

**The League of
Women Voters of
Alameda**

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The VOTER is published 8 times per year. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website

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The League of Women Voters; a non-partisan political organization – encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



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VOTER

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation

UNITED NATIONS DAY

On Oct. 24th, the United Nations will celebrate its 64th birthday. On that day in 1945, the United Nations was formally established after the treaty creating this organization was ratified by a majority of its fifty founding members. In recognition of this event, we are presenting an evening program beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22nd, at the Alameda Free Library. We are pleased to have as our speaker Norman Bowen of the California State University East Bay. As Professor of Political Science and Director of the International Studies Program, he teaches courses on international relations and globalization, including Model United Nations. His primary research interest is the history of the United Nations.

Prof. Bowen will speak on "The United Nations: It's More Than You Think, But Less Than You'd Like". Here is his description of the presentation: "Mention the United Nations and people immediately think about dramatic debates in the Security Council, flamboyant speeches at the General Assembly, and pictures of blue-helmeted U.N. peacekeepers. These activities are important, but they are just a small part of what the U.N. does. Most of the work of the U.N. and its affiliated agencies rarely makes the news. Yet in the fields of education, health, economic development, food security, human rights, and the environment, the U.N. touches the lives of millions of people every day. This program will review the original promise of the United Nations, highlight the U.N.'s most important programs, point to some of the shortcomings, and identify ways that organizations and individuals can get involved in the work of the U.N."

The United Nations has grown enormously into a complex structure since its inception. It provides much needed but unheralded economic, health, and educational assistance to numerous countries throughout the world. The public is welcome to join us in reacquainting ourselves with the various roles and missions of this respected international organization.



**Program Meeting – October 22nd
7-9pm – Alameda Main Library**

(see article above)



CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Anne Spanier and Kate Quick
Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of
Alameda

New Beginnings for Fall League

New and returning officers for your League are planning some new and exciting events for the coming months. This is an important year for public policy and the League is busy trying to keep its membership and the community aware of those happenings.

One of the major goals of the League of Women Voters, at the local, state and national levels is to highlight our activities and educate the public not only on the work we do on behalf of Democracy but on the lives and histories of our members. In honor of Women's Equality Day held each year in August the LWVA along with the Alameda Free Library and AAUW presented a movie "Iron Jawed Angels." The made for HBO movie told the story of the suffragette movement from the period of 1912 to 1919 when the 19th amendment was finally achieved. The packed Stafford room audience was positively impacted by the real life events of the characters and the fact that their actions led to the birth of the National League of Women Voters. Because of the enthusiastic responses more activities of this sort will be on our calendar for the coming year.

Membership activities will be important this year. With six members of the newly formed committee we are moving forward on the goals of membership retention. Wonderful people join us each month. Now the job for our League is to find strategies for engaging them in the life of the League. The first meeting will be held on September 23rd. The first report will be presented to the board meeting in October. Anyone still interested in participating with this committee should contact me.

A great deal of energy is being directed toward health care reform by our health care committee. The Alameda Journal and the Mercury News carried a **My Word** Column dispelling some of the myths being spread about "end of life care." The last two issues of the Voter carried informative articles on the topic written by League members. The health care committee has produced a "fact sheet" on the statistics associated with costs, coverage and the demographics of the population with and without coverage. These fact sheets are being distributed at all League and community events. The November program will present an informational meeting on Health Care reform. Next month's Voter will promote the event. Stay tuned.

The League is also monitoring the local recall attempt of three school board members by some citizens of the community upset that these members voted for a curriculum that addresses bullying of children from Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) families. Opponents of the curriculum objected to their inability to "opt out" for their children. Our action committee has determined that those who circulate the petitions must be registered voters or eligible to vote in the city in which the petition is circulated. The board has voted to alert the community to the election codes that cover this activity.

Our new Program Chair, Marilyn Ng begins the fall with a program on the City budget and has invited the Alameda City Treasurer Keven Kennedy to present information on the long term financial goals of the city. As we go to print it appears that this program will be a well attended event. The business community has been calling for more flyers and has publicized this event heavily in their community. In October United Nations Day will be honored by our League with a featured speaker and a program on the work of the organization.

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) is sponsoring a regional workshop on the workings of the League. It will be held on Saturday October 24th in Palo Alto. New members are particularly urged to attend. *Anne*

Alameda League Educates Petition Signers

The Webster Street “Jam” was described as a “Signature Fest” with many petitions being circulated. The Alameda League Board heard concerns that the petition to recall three AUSD school board members has drawn nationwide attention and that outside organizations are attempting to influence the outcome. In response the following letter has been sent to our local newspapers.

September 22, 2009

A number of petitions have been circulating in Alameda this year. We have heard concerns about the initiative process from petition opponents and supporters.

Before signing any petition the League of Women Voters of Alameda urges all voters to check the qualifications of the individual collecting signatures (also called the circulator). The California Election Code (Section 9209) requires a declaration that the ‘circulator’ is a voter or is qualified to register as a voter of the city. Additionally, the person collecting signatures must live in the locality where the recall is being held and there must be a declaration on each page of the petition with the printed name of the individual collecting signatures, their resident address and the dates the signatures were obtained. The petition must also declare whether the person circulating the petition is paid or a volunteer.

If there are violations you are encouraged to contact the Alameda County Registrar of Voters for School Board elections and Alameda City Clerk’s office for local elections.

The League of Women Voters supports a democratic government with informed and active participation at all levels of government.

