue (@ Willow).

Health Insurance Exchange Forum Presenters: TBA

Organizer: Shubha Fanse, LWVA Health Care Committee Chair.

Thursday, November 21 LWVA Board meeting 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Location: Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor). *All members are welcome.*

Monday, December 2 LWVA Book Club 3:00 – 4:30 pm

Meet and discuss “Zealot: the Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth,” by Reza Aslan.

Location: Applebee’s @ 2263 South Shore Center.

Sunday, December 8 LWVA Holiday Party 5:00 – 8:00 pm

All members and guests are welcome. Please bring something to share.

Location and Time: Li Volin’s home, 1506 Eastshore Drive, Alameda.

NOTE: There will be no First Friday Social Dinner, LWVA Board meeting, or Public Forum in December.

--Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Program Chair

September First Friday Social Dinner at 1400 Bar & Grill: High Street Station Café, La Penca Azúl Up Next

On Friday, September 6, LWVA’s First Friday Social Dinners resume at the **1400 Bar & Grill** in the historic Croll Building at the corner of Webster Street and Central Avenue. Drinks and dinner festivities last from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

1400 Bar and Grill offers moderately priced American cuisine, a casual atmosphere, and a full bar at 1400 Webster Street in west Alameda (510-263-9651; <http://www.1400barandgrill.com>; <https://www.facebook.com/pages/1400-Bar-Grill/>). *Please RSVP to Connie Slattery-Hanna (510-995-8672; connie.hanna@comcast.net) by Thursday, September 5, with how many people you are bringing to give the restaurant an updated count.*

Google Map Link to **1400 Bar & Grill**:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=1400+Bar+%26+Grill,+Webster+Street,+Alameda,+CA&hl=en&ll=37.773717,-122.276695&spn=0.00904,0.014141&sll=37.269174,-119.306607&sspn=9.315002,14.47998&oq=1400+Bar+and+Grill&t=m&z=16&iwloc=A>

On October 4, the **High Street Station Café** at 1303 High Street will once again host the First Friday Social Dinner. High Street Station Café (510-995-8049; <http://www.highstreetstationcafe.com/index.html>) is at the corner of High Street and Encinal Avenue. Gather to socialize and dine from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. *Please RSVP to Connie by Thursday, October 3, with how many people you are bringing.)*

Google Map Link to **High Street Station Café**:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=1303+High+Street,+Alameda,+CA&hl=en&ll=37.756992,-122.234166&spn=0.009042,0.014141&sll=37.269174,-119.306607&sspn=9.315002,14.47998&oq=1303+&t=m&z=16&iwloc=A>

On November 1, **La Penca Azúl – Bay Farm** hosts the First Friday Social Dinner. This Mexican restaurant is near LaVal’s Pizza in the Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center at 891-B Island Drive on Bay Farm Island (510-814-0560; <http://www.lapencaazul.com/>). *Please RSVP to Connie by Thursday, October 31.)*

Google Maps Link for **La Penca Azúl – Bay Farm**:

https://maps.google.com/maps?q=food&hl=en&ll=37.740042,-122.240603&spn=0.009044,0.014141&sll=37.737558,-122.240368&sspn=0.009045,0.014141&near=891+Island+Dr,+Alameda,+CA+94502&geocode=CZaFWCf_Dd1sFVbUPwIdkMK2-CI1Sim2PYSPgDH0roHfb5usiA&hq=food&t=m&z=16&iwloc=C

These dinners usually draw a dozen or more League members and their families, and move to a different Alameda restaurant every month. Reservations are made far in advance: if you like an Alameda restaurant, please contact Connie Slattery-Hanna (510-995-8672; connie.hanna@comcast.net) with your recommendations.

--Connie Slattery-Hanna

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Smart Voter Challenge Grant Tops \$50,000 Goal by June 30 Deadline

Ernie Ting, Senior Director of the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) Smart Voter®, said that the Smart Voter \$25,000 “Next Generation” Challenge Grant campaign raised more than its \$50,000 goal by the June 30 deadline.

The new interactive, more robust, and more accessible “Web 2.0” open-source web platform will support features to help expand the League’s impact. Much more information will be at voters’ fingertips, easily accessible from a smart phone, tablet, or a desktop computer. Local Leagues will be able to partner extensively with other civic groups and news media outlets and share information, tools, and content on other organizations’ websites, mobile apps, and via social media.

Ting said, “We reached the \$50,000 Next Generation challenge goal on the last day of the campaign, June 30. It appears that we slightly exceeded the target, with over \$25,000 in contributions matched by matching funds. We're very thankful to everyone who responded to the campaign, provided matching funds, and promoted the challenge.”

