

# Valley Voter



League of Women Voters  
Livermore-Amador Valley

March 2005

## President's Message

Ah, spring in California! The record winter rains have produced a record bloom in the desert this year, even more than the El Niño rains a few years ago. Life is evident in the flowers blooming in my yard and hills greening up around the Valley. The snow pack is good, which means we will have full reservoirs during the rainless summer and fall. My birthday is in March. The second anniversary of the war in Iraq is March 18th. March Madness starts in the college basketball world.

League life continues, too. The Budget Committee and the Nominating Committee will be completing their work in March. New Board members will bring spring-like energy to the League. Say "YES" if you are asked to serve. We've started planning for our Annual Meeting, May 14th. Justine Burt will be speaking about sustainability and giving us some thought-provoking exercises. John Stein and Mary Beth Acuff are asking planners in Livermore and Dublin about city planning within one-half mile of the transit hubs in each city at the request of the Bay Area League. The Bay Area LWV will compile surveys from throughout the Bay Area to determine if local planning efforts are supporting a sustainable region. Sometime in May we will have a Candidates' Forum for those running for the open Pleasanton City Council seat. Did you know our local League is 50 years old this year? Bernice Oakley and Jane Staehle are making plans for a celebration/reunion on June 4th.

I hope you are invigorated by the longer days and the growing and blooming natural world. I hope you do not have allergies or a loved one in harm's way in Iraq. I hope the League is in your life and that you can contribute to its growth and longevity. Ah, Spring!

*Mary Ann Hannon*

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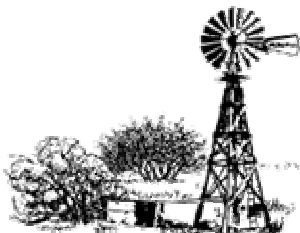
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## Board Briefs

- A policy change on what goes in the *Valley Voter* will be presented to the membership at Annual Meeting;
- The Education Study consensus was approved;
- Bernice Oakley updated the Board on plans for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration;
- Barbara Hemphill will represent the LWV at the Poverty Forum;
- We heard a presentation by opponents of Pardee Homes, Pat Mann & Jean King;
- At a previous meeting, Valerie Raymond spoke in support of Pardee Homes.

*Ann Rathjen*

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## Action

The Alameda County Council wrote several letters;

1. To the Board of Supervisors re: Juvenile Hall counselors;
2. To the County Board of Education re the Brown Act;
3. Board Of Supervisors re Instant Run-off voting for November elections.

If you want to see the complete text of these letters, email Mary Ann or Barbara.

*Mary Ann Hannon*

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## Local League Turns 50!

Save the date! Our League's 50<sup>th</sup> **birthday celebration** will be Saturday, June 4th at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Pleasanton. Come for lunch and entertainment, plus plenty of time to visit and share reminiscences.

We're compiling the mailing list for the invitations now, and we've lost touch with some of our members. Can you help us find Loraine Groeser, Angie Herwitt, Trish Kraus, or Nancy Desautel-True? How about Judy Contilini, Karen Fritts, Betty Ellison, Edith Godfrey, or Barbara Harper? Please call Bernice Oakley at 846-4038 if you have a current address for any of these former Leaguers.

As it was at our 40<sup>th</sup> celebration, a memory book will be a feature of the day. Please plan to send in a few favorite thoughts from your time in the League. Your invitation will soon be in the mail.

*Bernice Oakley 846-4038*

## Housing Element Report Update

On Tuesday, May 17th, Tri-Valley Interfaith Poverty Forum and the Tri-Valley Business Council's Vision 2010 will be issuing a report on the progress our communities are making in meeting their housing needs. The LAV League of Women Voters and Citizens for a Caring Community will assist them in the public presentation of the report at the Carr American Corporate Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, Pleasanton. The event will be preceded by a continental breakfast and is open to the public. Registration will be through the TVIPF web site ([www.povertyforum.org](http://www.povertyforum.org)).

The purpose of the housing report is to compare the housing goals set forth in each Tri-Valley city's housing element to the number of units that have actually been built or are being planned for construction by 2006. The report will focus on the communities' successes and how these successes can be duplicated elsewhere. It will also examine the issues preventing more units from being built.

We encourage League members to review our Housing position on our web site and to attend this event.

*Barbara Hempill*

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## Justine Burt, Annual Meeting Speaker

Justine Burt, Environmental Project Manager, Science Applications International Corporation, will be the speaker at the LAV League Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 14. Her subject will be "Environmental Sustainability – Charting a New Course."

Justine believes that we can motivate those around us to care about the environment by knowing several basic facts about the state of the environment and having a positive vision for a sustainable future. Using maps, graphs, and satellite photos, she will give specific, memorable evidence of general environmental trends, and then outline a blueprint for a more sustainable future. Finally, we will break up into groups to discuss what we can do at the local level to make a difference. This part of our annual meeting will be open to the public, and we encourage you to invite family and friends to participate.

*Barbara Hempill*



## Calendar



**Monday, April 4th, LWV-LAV Board Meeting at Rathjens'.**

**Friday, April 22nd, 6:30 PM, Democracy Dinner, San Jose, Gala Benefit for the Education Fund, with a Silent Auction and a talk by Nancy Soderberg, former Ambassador to the United Nations.**

**Saturday, May 14th, LWV-LAV Annual Meeting., Livermore Police Department Meeting Room.**

**Thursday, May 19th—Sunday, May 22nd, Garden Grove, California, League of Women Voters California, Biennial Convention.**

**Saturday, June 4th, 2005, 11:30, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Pleasanton, 50th Anniversary Celebration of our League.**

## March's League Lingo!

**Q. What is the Education Fund?**

A. The Education Fund is the tax deductible "arm" of the League; this fund underwrites educational projects on a national level.

