



Voter

of Southwest Santa Clara Valley



June, 2011

League of Women Voters

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Our LWV 2011 Annual Meeting Recap



Local League President
Jane Catalano



Below – Local
League President-Elect
Eleanor Yick



Senior
Policy
Advisor
Fred Silva
of
California
Forward

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President's Letter

Hello Everyone,

This is my last President's letter to all of you, so I want you to know how much I appreciate your giving me your trust to do this job for you this year. It has been my privilege.

This year has passed so quickly. That's what happens when you're busy and having fun! This League year, there was a State Convention and of course our own Annual Meeting.

Our recently completed State Convention, May 12-15, was fun and productive, with some interesting workshops and our own LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara as the featured speaker.

My favorite workshop discussed ways to put our candidates' and pros & cons forums on YouTube with links, so that we don't break League rules. Yes, it can be done and we will make it happen during our next election cycle! I had a long discussion with LWVUS President Elizabeth McNamara about this, and she seems very supportive of using the Internet to communicate positively whenever/ wherever we can.

All of our delegates learned much about how to make improvements within our League and voted on issues for emphasis, retention, update and deletion. We also approved the budget for all of these activities. (Please see Eleanor Yick's Convention report on page 4 of this *Voter*). Also, LWVC website has full Convention coverage.

Our local Annual Meeting, May 21, was well received. Since we do our Program Planning at our January meeting, we just needed to vote to accept our current Local

and County League Positions. Everything was approved, except the County Position of Instant Runoff Voting, from which our membership has decided to withdraw our support at this time, due to confusion about the definition. Our new President-elect will discuss this issue with County Council representatives from the other County Leagues at her first meeting in July. Our League members overwhelmingly feel a clearer definition of this position is needed before we can vote to approve it.

We now have some wonderful new additions to our Board of Directors and Nominating Committee for the upcoming year. Following lunch, our featured speaker, Fred Silva, was a hit, discussing the California State Budget, particularly the possibilities for our future. Everyone enjoyed his talk and questioners were particularly aware of problems and opportunities facing our area. Mr. Silva said he will be happy to return next Spring to give our very intelligent group an update.

High-lights of the year...

Last year, we moved into August by planning a televised Senate 15 District race in a gerrymandered district shared with 7 other Leagues. We worked together with all of these Leagues to produce the Candidates' Forum in Santa Cruz County. Thus began our fall election season, which would eventually include a total of 17 pros & cons and candidates' forums. We had such a hard-working Voters Service arm for our League this year, and you all know from our Annual Meeting awards that we appreciate all of their efforts.

The fall election season was inspirational, but we also had our program committee providing us with wonderful educational topics to keep us informed about on-going local, state and national areas of interest. In September, we heard a panel discuss the merits of the new National Healthcare Plan, October was of course filled with our forums, our November program was a delightful discourse from two local Political Science professors discussing the direction California would take after the November elections. Then we had our terrific December holiday party! What a wonderful way to end 2010! It was delightful to see everyone enjoy themselves.

Continued on page 4.

Board of Directors 2010-2011

Officers

President, Jane Catalano
 First VP Administration, Dale Hill
 Program VP, Ann Roberts
 Membership VP, Jane Ellis
 Secretary, Marge Bunyard
 Treasurer, Marge Gorrell

Directors

Action, Michelle Shimada
 Bay Area Representative, Meg Giberson
 Education, Fred Armstrong
 Observers, Patty Weber
 Natural Resources, Nancy Hobbs
 Public Relations, Carol Petersen
 Voters Service Coordinator, Josie Geisen
 League Phone, Carol Petersen
 Voter Editor, Cherri Nelson

Off-Board

Clip 'n Come, Margaret Rezowalli
 Communications, Marilyn Beulteman
 Communications Assistant, Raquel Durand
 Finance Drive, Dick Kelkenberg
 Fund Raising Co-Chairs,
 Margaret Rezowalli & Zina Lou Dyer
 Great Decisions Co-Chairs,
 Anne & Al Stewart
 Health Care, Barbara Lea
 Hospitality, Janis Maury
 Assistant, Marge Lester
 Housing, Margaret Bard
 Immigration, Patty Weber
 Membership Committee,
 Rita Osman & Joan Sarlo
 Member Database, Linda King
 National Study Co-Chairs
 Carol Petersen, Shirley Hill
 Nominating Committee
 Jane Voigts, Chair
 Program Committee, Josie Geisen
 Patty Weber, Barbara Lea
 Shirley Hill & Fred Armstrong
 Publications, Sharon Snyder
 Santa Clara County Council Chair,
 Margaret Bard
 Telephone Tree, Shirley Hill
 Newsletter Assistant, Karlina Ott
 Candidate Forums, Terry Cabrinha
 Pros & Cons, Liz Ansnes
 Smart Voter, Michelle Shimada
 Web Page Co-Chairs, Barbara Lea &
 Sharon Snyder