*Karen Butter, Action Chair
Kate Quick, President
Anne Spanier, President
League of Women Voters of Alameda*

LWVC REGIONAL WORKSHOP

The Palo Alto League invites you to learn what the League does and how it does it! Saturday, October 24 - 9:30 am Workshop ends at 2:30 pm, at *Avenidas*, 450 Bryant Street, in Palo Alto.

The cost is: \$25 per person (\$30 after October 16) or \$15 if you bring your own lunch

Topics:

- Tools You Can Use: A Guided Tour of the League’s Members’ Only Web Page
- Redistricting and Constitutional Reform: What’s Happening and What You Can Do To Make It Happen
- How Leagues are Using Their Web Sites, Social Networking and Video to Communicate with the Public

You may register on line with a credit card at the LWVC website: www.lwvc.org by October 16. Look on the Home page, “Register for a Regional Workshop”. The event flyer is also available for download there.

We encourage all Alameda League Members to attend. This is a good opportunity for new member to learn more about the League. Carpools will be organized at the October 15th Board Meeting. If you are not attending the Board meeting, contact Karen Scanlon at yakitt@aol.com or 510-523-6456 if you would like to carpool.



League of Women Voters Of Alameda

??? HEALTH CARE REFORM QUESTIONS...CONCERNS???

Find out the Truth about Health Care and Reform

Logon to these sites and check out the facts!!

1. factcheck.org – Annenberg Public Policy Center site
2. healthreform.kff.org – Kaiser Family Foundation
3. politifact.com – The Pulitzer-Prize winning project of the St. Petersburg Times, which features a Truth-o-Meter
4. healthactionnow.org – AARP site
5. healthreform.gov – U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

After you check out the facts, want to express your opinion?
Let your representative know what you want. Here are their
local Phone numbers

- . Rep. Pete Stark 510 494-1388
- . Sen. Barbara Boxer 415 403 -0100
- . Sen. Dianne Feinstein 415 393-0707

Saving the Bay

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area was organized to address the region-wide issues and governance of the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to the counties that surround the Bay, the region was further defined by the air basin, the watershed, economic activity and, not the least, by the Bay itself. Primary regional concerns of the time were pollution and filling of the Bay, air pollution, water pollution and loss of open space. Six regional agencies have been formed to deal with these issues.

The Bay Area League Day held on January 27, 2006 in Oakland focused on the State of the Bay with the intent to help Leagues understand the progress that has been made in restoring and maintaining the quality of the Bay. Those of us in attendance learned of the three heroic women responsible for taking action to save the bay. We were also privileged to preview parts of Saving the Bay, a four hour documentary that will air on KQED on October 8 and 15. For details and full broadcast schedule see http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/saving_the_bay.htm

Campaign Finance and Health Care Reform How are they related?

The League of Women Voters of Oakland
invites you to join
State Senator Loni Hancock for a Roundtable Luncheon
to discuss a critical California campaign finance reform measure,
California Fair Elections Act
which will be on the
June, 2010, Ballot

The issue of campaign finance reform is intimately connected to the issue of health care reform as was pointed out in the San Francisco Chronicle (9/20/09):

“The bipartisan ‘gang of six’ senators who helped craft the health care reform bill going before a key Senate committee Tuesday represent less than 3 percent of the U.S. population - but they hold a lot of power at a crucial policy-shaping moment in Congress. That’s why, analysts say, health care industry lobbyists have showered them with more campaign cash on average than other senators this year, in an attempt to influence the outcome.”

The Fair Elections Act, was authored by Loni Hancock and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. It will establish a voluntary pilot public campaign financing program for the 2014 and 2018 Secretary of State races. Join with members of the League of Women Voters of Oakland to learn more about the Act and why it is critical to our common goal of improving public policy in California.

WHO: State Senator Loni Hancock, Trent Lange, Chair of Californians for Fair Elections, Michael Lighty, Director of Public Policy, California Nurses Association, Andrew McGuire, Executive Director, Health Care for All – California

WHAT: Fair Elections Roundtable (Lunch will be provided)

WHEN: Friday, October 2, 2009, 12:30pm

WHERE: Oakland BART office, 2201 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612

RSVP: League of Women Voters of Oakland President,
Katherine Gavzy at 510-508-9062, or kathgav@comcast.net

Join or Renew your membership in the Alameda League Today!



Name _____

Other Names _____

(if a family membership)

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

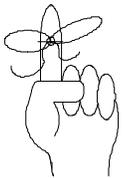
\$68 Single Membership \$85 Family Membership \$25 Student Membership Dues year is Jan 1 – Dec 31.
Dues assistance is available for those on limited income – Contact us at 869-4969. Make Check payable to LWV Alameda and mail to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501

Education Fund donations are Tax Deductible

Donations to the League of Women Voters Educations Fund are tax deductible. Consider sending a check for \$5 or more made out to LWV Ed Fund with your renewal, or at any time to LWV Alameda, P. O. Box 1645. Alameda, CA 94501

Turn your Trash into Cash for the Ed Fund

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



Dates to Remember

Oct 2nd - 12:30pm –Fair Elections Roundtable Luncheon. BART Offices.

Oct. 15th – 7:30pm –Board Meeting
Alameda Hospital – Room C

Oct. 22nd -7pm – General Meeting
Alameda Main Library
Professor Norman Bowen
The United Nations: It's More Than You Think, But Less Than You'd Like.

Oct 24th – LWVC Regional Workshop, Palo Alto

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