State and local Leagues may deposit tax deductible contributions. These monies are disbursed back to the contributing League, upon application and approval, for educational purposes.

Some local and state Leagues (including California) have their own Education Funds.



## Help Wanted!

Fred Lovell, after several years of maintaining Voter Affidavit boxes in Livermore, is moving on to another position of responsibility with another community group. A *special thanks to Fred for his solid commitment to this aspect of Voter Service.*



So, we need a few hands to help distribute Voter Registration Forms (affidavits) in the City of Livermore. It means that once every 90 days, starting in July of this year, we visit each of the locations in a given area to restock the supply. That's it – nothing more. And you should be aware that the League is compensated for carrying out this function – helping people to vote!

Here are the areas to choose from. Check the one that's right for you and give Mary Ann Hannon a call at 443-5588, or Email her at [hannonma@comcast.net](mailto:hannonma@comcast.net)

### Schools

Granada High School  
Livermore High School  
East Avenue Middle School  
Christensen Middle School  
Mendenhall Middle School  
Junction Avenue Middle School  
Marilyn Avenue School  
Las Positas College Library

### Libraries & Post Offices

Livermore Main Post Office  
Airway Blvd Postal Substation  
Las Positas Ct Postal Substation  
Civic Center Library  
Rincon Library  
Springtown Library

### Fire Stations & Government

College Avenue  
East Avenue  
Rincon Avenue  
Scenic Avenue  
Livermore City Hall

### Apartments & Seniors

Heritage Estates  
Palasage Condos  
Tri Valley Haven  
Livermore Senior Center

### Miscellaneous

Sandia Nat'l Lab  
Lawrence Livermore Lab  
Veterans Administration Hospital  
LARPD - ESS

A great way to participate in the League's work. Your help is needed!

*Fred Lovell and Mary Ann Hannon*

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## Democracy Dinner

The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund and the Leagues of Cupertino/Sunnyvale, Fremont/Newark/Union City, Los Altos/Mountain View, Palo Alto, Southwest Santa Clara Valley, San Jose/Santa Clara, and South San Mateo County cordially invite you to the League's 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Democracy Dinner on Friday, April 22, 2005 at the Fairmont Hotel, 170 South Market Street, San Jose, beginning at 6:30 PM. Ambassador Nancy Soderberg will be the Keynote Speaker on Global Challenges, Global Realities.

## Monitoring Juvenile Justice

In 2001, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors considered replacing the old unsafe 300 bed County Juvenile Hall in San Leandro with a larger 550 bed facility in Dublin. You may remember media reports of the resulting controversy, including demonstrations at the Board meetings by young people. They and advocates for juvenile justice argued that the funds should be spent instead on a smaller facility and better services. The Board was urged to look at other jurisdictions such as Cook County, Illinois and Santa Cruz County, California, who have drastically reduced the number of youth in secure facilities by using a broad spectrum of prevention, intervention and diversion programs as alternatives to incarceration. The Board eventually voted to build a new hall in San Leandro with less than 550 beds.

In response to the lobbying of the advocates, the Board initiated their own study of the present county juvenile justice system. The study was to develop statistics on the demographics of the Alameda County, a profile of the current incarcerated youth population in the county and their needs, and present prevention, intervention and diversion programs in the county; get input from interested groups in the County and make recommendations. Bobbie Huskey and Associations from Cook County were hired to conduct the study and presented their Final Report to county officials at the end of 2004.

During the study, the LWV Alameda County Juvenile Justice Committee met with Bobbie Huskey and two members of the Committee were appointed to the Steering Committee for the Huskey Study. The Committee interviewed county officials on the issues covered by the study, is impressed with the soundness of the 85+ recommendations and hopes to see many of them implemented. When appropriate, we will be advocating for particular recommendations. For example, The Leagues of Women Voters in Alameda County recently sent a joint letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing our concern about the quality of Juvenile Hall counselors and their supervision. League concern was aroused by a February 7, 2005 *Oakland Tribune* article reporting inappropriate activities of counselors, who encouraged "wrestling matches" among incarcerated youth. The Leagues stated that Juvenile Counselor recruitment qualifications need to be re-examined, along with a serious look into why there was not proper supervision/management of the counseling staff.

The Leagues asked the County Board of Supervisors to facilitate a study of youth experiences with their counselors and a detailed analysis of requirements for counselor hiring and supervision, the training materials used, the amount of training required, and what evaluation standards the supervisors have for counselor accountability, attitudes, and behaviors. The results could be used to learn if the important duties of counselors are matched by their qualifications, training, expectations for performance, and quality supervision. The Leagues hope to work with Chief Probation Officer Blevins, supporting him in his efforts to improve the environment in the Hall.

*Pat Kuhl, League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville*

## *Thank You to Our Donors!*

Mary Ann & Jim Hannon

Barbara Hempill

Elteen Stone

Jeanette King

Carol Lokke

Marion & Arnold Clark

Pat Mann

Ann & Don Rathjen

Bernice Oakley

Ellen Yeoman

Charles Hazen

Susan Davis

Robin & Walter Morgan

Dolores Bengston

Noel Anger

Jane Staehle

Betty Thanos

Pat & Jim Kohnen

Kathleen Brown

Hildy Pehrson

Evelyn & Larry Bakken

Carolyn Ramsey

Fred & Audrey Lovell

Vivian Thorson

The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization, and support from members and community is what keeps us going. Thank you.



**League of Women Voters**  
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(925) 443-VOTE

<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 \$50 for one person, \$75 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: \_\_\_\_\_