Education Study

Public Schools 101

Education Advocates,

On May 9, our Education Committee invited Dr. Miriam Kurzig Freedman, an attorney who handles special education cases, to speak about the Federal Role in Education and bringing special education to the reform table.

In 1975 President Gerald Ford signed the Special Education bill into law. He was apprehensive of the benefits of this legislation, but signed it anyway. This law is the only entitlement program in our schools; and although it does a lot of good, it also leads to spending much more money on special education students than we do on gifted and talented students. Twenty to forty percent of local school budgets goes to special education which serves thirteen to fourteen percent of the students.

The system needs to be fixed with more focus on outcomes not inputs, on teaching and learning for ALL students. Dr. Freedman wants to sunset the laws and policies we have now, do much more research, and end the legal requirement that create an adversarial system in our schools which does not improve student outcomes.

Dr. Freedman notes that other attorneys who do the same work she does agree that there is too much litigation. They want to end the overuse of accommodations for special education students, curb the law's excesses, and create an action plan to change what is happening in the schools. She says, "Let the transformative winds of change blow freely."

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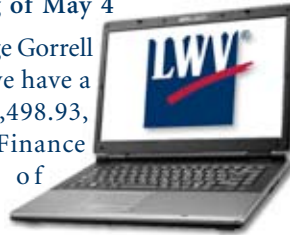
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Board Bytes

Board Meeting of May 4

Finances – Marge Gorrell reported that we have a balance of \$22,498.93, including the Finance Drive total of \$4,640.



Redistricting Hearing –

Everyone was urged to attend a Redistricting Hearing on May 23, at 70 West Hedding in San Jose.

New Board-Old Board Potluck - This event will be on June 1 at Dale Hill's. Jackie Jacoburger, former LWVC president, will be trainer.

Our New President Nominee - Jane Catalano introduced Eleanor Yick.

LWVC Convention & LWVUS Council – Jane Catalano, Marge Gorrell, Carol Petersen, & Eleanor Yick will attend the LWVC Convention, and the Board will pay \$600 for Eleanor's registration at LWVUS Council.

Juvenile Justice on LWVC Agenda – Concurrence was discussed on this issue, but convention delegates are not bound by Board opinion. They must hear both sides at the convention.

Single Payer Bill SB 810 – The Board voted for Barbara Lea to sign the Board's letter of support for this bill with some changes to make it non-partisan.

Federal Education Study – Carol Petersen said the next meeting will be May 9 at 1:00 pm, at the Saratoga Library. There will be a speaker on Federal Legislation for Special Education students.

Bay Area –The website is www.onbayarea.org. Meg Giberson announced that Bay Area League Day on the topic of Housing will be on February 4, 2012.

Membership – Jane Ellis announced that we have two new members—see last month's *Voter*.

Natural Resources – Water district projects will not be finished due to lack of money. Lack of federal funding is also holding up Clean, Safe Creeks projects along with problems of rushes blocking creek openings and chemicals not killing weeds.

Wanted: A Stable, Realistic Budget

For Immediate Release, May 20, 2011

League of Women Voters California Calls on the Legislature to Work with the Governor.

Sacramento—The League of Women Voters of California commends Governor Brown for continuing a realistic, balanced approach to putting California's budget on a sounder footing. We recognize that we cannot continue to enact budgets that rely on borrowing and over-optimistic expectations.

The Legislature has already made many hard choices to cut programs far beyond the comfort level, but a minority continues to follow the previous administration's policy of borrowing and unrealistic projections. "It's time for everyone to accept that California must at least continue existing revenues, as the Governor proposes," stated Janis R. Hirohama, LWVC president.

Under our form of representative government, it is the responsibility of the Governor and the Legislature to work together to produce a state budget that meets the basic needs of its citizens and that provides the resources to do so. To bring our fiscal system back to health, both increased revenues and spending cuts are needed. The cuts are in place. The League urges the Legislature to work with the Governor to ensure that measures are taken to extend current taxes that will otherwise expire soon.

