

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

P. O. Box 1645
Alameda, Ca 94501
Voice mail: 510-869-4969
www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org

The VOTER is published 9 times per year. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website

ELECTED BOARD

President: Jeff Cambra
jeffcambra@earthlink.net
Administrative VP: Kate Quick
katequick@comcast.net
Program VP: Tracy Jensen
tracy@tracyjesen.com
Secretary: Earleen Hamlin
Erhamlin@earthlink.net
Treasurer: Robertamarie Kiley
rkiley7@comcast.net
Membership Chair: Anne Spanier
annespanierleague@att.net
Voter Service: Dorothy Fullerton
dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com
Action Chair: Karen Butter
karenbutter@comcast.net
Smart Voter: Juelle Ann Boyer
jab@borupp.org
Budget Committee: Ted Frey
tedfrey@sprintmail.com E-Comm:
Donna Vaughn
dbvaughn@comcast.net
At-Large: Michael Robles-Wong
bokjun@comcast.net

APPOINTED BOARD

Web/VOTER: Karen Scanlon
yakitt@aol.com
Health Care: Shubha Fanse
shubhaf@aol.com
At-large: Sally Faulhaber
ssyhf@comcast.net

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.



VOTER

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active
Participation

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League of Women Voters of Alameda presents State of the Alameda Unified School District

Thursday, February 9, 2012 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Alameda Elks Building – Lower Level
Parking and entrance in the rear
2255 Santa Clara Avenue

Join the League of Women Voters of Alameda and Alameda Unified School District board president Margie Sherratt for an update on the many successes the District achieved in 2011 and the on going challenges it will have to overcome in order to continue to provide the quality education Alameda residents have come to expect from the District.

The State will have made its mid-year budget adjustments, and Ms. Sherratt may be able to discuss the adjustments and their impact on the operation of the District.

Plan on attending this informative presentation and take advantage of the opportunity to ask Ms. Sherratt questions regarding the District.

For additional information, contact Tracy Jensen, Program V.P at tjalameda@gmail.com

Privatization Committee

The committee meets next on January 30 @6:30 at Anne Spanier's home. The meeting will cover certain aspects of the study and the reading assignments associated with those topics. Call Anne Spanier 522-3426



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Jeff Cambra

President, League of Women Voters of Alameda

THE LEAGUE WAY

Even though I had been a member of the League of Women Voters of Alameda for a number of years, it wasn't until I became a board member that I started to hear the phrase "The League Way." After a year as a co-president and seven months as the president, I am only now beginning to understand the meaning of the League Way" and how it defines the League as a respected organization within the political arena. Here are some of the characteristics of the League way:

CIVILITY AND RESPECT

While all people are entitled to participate in public discourse, the League supports civil discussions that focus on the merits of ideas, proposals, and solutions. Personal attacks, name calling, and preventing a person from speaking are activities not tolerated by the League.

The League believes that all people have the right to participate in their government and be heard regardless of their view on a particular issue. This respect for people's views extends to those individuals that may disagree with the League and its positions.

NONPARTISAN

The League is nonpartisan, which means that the organization does not support or oppose any candidate or party. However, League members can be members of a political party, have no party affiliation, or designate as decline to state. While League positions may align with a particular party's beliefs, they are the product of an independent study and consensus process that involves all members of the League.

STUDY

Before the League takes a position on a particular issue or subject, it conducts a study involving investigations, fact finding, historical review, surveys, and other information gathering techniques in order to collect as much information as possible in order to better understand the issues, develop the broadest possible view of the issues, question assumptions about the issues, and understand the positions of the competing interests.

CONSENSUS

As part of the study process, League members develop a consensus position. Consensus is not a vote where the majority defines the position. Rather, it is the inclusion and acceptance of all interests into a position. On rare occasions, it is not possible to reach a consensus on an issue and no position is created.

ACTION

If the League arrives at a consensus position, then it has the ability to take action to promote the position. Proposing legislation, letter writing, endorsing or opposing initiatives, and community engagement are all examples of League action.

The League Way is the reason our diverse membership can work together to further common objectives and collectively influence social policy within the community.

Jeff Cambra, President

ALAMEDA LEAGUE ENDORSES THE DISCLOSE ACT

Joining the National, State, and many local Leagues, as well as a number of other organizations, elected officials, and political activists, the Alameda League has declared its support for AB 1148 which would require the State Legislature to pass or place on the ballot a measure requiring financial backers of state propositions to reveal their identities. All television, radio, and print ads and websites concerning a proposition would have to list their top three funders including their logos. Had the Disclose Act been in place during the recent Proposition 26 campaign, the public would have been told that the measure was sponsored by Chevron, the American Beverage Association, and Philip Morris rather than an organization called Stop Hidden Taxes.

The Disclose Act is currently moving through the Assembly. Further actions to back the measure will be considered by the board.

Joanne McKray

Bay Area League Day: Housing and the Bay Area's Future.

Saturday, February 4, 2012

First Unitarian Church of Oakland
685 14th Street at Clay
Oakland, CA 94612

The keynote speaker will be DAVID ROSEN, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing finance, policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning. There will be panels of experts on 1) meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities' strategy, 2) difficulties of financing affordable housing, and 3) how to serve the hardest to house. There will be plenty of time for questions from the audience during each panel.

Cost: In advance: \$30 (\$15 without lunch); at the door \$35 (\$20 without lunch). To register please write a check payable to "LWVBA" and mail, including your name and any guest names, and mail to LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612. Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>. For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an email to editor@bayareamonitor.org.

Book Club

The book club reviewed **Leopold II's Ghost** on Monday, January 9. It was a compelling story of the Belgian King Leopold who in the late 1800's furtively took the Congo Free State as his colonial empire. Unknown to many in European society King Leopold negotiated fraudulent land sales, often for trinkets, and used the natives as slave labor to remove elephant tusks for ivory and eventually the enormously profitable rubber for the emerging tire trade. While the King created edifices to himself, he hid most of his wealth from the world. The Congo Free State never received the royalties from the years of exploitation.

The book club meets the 4th Monday of each month at 3:30 @ Applebees's conference room. The next book club date is **Monday February 27 at 3:30** at Applebees. The next book chosen is **A Singular Woman** the untold story of the mother of Barack Obama. The author is Janny Scott. This story tells us about the life of a woman ignored by the press and briefly described as "a white woman from Kansas". There is much more to her life and if you are interested please consider joining us. Call Anne Spanier at 522-3426.

Join or renew your membership to the Alameda League today!



Name _____

Other Names _____

Address _____ (if a family membership)
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 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. Membership dues are tax deductible

Consider a Donation to the League

Please consider adding \$5 or more to your renewal check, or at any time to LWV Alameda, P. O. Box 1645. Alameda, CA 94501. Voter Service is especially in need of funds to provide factual information to voters in this coming general election year.

Turn your Trash into Cash for the League

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 East Shore Drive, Alameda, and help the League educate voters.



Save the Date

- 2/4/12 - Bay Area League Day
- 2/9/12 – State of AUSD – Elks Club - see p.1
- 2/16/12 – Board Meeting – Alameda Hospital
- 3/8/12 – State of the City
- 5/19-20/12 LWVC Leadership Council – Sacramento
- 6/8-12/12 – LWVUS Convention – Washington D.C.

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