As detailed on p. 7 of the March-April VOTER (http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/files/LWVA_VOTER_2_013_MAR-APR_4-3-13.pdf), the new Smart Voter site will offer more information and resources to California voters in 2014, enabling users to view streaming videos, audio clips, interactive graphics, and news stories about voting and registration, contests and campaigns, ballot measures, and statewide issues.

--Jon Spangler, from Smart Voter sources

Elected Officials Keep Monthly Satellite Office Hours at Alameda Main Library for Local Residents

Staffers from Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Assembly member Rob Bonta are now holding satellite office hours at the Alameda Free Library’s Main Branch every month.

Staff members from the Congresswoman Lee’s local staff are available to meet with community members on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in the Administrative Conference Room on the second floor of the Alameda Main Library.

Staff members from Assembly Member Bonta's office are available to meet with the public from 1:00 – 3:00 pm on every fourth Thursday, also in the Administrative Conference Room. The Alameda Main Library is at 1550 Oak Street (at Lincoln Avenue) in Alameda.

--Karen Butter, Action Chair

‘Plan Bay Area’ Approved by MTC, ABAG on July 18

At the end of a marathon joint meeting that began on July 18, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) approved Plan Bay Area, an integrated transportation and land-use strategy through 2040. This marks the nine-county region’s first regional plan that consolidates policies for transportation, housing and open space into one document. The plan also meets the target of a 15% per capita reduction in Bay Area greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as required under SB375.

The LWV of the Bay Area (LWVBA) has supported comprehensive regional planning like this for decades. The plan focuses future growth within priority development areas (PDAs)—neighborhoods within walking distance of frequent transit service. PDAs are expected to accommodate 79% of new housing and 63% of new jobs by 2040. The LWVBA supported providing incentives for affordable housing and funding for transit, as well as final amendments requiring a stronger emphasis on providing local transit service. Final amendments also linked local grant funding to the provision of affordable housing along with anti-displacement measures. Grant funding is included for open space protection.

This round of planning, which began three years ago, included varied opportunities for public participation. It was also marked by vocal opposition by Tea Party members and others who showed up *en masse* at hearings. (You can read the discussion of public participation in the latest Bay Area Monitor at <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>.)

Letters of support for Plan Bay Area from the LWVBA and from eight of the twenty local Leagues in the Bay Area may be viewed at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org/advocacy.html>.

--Linda Craig, LWVBA

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Anne Diament Dies: First Woman Mayor, LWVA Member

Anne Ruth Birtwhistle Diament, who served as Alameda's first female mayor from 1983-1987, died June 20, 2013, in Carmichael, California, at the age of 94. She was also an active member of the League of Women Voters (LWVA).

Diament was very involved in local service organizations and politics. She served in leadership roles in the PTA, Red Cross, Girl Scouts, Alameda Women's Town Hall, and others in addition to the LWVA. She was a charter member of the Alameda Meals On Wheels program and served on the Alameda Boy Scout Council, the Alameda Senior Council, and the Alameda Welfare Council. After chairing the Alameda Housing Authority, Diament was appointed to the City Council in the 1970s. She was later elected to the Council, serving as Vice Major, before winning the Alameda mayor's race in 1983.

Diament was born in 1919 in Englewood, NJ, where she attended high school. She was married to Richard Stanton Diament, also of Englewood, on April 5, 1941. After being separated "for the duration" of World War II, Anne and Richard built a home in Closter, NJ. In 1947 their son James Edward was born, followed by a daughter, Dorothy Ellen in 1950. Anne and Richard adopted their niece, Mary Anne Harkness, in 1957.

Anne and Richard relocated their family to California in 1952 and settled in Alameda in 1953. They lived in their Victorian home on St. Charles Street for the next 51 years.

Her daughter, Dorothy Meyer, of Citrus Heights, CA, and her son, James Diament, of Dayton, NV, survive her. Anne had five siblings (Tom, Dorothy, Charles, Richard, and Jack) and is survived by Jack, who resides in Stockton. Survivors also include seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Anne Diament's obituary appeared in the Alameda Sun on July 5, 2013:

<http://alamedasun.com/local-and-hometown/12073-local-deaths-mayor-diament-passes>

--adapted from the Alameda Sun

Changes Coming Soon to LWVA: Facebook Page, Newsletter, Emails

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) will improve its ability to communicate electronically over the next few months, implementing board decisions made during the past year.

