



Valley Voter

League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley

August 2005

Know Your Bay Area Day

When & where: Saturday, September 24, 2005,
Fremont Main Library,
Fukaya Room, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont

Schedule: 9:30 am – registration/refreshments; 10 am – program; 1 pm – adjourn

Topic: “Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act”

“Overview of CEQA” – Janet McBride, Planning Director, ABAG

Panel: “Perspectives on How CEQA Has Worked”

Joe Horwedel, Deputy Dir., Planning Implementation, City of San Jose

Joseph Perkins, CEO, Home Builders Assoc. of Northern Calif.

Juliet Ellis, Executive Director, Urban Habitat

Stuart Flashman, Attorney, Environmental and Land Use Law

“Should CEQA be Reformed?”

Andrew Michael, Vice President, Bay Area Council

Karen Douglas, Gen. Counsel, Planning and Conservation League

Registration: \$10 per person. Confirm reservations by Thursday, September 22 to
Tam Hege at tamhege@aol.com, or send checks payable to LWVBA to Tam Hege,
80 Florida Ave., Piedmont, CA 94610

President's Message

Even as we enjoy the slower pace of summer activities, there is an underlying political current carrying us into League fall activities. Please take particular note of our Non-Partisan Policy found in the next column.



On Saturday, September 24, you are encouraged to take advantage of the League's "Know Your Bay Area Day" to learn more about the California Environmental Quality Act – whether it works and whether it needs to be changed. Also, the League of Women Voters California will be offering a Bay Area Training Session on Saturday, September 10 (see p. 3). "League 101" will provide valuable information to members as will the Energy Study session. For officers, there is training provided for their specific jobs. I hope you can attend these events.

On the local level, Vivian Thorson, our Voter Service Executive, needs your help to register voters at the Pleasanton Farmers' Market; please call her at 846-5001 and let her know the dates you are available. We also have four members who will be observing meetings of the East Bay Regional Park District, the Livermore City Council, Pleasanton Unified School District, and Zone 7. If you would like to be a member of the Observer Corps, please call me at 846-9739 and let me know what agency you would like to observe.

To conform to action taken at the California Convention, the Board has also approved changing our by-laws to include Student Members. Take this opportunity to invite students you know, 18 years of age or older, to join the League.

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer and a great vacation. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Barbara Hempill

Our Non-Partisan Policy

The Board reminds members of the importance of maintaining a non-partisan attitude at League meetings. Our membership draws from all political parties and represents differing opinions about state and local initiatives. Consequently, we are asked always to speak and act in a non-partisan manner. Also, each year local Leagues are asked to check their existing non-partisan policy to see whether any changes are appropriate. Our Board has done this, and we want all members to be aware of the following policy.

The League recognizes the role of the political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary for some Board members in order to maintain the non-partisanship of the organization.

The Board of the LWV-LAV has established the following guidelines:

A Board member:

- May not run for or hold elective office;
- Must not actively work against a position held by the League;
- If serving as President, Voter Service Director, or Local Action Director, may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate;
- Should be aware that our non-partisan image is of great importance to our effectiveness and should not engage in any activity which would jeopardize our position.

Many questions should be determined on a case-by-case basis. In order to do so successfully, all Board members must understand restrictions and questionable areas and get the Board's opinion when in doubt.

The President and (his or her) designated representative (or a representative designated by the Board) presents official League positions to public bodies.

Barbara Hempill

WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE

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Director, Elteen Stone
(925) 447-3195
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League Welcomes New Members

Isabel Curry, Jean Felton, Kim and Richard Halket, Charles Hartwig, and Julice Winter are new to our League this year. Please welcome them when you see them at our events. They already look forward to our many activities.



Isabel Curry lets no moss grow under her feet as she participates in volunteer work with AAUW, church activities, Presbyterian Women, and the Pleasanton History Museum. Isabel became interested in the League when she heard Barbara Hempill give a talk on ballot Pros and Cons, providing information that helped listeners to make sense of propositions. Isabel wants democracy to work!

Look for more on our new members in the next issue of the *Voter*.

Pat Mann

Board Briefs

At its July meeting, the Board

- Voted to order a single-sided, LWV “Just Vote” banner, to be installed in Livermore for a two-week period in September.
- Accepted the resignation of Robin Morgan as a Director.
- Accepted a minor change to our by-laws regarding student membership, which keeps us in conformance with the LWVC by-laws.
- Discussed possibilities for an October kick-off event.
- Encouraged all interested League members to attend the LWVC Training Session on Sept. 7.

Ann Rathjen

League Training Session

The LWVC Bay Area Training Session will be held on Saturday, September 10, at the Hyatt Residence Hotel, 620 Sandhill Road, Palo Alto. Topics will include “League 101” for new and not-so-new members, Voter Service activities, and information about the upcoming Energy Study. Registration needs to be in by September 7. The cost is \$25, which will include lunch. Call Barbara Hempill (846-9739) for more details.

50th Anniversary for Elteen

Congratulations to our very active Board member Elteen Stone for being a member of that first group of women who 50 years ago became the Livermore League of Women Voters (later changed to Livermore-Amador Valley League). We greatly appreciate Elteen's continued involvement over the years.



DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following for their generous donations to LWV-LAV and LWVEF this fiscal year.

Noel Anger
Dolores Bengston
Arnold and Marion Clark
Becky and Murray Dennis
Mary Ann and Jim Hannon
Charles Hazen
Barbara Hempill
Jean King
Pat and Jim Kohnen
Carol and Christina Lokke
Audrey and Fred Lovell
Larry Moyer
Bernice and David Oakley
Hildy Pehrson
Ann and Donald Rathjen
June Schaefer
Elteen Stone
Jeanne Thomas
Vivian Thorson
Jim and Margaret Tracy



Mental Health Services Act and LWVC

According to an LWVC *Update* of June 15, 2005, "The LWVC did not support Prop. 63 because it earmarked a specific revenue source. However, the League does support the work the funds [Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)] will provide."

In our Valley the group most involved in monitoring Alameda County implementation of MHSA is the Valley Council of Mental Health, in cooperation with the emerging Valley National Alliance for Mental Health chapter. One can come to their meetings without becoming a member of either group.

The County Behavioral Services department has conducted area meetings throughout the County to assess needs and to train citizens on how to learn about mental health matters and to help plan for services in the future. The Department already has a project of an hour-long three-person presentation on stigma, presented recently in Livermore. A consumer, a therapist, and a family member talk about their experience with stigma in their own life, the lives of clients, and the life of a family member respectively. If you are interested in becoming involved with this multi-year LWVC area of interest, please call Pat Mann (925) 447-3672.



Student Members

The June LWVC State Convention adopted a proposal to amend the LWVC by-laws to include student members, as follows: "Student Members are LWVC members who are enrolled either full- or part-time in an accredited institution and who are making progress toward a degree." The student rate for per member payments will be one-half the regular member rate. This was done to make the LWVC practice consistent with that for the LWVUS, and our League Board has voted to amend our local by-laws to make them consistent with the LWVC.

Bay Area President's Message

In June, the San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Management District celebrated its 50th anniversary. In 1955 the District was entrusted with regulating stationary sources of air pollution in the nine counties that surround San Francisco Bay. It was the first of the region-wide agencies established in the Bay Area, followed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (1961), Bay Conservation and Development Commission (1965), and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (1971). The Regional Water Quality Control Board, a regional division of a state agency, was established in 1950.

At the anniversary celebration, the BAAQMD and the Bay Area in general were recognized for being in the forefront of environmental protection activities that later spread to the rest of the nation. In the future, the Bay Area and California could also become an important influence in addressing global warming, such as reducing greenhouse emissions.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area was formed in 1959 not only to address issues of region-wide concern but also to encourage coordinated and consolidated decision-making at this level. LWVBA's main focus is on decisions made by these regional agencies, and we try to keep League members throughout the Bay Area informed about what these agencies do and are supposed to do. Please read our bi-monthly "Bay Area Monitor" publication (www.bayareamonitor.org) and attend our Know Your Bay Area Meeting on September 24, and Bay Area League Day on January 27.

Linda Craig, President, LWVBA

Update from LWV Bay Area

On July 27, 2005, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission adopted a groundbreaking Transit Oriented Development Policy requiring areas around new transit stations to meet certain development thresholds if the transit improvements are to be funded. This was a result of many years of effort by the LWVBA and other organizations that encouraged the MTC to consider land use in their transportation planning and funding. The MTC will actually be funding the development of specific land-use plans in eight station areas, including T-BART in Pleasanton.

The next phase of this TOD effort will focus on developing Specific Plans in the transit extension corridors. LWVBA encourages local Leagues affected to get involved in the local process to assure that appropriate levels of transit-oriented development are approved by your cities. We will support and work with you in this effort.

Linda Craig, President, LWVBA

CALENDAR

Monday, Aug. 29, Board Meeting, 7 pm.

Saturday, Sept. 10, LWVC Regional Fall Training Session (see p. 3).

Saturday, Sept. 24, Know Your Bay Area Day (see p. 1). Please contact Elteen Stone, 447-3195, if you would like to go with her.

Thursday, Sept. 29, LAVMA Forum, Livermore City Council Chambers, 7 pm.

Wednesday, October 5, Livermore Mayoral and City Council Forum, Livermore City Council Chambers. 7 pm—Mayoral; 8 pm—Council.

Wednesday Oct. 12, Forum on Livermore Trails Initiative. Livermore City Council Chambers, 7 pm.

Monday, October 17, Local Education Finance Study: Planning Meeting. 5442 Greenfield Way Pleasanton. 10 am.



League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley
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<http://www.geocities.com.lwvlav/newsletterindex.html>

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

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League is open to all U.S. citizens, men and women, age 18 or older. Annual dues are \$55 for one person, \$80 for two people in one household. By becoming a member of the Livermore-Amador Valley League, one also becomes a member of the Bay Area, California, and National Leagues.

Please mail this form with your check, payable to the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley, to LWV-LAV, P.O. Box 702, Livermore, CA 94551-0702

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____