"California cannot return to a thriving economy and a healthy community without a stable and realistic budget," continued Hirohama. "It is long past time to move in that direction."

Observers – Patty Weber reported the Water Board is hearing pro/cons on fluoridation and is being monitored by LWV in the County. Hetch Hetchy water users may have a 48 percent fee increase.

Voters Service – Josie Geisen reported 45 Saratoga High students were registered to vote. The parcel tax for the district passed by 72.7 percent!

Marge Bunyard, Secretary

President's Letter (Cont.)

January proved to be hectic for me, as I had some unexpected health problems, but our League continued on, and had a successful Program Planning meeting.

Thank you to all of you who managed during this time, as well as into the month of February. I couldn't have done it without all of you!

And this Spring, we have continued to have our successful programs, each month. February was the water Program featuring discussion of the Delta and

March was a wonderful dinner with a seasoned California State Senator. Then in April we were pleased to hear local school officials discuss fiscal uncertainty in local education. And of course, here we are, back in May to our Annual Meeting.

Meanwhile, Dick Kelkenberberg, our Fundraising Chair, was busy soliciting annual contributions for our worthy cause...quite successfully, I might add!

And Marge Gorrell and I added our League to "Goodsearch" which members can now use to seamlessly raise money for our League when searching on the internet.

It has been a whirlwind of a year, with many other events inter-twined. Many of you have attended Clip 'n Come events, have assisted with the fall Pizza fundraiser, are committee members for the new Education Study, are signing up for the August fundraiser with Zina Lou Dyer, are helping with publicity (a special thank you to Carol Petersen for a stellar publicity year!) or other areas of League. I know our in-coming President, Eleanor Yick, is going to have a wonderful start to a glorious new League year!

Finally, a special thank you to Dale Hill, for your constant availability and insight into where to find our local League resources/files. Thank you also, to Marge Bunyard, for knowing our membership so well and being able to direct me to the right person whenever I needed the best volunteer for a particular job.

But most of all, thank you to my husband, Michael Catalano, for always being by

LWVC California State Convention

More than 250 women gathered in Ventura the weekend of May 12-15 for the League of Women Voters of California biennial convention. Among them were four of our members: Jane Catalano, President; Carol Petersen, Public Relations; Marjorie Gorrell, Treasurer; and, Eleanor Yick, President Elect. Many women were wearing the distinctive yellow sashes with red lettering that commemorate the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in California on October 10, 1911 – nine years earlier than the passage of the 19th amendment to the US constitution in 1920.

Along with the photos of suffragettes posted in the various rooms and hallways, Elizabeth MacNamara, president of LWVUS, recalled for us the women who have gone before and paved the way for women's rights movement. She reminded us that the biggest challenge the League faces today is relevance and the recruitment of new members. Other speakers scheduled throughout the conference were: Dr. Beverly Kelly, who spoke about the 100 Year Anniversary; the Honorable Katcho Achadjian, 33rd District Assemblyman, who spoke on Civility in Politics; and the Honorable Fiona Ma, California Assembly Speaker Pro Tem, who spoke about the California budget and the polarization in the legislature. The convention concluded with inspirational remarks by Jennifer Waggoner, President Elect 2011-2013.

As a first-time attendee, I learned much about the history of the League and how the League of Women Voters operates and

interacts on the national, state and local level. It was truly exciting to see so many women (and a few men) so actively and passionately involved in civic issues; the fact that all these participants are volunteers, including state board members, speaks to the commitment of the participants, the importance of the issues, and the strength of the organization.

The most exciting part of the convention was the voting that took place on non-recommended programs that were on the agenda for consideration. The recommended positions on Government, State and Local Finances, Natural Resources, and Social Policy were easily reconfirmed. But, the four non-recommended items generated a lot of discussion. Two passed (Juvenile Justice System and Reform of Electoral System to include single seat office by instant run off) and two failed (Healthcare and Criminal Justice System) to get the needed three fifths votes. I do wish that more time had been allocated for discussion and voting on all of these controversial measures as this represents, to me, the League at its best – hearing both sides of an issue and then making an informed decision! Full details and the actual wording of these motions is available on the California LWV members website.

I am glad I had this opportunity to attend the State Conference and urge other members to consider doing so in the future. It was a truly worthwhile and inspirational experience.

Eleanor Yick, President-Elect

my side, helping me with late night power point slides, presentations, Voter articles, research, and computer problems of all kinds. You were constantly there, staying up late with me, and helping me whenever I got into a bind. Without you, this year would not have been nearly so much fun!