The LWVA will launch a Facebook page, begin delivering the VOTER newsletter electronically, evaluate and select new digital communications system(s) and vendors to deliver emails, and offer electronic dues payments between now and the beginning of 2014. These changes will offer LWVA members, friends, and the public better information, improve communication between members, communicate better with the community, and increase the League's visibility.

First, LWVA will establish an organizational Facebook page on which members can post and share photos, news, meeting announcements, and opportunities for civic engagement with each other and the community. Members Jessi Bushey (510-329-2551; jebu30@hotmail.com) and Jon Spangler (510-864-2144; socialmedia@alamedaca.lwvnet.org) are heading up the Facebook launch. Several LWVA board members will administer and monitor the Facebook site. If you would like to help launch or administer the page, please contact Jessi or Jon.

Beginning in January 2014, the VOTER will be delivered electronically (via PDF and hyperlink) to most recipients. The electronic version of the VOTER will reach its readers faster, reduce the LWVA's delivery costs, and save trees and energy, too. (*Readers who want to read a paper copy can print out their digital copy or may pay a slight surcharge—possibly around \$10 per year—to receive one via First Class or “snail” mail. The board has not set the amount yet. ed.*)

Members will soon be able to pay their 2014 dues and donate to LWVA via PayPal® or one of several other safe, reliable, and secure electronic payment methods now being considered by the board. (*You will still be able to send a check. ed.*)

The LWVA board is looking at using an email management system such as Constant Contact®, Mail Chimp®, or Vertical Response, Inc., to improve its emails and digital communications. (Most of us have received emails from companies like these that make responding to emails faster and easier.) The League's Easy Web platform now offers us more options, too. You can read about them here: <http://help.lwvnet.org/index.html> and look for more features in the coming months at the LWVA site: <http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/index.html>.

Thanks to Social Media Task Force members Donna Vaughn, Kate Quick, Shubha Fanse, Gayle Thomas, and Jessi Bushey, who attended a meeting August 26 to move these initiatives forward.

--Jon Spangler

The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Join or Renew Your Membership in the Alameda League Today!



Name _____

Other Names _____

(if a family membership)

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

\$70 Single Membership \$97 Family Membership \$25 Student Membership. (Dues year is Jan. 1 – Dec. 31.)
Dues assistance is available for those on limited incomes – Contact us at 869-4969. Make checks payable to
LWV Alameda and mail to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, PO Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501

All Donations are Tax Deductible

Donations to the League of Women Voters of Alameda, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, are tax deductible.
Consider sending a check for \$5 or more made out to LWV Alameda with your renewal, or at any time to:
League of Women Voters of Alameda, PO Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501

Turn Cans into Cash for the LWVA

Lynn and Jim Groh collect aluminum cans, sell them, and give the proceeds to the LWVA. Drop your aluminum cans on their front porch at 1546 Eastshore Drive, Alameda, and help the League educate voters.

SAVE THE DATES

- 9/06 – First Friday Social – 6:00 - 8:00 pm
@ 1400 Bar & Grill, 1400 Webster Street.
- 9/19 – LWVA Board meeting – 7:30 - 9:30 pm
@ Alameda Hospital, Conf Room C.
- 9/23 – Book Club – 3:00-4:30 pm
@ Applebee's, 2263 South Shore Center.
- 9/26 – Public Forum: Alameda Point – 7 - 9 pm
@ Alameda Hospital-Dal Cielo Conf. Rm.
w/ City of Alameda and MTC staff.
- 10/4 – First Friday Social – 6:00 - 8:00 pm
@ High Street Station Café,
1303 High Street (@ Encinal Avenue).
- 10/17 – LWVA Board meeting – 7:30 - 9:30 pm
@ Alameda Hospital, Conf Room C.
- 10/24 – Public Forum: Campaign \$\$\$ – 7 - 9 pm
@ Harbor Bay Community Center,
3195 Mecartney Road (Bay Farm Island).
- 10/28 – Book Club – 3:00 - 4:30 pm
@ Applebee's, 2263 South Shore Center.
- 11/01 – First Friday Social – 6:00 - 8:00 pm
@ La Penca Azúl - Bay Farm Island.
- 11/20 – Public Forum: Health Care – 7 - 9 pm
@ Alameda Hospital, Dal Cielo Conf. Rm.
2070 Clinton Avenue (@ Willow).
- 11/21 – LWVA Board meeting – 7:30 - 9:30 pm
@ Alameda Hospital, Conf. Room C.
- 12/08 – LWVA Holiday Party – 5:00 - 8:00 pm
@ Li Volin's home. (Guests welcome.)

The League of Women Voters
Of Alameda
P. O. Box 1645
Alameda, CA 94501

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