

Valley Voter

League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley

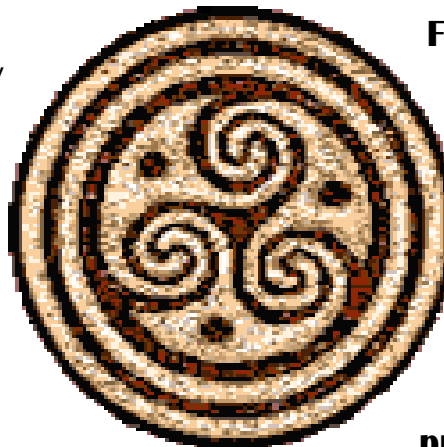
March 2006

Sunshine Week Forum

Attorney General Bill Lockyer will be the keynote speaker at a county-wide “Sunshine Week” forum on transparency in government and a citizen’s right to know, and will speak at the luncheon and answer questions.

The forum will be held Lorenzo Village Community from 9 am to 2 pm. officials will be invited, staff members who work commissions.

The Alameda County Leagues in Alameda 14 Leagues in the U.S. to LWVUS Education Fund to the Brown Act, the California Freedom of Information Act. These laws were enacted to assure the public’s access to information and processes within governmental offices and agencies.



Friday, March 17 at the San Hall, 377 Paseo Grande, Elected and appointed as well as city clerks and with boards and

Council (the seven County) was one of only receive funding from the present an event to focus on Public Records Act, and the

The first session will provide an overview of “open government” laws, what citizens can reasonably expect of officials, and what are some of the problems that must be dealt with. The second session will address how boards and commissions can conduct sensitive business and still meet the transparency requirements of the Brown Act and other “sunshine” laws.

For more information, call Barbara Hempill at 846-9739.

President's Message



The upcoming **Sunshine Forum** on March 17 will be an excellent opportunity to learn about protecting “your right to know.” “Whether laws are labeled open government, freedom of information, open records, open meetings, or sunshine, the general notion is that everyday people have the right to know what their government is doing.” (LWVUS)

Speakers at the forum will look at openness from the perspectives of both citizens and public officials, whether elected or appointed. And they will examine how we can continue to improve transparency. Several L-AV Board members will be attending, and we invite you to join us.

This year our **Annual Meeting** will be held from 9:00 am to noon on Saturday, May 20, in the Livermore Police Department Conference Room. Experts on air quality will present a program dealing with the history of air quality in the Valley. They have been asked to contrast the quality of the air forty years ago with the quality of the air today as well as twenty years in the future. Save the date because we will also have reports from our studies this year on Energy and Local Education Finance. We also want your input regarding a possible study of Water next year.

On Saturday, May 13, you have an opportunity to attend the **Bay Area League Convention** and learn more about how the League functions. The speakers are always interesting, and more information will be available in next month’s *Voter*.

Welcome spring by planting some flowers!

Happy St. Patrick’s Day to all,

Barbara Hempill



Board Briefs

- Barbara Hempill stated that we met our goal for the State’s “Meeting the Challenge” and have forwarded our report to LWVCA
- We discussed reaching out to new voters and increasing our diversity.
- The LWVUS has suggested adding a voter registration tool to our website.
- The Board accepted the Energy Study consensus.
- The Board approved the idea of a Local Water Study for 2006-07, assuming we will have a named chairman and the scoping done by Annual Meeting.

Ann Rathjen

Reproductive Freedom Day

Speak out for reproductive freedom on Wednesday, March 29. The California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom, of which the League is a member, will be cosponsoring this program at the Sacramento Convention Center. Fees, which include lunch, are \$45 or \$25 for students. The meeting is from 9:00 – 4:30 pm. This is an opportunity to educate your legislators, caucus with women's health advocates from all over California, protect women's health rights, and learn about emerging issues. For a registration form, contact Barbara Hempill, 846-9739.



EdSource Forum

School Accountability & Funding: Can California Get It Right? **Friday, March 17** at the Fremont Marriott. Check-in 8:00 am. Program 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. \$60 for LWV members (fee includes program, info packet, continental breakfast and lunch). For more information and online registration, go to www.edsource.org or call (650) 917-9482. Barbara Hempill has a form if you don't have a computer, 846-9739.



MTC Transit Connectivity Plan

The League of Women Voters Bay Area has sent the following information:

"Because we had surveyed the disconnect at connection points between transit services and had urged MTC to do something about it, we testified in support of our vision for a multi-modal, efficient and convenient regional transportation system by endorsing their proposals in a Transit Connectivity Plan. Its goal is to make the transfer between service providers seamless with clear, rational way-finding. We urged MTC to assign clear responsibility for implementing the plan, to produce integrated route information for the region, and to survey customer satisfaction with connectivity improvements."



Calendar

March 17, Sunshine Week Forum, San Lorenzo Village Community Hall, 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo.

March 17, EdSource Forum, Fremont Marriott Hotel, 9-3 pm.

March 29, Reproductive Freedom Day, Sacramento Convention Center.

April 3, Board Meeting, Barbara Hempill's, 7 pm.

May 13, Bay Area League Annual Convention.

May 20, Local League Annual Meeting, Livermore Police Department Conference Room, 9-12 am.



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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.

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.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