Jane Catalano, President – (408)-871-7018
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2010-2011 Special Service Awards

These members were presented with special LWV engraved keychains at our Annual meeting for their hard work and service to our League during this year.

Terry Cabrinha	Josie Geisen
Marge Gorrell	Dale Hill
Linda King	Barbara Lea
Cherri Nelson	Carol Petersen
Michelle Shimada	Sharon Snyder

Thank you to all for your service to our League and our Community!

LWV Voter Protection Scott Robert Petersen

The League of Women Voters Education Fund's (LWVEF) Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project has been created to help bolster the League's capacity for continuing and expanding its critical state-based advocacy in order to prevent the disenfranchisement of eligible citizens, particularly under-served populations.

1. Oppose ID and Documentary Proof of Citizenship
2. Improve Administration of Statewide Voter Database Systems
3. Guard Against Undue Restrictions on Voter Registration
4. Improve Polling Place Management
5. Improve Poll-Worker Training

Update May 19 - Battles continue as voter suppression laws pass in 5 states. Hats off to all the state leagues that have been fighting for voter protection across the country. They have done an outstanding job, and we are thankful for their work. Rest assured that the battles are not over; each state is looking at all options available to stop the legislation from going into effect. Despite their efforts, in an unprecedented assault on democracy, five state legislatures passed voter suppression legislation in the past week that could disenfranchise thousands of eligible voters across the country. The five states are: FL, SC, MO, KS and WI (expected to pass on May 19). The new laws include: requiring photo ID to vote (some of the most restrictive ever passed); burdensome and unreasonable restrictions on voter registration drives (LWV of Florida has been forced to stop all voter registration campaigns); shortening early voting periods; and increasing residency requirements that make it virtually impossible for out-of-state college students to vote. To learn more about the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project go to: www.lwv.org/pavp.

Update May 26 – Minnesota is the latest addition to the states that have passed voter suppression legislation recently. Its legislature passed a voter ID bill over the weekend, but MN Governor Dayton is expected to veto it.

A Life-Long Resident of Saratoga July 14, 1977-May 15, 2011

Scott Petersen passed away quite suddenly on Sunday, May 15, while on a camping trip with his father in Northern California. He had lived with epilepsy since his youth and that was apparently the cause of his sudden death.

The son of LWV Board member Carol Petersen and her husband Bob, Scott is remembered fondly by League member Marilyn Buelteman as the “nice young man who always videotaped or recorded many of our League events for several years.”

Scott was 33 years of age, a graduate of Saratoga High School, former student at West Valley College, and a UPS package handler. Scott was active in the Saratoga community throughout his high school, college and adult life. During county elections, he was a trained poll worker, rising to the supervisor level, directing many people more than twice his age.

But Scott was also the friendly voice who answered our League telephone, especially during busy election seasons, because the League telephone has been in the Petersen family home for several years now. And Scott could long since intelligently answer many of the questions being asked by the inquisitive voting public who called in needing basic information. Scott said he enjoyed helping out our League, and he was a constant help to many of our members whenever they encountered computer problems.

“Over the years, I called on him to solve technical problems, and he always, always responded. I was so flattered when, on occasion, he asked me for support and help when he needed transportation to a destination. I was so very happy to do so because I enjoyed our conversations,”

Tat Blesch said, reminiscing about the years she knew Scott. “I will so miss this gentle soul, and my heart goes out to his family.”

While attending West Valley College, Scott volunteered as a staff person at KSAR for many positions—sound, camera, editing—both in-studio and filming community events. He helped to videotape the presentations of the City Council and Planning Commission meetings. He also volunteered in the Court reporting program as a video technician and court-reporting equipment technician.

Scott was also an active member of the Saratoga Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) team. This team of community volunteers trains to help Saratoga and our adjoining communities in case of emergencies. Because Scott worked a swing shift at UPS, he thought it was particularly important to have trained responders who would be available during the daytime hours.

In addition to his volunteer activities, Scott was an avid Sharks fan, an enthusiastic skier, enjoyed many outdoor activities in the Lake Tahoe region, and was a ham radio club member.

Scott is survived by his parents, Robert and Carol Petersen; his brother, Jeff Petersen; his sister, Mimi Petersen Townsend; and brother-in-law, James Townsend. He was also a proud uncle to Vivian and Jack Townsend. His extended family includes numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Saratoga CERT in care of Saratoga-Monte Sereno Community Foundation, 14510 Big Basin Way, #132, Saratoga, CA, 95070 or the camp Scott was attending, Grizzly Creek Camp for Kids in care of Sierra Nevada Journeys, 5900 Grizzly Road, Portola, CA 96122.



2010-2011 Annual Board Reports



Administration

The main goal of this position is to take some of the load off of the President, and to assist in any way needed. Beyond that, it becomes a sort of “jack-of-all-trades” role.

Some of the activities this year included collecting mail from the P.O. Box, developing the Board-Off-board Roster, filling out the forms for LWVC, supplying board members with bylaws, procedures, etc., presiding when Jane was ill, proofing material, arranging reprinting of our *Making Democracy Work* brochure, taking part in the Finance and Program committees, and making name tags and place cards.

Dale Hill, First V.P. Administration

Program

The Program Committee met several times during the year as well as sharing ideas on e-mail. This committee was definitely a working committee. The group worked well together and shared ideas that actually became program realities. The members were Ann Roberts, Fred Armstrong, Josie Geisen, Patty Weber, Dale Hill, Shirley Hill, Barbara Lea and Marge Bunyard. In addition, Nancy Hobbs, Meg Giberson, Cherri Nelson and Anne Stewart joined us to work on specific programs.

- In June our speaker was Thad Kousser, professor of Political Science from UC San Diego, who was at that time a visiting professor at Stanford University. The topic was “The Primary Election Has Occurred: What Can We Expect in November?” He led a very interesting, thought provoking discussion.
- On September 27 we had a panel on Health Care at the Saratoga Library. The panel included Dr. Martin L. Fishman, Ms. Jane Ogle, Mrs. Margaret Smith and Dr. Todd Dray. The turnout was excellent and a lively discussion followed.
- We cosponsored with AAUW and the Saratoga Library a Pros and Cons presentation on the ballot issues. This was held on October 12 at the Saratoga Library. A number of High School

and College students were part of the audience.

- For our November 16 meeting at the Campbell Community Center we had a discussion on the results of the election. Tim Kelly from West Valley and Melinda Jackson from San Jose State were the speakers. These two political science professors gave us an idea of “After the Election...What’s Next?” Again, we had High School and College students in attendance.
- December 3 we had our annual Holiday Party at Rinconda Hills Clubhouse. A good time was had by all. Good food, good conversation, beautiful decorations, nice setting. What more could you ask?
- In January we had our annual program-planning meeting at the Saratoga Federated Church. A summary can be found in the Annual Meeting Kit.
- On February 22 Joan Mahar, the manager of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Imported Water Program, told us about the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. This program was held at the Campbell Community Center. High School and College students joined League members for the discussion.
- March 24 brought a dinner meeting at the Los Gatos Lodge. Senator Joe Simitian talked on “Civility in Government ... Is it Possible?” Senator Simitian went beyond the subject of civility in government and told us about some of his experiences as a senator and about legislation he had helped get passed. Again, we had a good turnout. It was a different format, and probably we should do it again.
- On April 11 we heard Cary Matsuoka, Superintendent of the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District and Patrick Gaffney, Deputy Superintendent of Business Services of the Campbell Union High School District tell about finances in their districts. The title of the discussion was “Fiscal Uncertainties in Local Education”. The meeting was held at the Saratoga Library.
- Our Annual Meeting was held May 21 at the Terraces. Fred Silva, from

California Forward, talked about the state budget.

It was a good year and I was more than satisfied with the committee and the results of our working together. I thank them all for their enthusiasm and interest.

Ann Roberts, Program V.P.

Membership

LWVUS notified us that after January 2011 members who joined them directly but lived in our local LWV area would no longer appear on our roster. In September and October we contacted these members explaining that they would no longer receive the *Voter* and other communications through LWVSWSCV. Several joined us. In addition we welcomed two new local members who were recruited by a couple of our active members. We now have 129 active members. If you know someone who, like you, would be an excellent League member, please give him/her the membership form that usually appears in each issue of the *Voter*. Remember, men can join too!

Jane Ellis, Membership V.P.

Voters Service

Our impressive Forums Chair, Terry Cabrinha, arranged 15 candidate forums prior to the November 2010 election. No small task inviting candidates, arranging venues, dates and times and gathering our League volunteers together for each event.

Our Pros and Cons team presented eight non-partisan discussions of the different propositions on the November 2010 ballot at different locations in our Southwest area to assist the public in a better understanding of the issues.

We are always grateful to those Leaguers who volunteer for our series of successful Voter Registration days which were held at West Valley College, Los Gatos High School and the Campbell and Los Gatos farmers’ markets.

We have already arranged for Fall registration at the five Campbell Union District high schools and will be at Saratoga and Los

2010-2011 Annual Board Reports (Cont.)



Gatos High Schools, West Valley College and the farmers' markets again this fall.

It took a lot of hard work for our liaison to Smart Voter, Michelle Shimada, to arrange for the 66 candidates she was responsible for to put their information on Smart Voter and then kept track of them during the Fall election season 2010 including e-mails, phone calls and letters.

Soon we will be approaching the November 8, 2011 election. I urge each of you to be willing to volunteer a few hours of your time for one of our events this fall.

Josie Geisen, Voters Service Director

Action

From the League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley job description, the goal of the job of Action Director is:

1. To support specific legislation or proposals which will implement the League's position,
2. To develop public support for the positions of the League,
3. To inform League members and the public of action supporting League positions.

Since the last Annual Meeting in May, 2010, I've e-mailed thirteen action alerts and three reminders during the election year to Vote with the League! I've had 90 responses.

I've sent out two e-mails opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which is health care reform on the national level; one e-mail on SB 810, which is health care reform on the state level; and five e-mails concerning the environment. The e-mails on the environment supported strong global climate change legislation and defended the Clean Air Act.

Also, I've sent two e-mails to support the DISCLOSE Act, which would've protected the 2010 elections from being swamped with secret corporate and union money; one e-mail to support START, the first arms control treaty between the U.S. and Russia in a decade; one e-mail to support the DREAM Act, which would've

provided a path to citizenship for young immigrants who complete a college degree or serve in the military; and one e-mail to oppose the elimination of the presidential public financing system. Unfortunately, the DISCLOSE Act and the DREAM Act went down in defeat.

As part of my Action Director duties, I arranged a legislative interview with Congressman Mike Honda. Martha Beattie from the San Jose League and Roberta Hollimon of the Cupertino/Sunnyvale League also attended. A write-up of the interview was printed in the May Voter.

Michelle Shimada, Action Director

Bay Area Representative

Job description

The LWV Bay Area representative facilitates communication among local Leagues in the South Bay, and Bay Area generally. Our rep keeps the members of the greater Bay Area apprised of our League's actions and policies of interest and attends (every other month) a general meeting of other individual South Bay Leagues at the Palo Alto League office.

Our Bay Area rep then reports to our local League on issues discussed at the general South Bay meeting.

Important issues may include regional government and planning, environment (including climate change), natural resources, housing and transportation. Local Leagues do not individually take action on regional issues; such action must be taken by the LWV of the Bay Area.

Bay Area Reports

Bay Area League Day (topic "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle") in January this year included three panels of regional and state experts on what government is doing, what science is doing and what you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Each speaker's PowerPoint presentation is available at <http://lwvbayarea.org>.

The South Bay groups have followed the status of Caltrain and SamTrans, reporting

at times on ridership, planned service reductions, and financial issues.

Bay Area Rep reports this year included a series on the water crisis in California reflecting the State League position on "WATER adopted in 1959, updated in 1961, 1967, 1971, and 1979, readopted Position in brief: Support measures which promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use."

One Bay Area: Regional Agencies —Assoc. of Bay Area Govts (ABAG), Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Bay Area Conservation & Development Commission, Metropolitan Transportation Commission—are working to develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy in response to 2008 state legislation (SB 375) that would help to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions and meet the challenges of the future by protecting our air and water. Attend the meetings that will be held in each county by checking out www.onebayarea.org for more information, draft documents, meeting dates, etc.

Meg Giberson, BA Representative Director

Health Care

As a member of the LWVC Health Care Committee, I have been responsible for disseminating information about health care issues and working toward the passage of SB 810, the California Universal Healthcare Act, which is currently being heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Toward that end, I have generally participated in monthly conference calls with other State Committee members; had several articles on health care published in our local newsletter; sent out many e-mail messages to our local Health Care Committee as well as to the following leagues around the state: Butte County, Cupertino/Sunnyvale, Eastern Sierra, Los Altos/Mt. View, Mendocino, Merced, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, Palo Alto, and Redding.

2010-2011 Annual Board Reports (Cont.)



In May our Board joined 12 other leagues in the state in supporting SB 840.

Barbara Lea, Health Care Director

Natural Resources

Most of the emphasis has been on WATER. The League meeting in March, titled "Delta Drama; California Crisis" had Joan Maher, Manager of District Imported Water Program of the Santa Clara Valley Water District, who gave an overview of the California's water problems and the importance of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. League is represented on the Monitoring Committee of the Clean, Safe Creek and Natural Flood Protection Program, a 15-year program to preserve and protect our quality of life. The Bay Delta randomizations are well organized and active so that the question of a Delta water conveyance is still very much in question.

Nancy Hobbs
Natural Resources Director

The Voter

As a former graphic artist, in 2008 I jumped at the chance to contribute my graphics skills to be editor of this League's newsletter as it combined my enjoyment of graphics with my interests in politics. Having done this newsletter for two years now, I have begun to feel through this last year, that I might finally know something about what I'm doing, both in understanding all that the League does and the information needed for publication. I knew I could create the newsletter graphically and visually, but I was new and unsure of all that was involved regarding the League of Women Voters.

This job has been a continuing good fit for me. Though it's a lot of work, I enjoy the work and contributing to an organization that I've always admired and respected. I've discovered that the non-partisan nature of the League also tempered my sometimes "passion-turned-to-rage" with politics. Working with different members of the League has added more capacity to listen respectfully and consider varying view points, often opposed to my own. I

also have learned much more about the League and all of its activities such as education, voters service and advocacy.

This year, with Jane Catalano's suggestions support and encouragement, the newsletter was enhanced not only graphically but with more news on our League as well as National and State activities. There were hopes of the newsletter's use as a tool to entice new members as well as encourage members' participation. Whatever the goal, I believe we've achieved a more informational and enjoyable newsletter this year.

The *Voter* would be published with a lot more errors if left on my own as I cannot always see 'the trees for the forest'. Barbara Lea, Shirley Hill and Helen Athey ensure that the newsletter is published grammatically correct. Besides a review for content accuracy and added content, Jane Catalano also contributes her proofing skills. I appreciate and depend on these ladies immensely.

I will continue to create the *Voter* this coming year. And though I've learned so much, I expect to learn much still more. I believe there are depths to the League I have not yet accessed.

Cherri Nelson, *Voter* Editor

Publications

As Publications Chair, I prepared the *Annual Member Directory*, the *Annual Meeting Kit*, and *Facts for Voters* (with information from the Voters Services people who check the facts). This year Jane Catalano and Cherri Nelson took over the formatting on *Facts for Voters* to give it a more professional look, as this is distributed to the public in our four cities. I prepared the mailing labels for the *Member Directory*, the *Meeting Kit*, and the *Voter* each month as well. The labels come from the same Excel spreadsheet as the *Member Directory*, which saves cross-checking information from different lists. I also e-mail the *Voter* to members and to League-required recipients each month and refresh these lists every year.

Help Wanted

Below are a couple of areas where I could use some assistance. Please contact me at: 395-6865 or IShopSafe@gmail.com.

- 1) I am using Word 2000. If anybody is proficient in the latest version of Word and Excel, let's talk.
- 2) I occasionally need someone to check all the links on the web site.

Sharon Snyder, Publications Chair

Web Site

As web Co-Chair, I put the *Voter* on our web site every month and make occasional changes to the site; for instance, at election time when we have recommendations for action, I put those up on the site. Sharon Snyder

As web Co-Chair, I update the calendar on the web site every month and send it to the Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County for that calendar.

Barbara Lea, Web Page Co-Chair

Clip 'n Come

This is an off board position with a group that meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Its sole purpose is sharing opinions on political articles of interest printed in the local papers or magazines, including political cartoons. We meet from 12 noon until two-thirty or so, and share whatever food we have brought. There's nothing like food and talk. There are no guest speakers; we consider our own opinions to be the real interest!

All members are welcome, whether you've been here before or not. Nobody has to come every time and frequently do not. We meet in each others' homes with the host providing coffee, tea, and eating utensils. The unifying theme is that everybody has a good time, always, and we enjoy each other's company and opinions. The only formal request is that whoever plans to should come call that month's host so that he/she can set out enough spoons and cups. The next meeting, in June, is

2010-2011 Annual Board Reports (Cont.)



listed in the event and monthly calendars on the last pages of this *Voter*.

Margaret Rezowalli

Great Decisions

The final session for the local 2011 Great Decisions program was held on Thursday, May 19. Following the conclusion of Group One's studies for this year, participants gathered in the Fireplace Room of the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council for a short social period to celebrate completion of the year's activities. Each of this year's three Great Decisions groups' sessions began February 3. Groups Two and Three, which met at the Saratoga Retirement Center every week, completed their activities a few weeks ago. The 2011 program was very successful with a total of 50 persons actively participating.

The year's topics provided by the Foreign Policy Association were: Rebuilding Haiti; American National Security Since 9/11; The Horn of Africa; Banks, Governments and Debt Crises; Germany's Ascendancy; Sanctions and Nonproliferation; The Caucasus; and, Making Sense of Multilateralism. Within Group One, the discussion leaders for the individual topics included Terry Zaccone, Anne Stewart, Dan Hoffman, Marge Bunyard, Al Stewart, Sumi Tanabe, Ray Shannon, George Bunyard, Ginger Good, Sharon Kelkenberg, Jean Barrick, Bruce Baldridge, Madeleine Salzman Charlene Bunger and Hana Itani.

Anne and Al Stewart coordinated the overall program with Rosalie Price handling sign-ups. She also coordinated the sessions held at the Saratoga Retirement Center. Janis Maury provided refreshments for Group One for the year. The League of Women Voters of Southwest Santa Clara Valley shares sponsorship responsibilities with the local chapter of the American Association for University Women as well as with the Saratoga Area Senior Coordinating Council. Sign ups for the 2012 program are expected to resume in November, 2011. Upon completion of Great Decisions

2011 a check for \$234 was presented to SASCC from left-over proceeds.

Al & Anne Stewart

Finance Drive

Again in 2010-2011 there was strong financial support for our League. The results of this year's drive surpassed previous years as shown in the table below:

• 2010-2011	\$4,790
• 2009-2010	4,061
• 2008-2009	3,745

Donations were received from 52 individuals:

- 38 Members
- 10 Individuals within the local community
- 4 Former members
- 2 Officeholders

The average donation was \$92.12

Thank you to all donors. Your generous donations, according to our Treasurer, minimized the reduction of our League's reserves.

Dick Kelkenberg, Finance Drive Director

Eight Hands & Four Soup Spoons

That's what it takes to fold, seal, and label your *Voter* each month. But a cup of coffee, and lots of friendly chatter also helps. We really have an enjoyable two hours. I've had wonderful help this year—and I appreciate all of you!

Marilyn Buelteman, Communications Director

Note from the Editor,

Not all board members were able to contribute their annual reports for this issue of the Voter. There will be a few more reports coming in the next issue, which will be mailed in the beginning of August and is a combined July/August issue. Please note that if you are a board member who hasn't written your yearly report, I hope to receive one from you during the summer, no later than July 15.

High School Voter Registration

Washington, DC- As Election 2012 begins to heat up in earnest across the country, League of Women Voters President Elisabeth MacNamara today announced the release of a new training manual geared toward empowering organizations to help eligible high school students register and vote in 2012.

“By next year, people under 30 will make up nearly 25 percent of our country's electorate. Young Americans hold enormous power to drive our future energy security, demand policies to bring about sustainable job growth, and determine our place in the long-term global economy. We have one message for candidates running for all levels of office in 2012: young voters are not to be underestimated.”

“Despite this, young people's political participation has traditionally lagged far behind other age groups—especially when we look at non-college, minority, or low-income youth. We know that this is largely due to lack of access to quality voter registration information, and can do a better job at engaging young people when they first become eligible to vote.”

Census Bureau data shows us that 90% of registered voters reported going to the polls in 2008. But too many Americans, especially young people in underrepresented communities, never make it past the initial step of getting registered—in fact, more than half of the 18-year-olds in our country were not registered and as a result, could not vote, in 2008.

In 2010, the League piloted a five-state project to test voter registration approaches in dozens of high schools with large minority student populations. The results of that research program, as well as a wide range of field-tested resources and best practices, are laid out in the training manual being released today and available on the League web site.

Leagues throughout the country will utilize the new training manual as they embark on voter registration programs in the remainder of 2011 and 2012. The manual is also being shared with a wide range of partners nationwide.

Our LWV 2011 Annual Meeting

This yearly meeting, like all its predecessors, gave members a chance to see old friends. It was attended by 45 members and guests. In addition, several new members were in



Current board members acknowledged for service

attendance. After a continental breakfast served at 9:30 A.M., we conducted the usual business of passing the budget for next year and electing new officers.

The Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 showing Income and Expenses of \$19,371 was presented by Marge Gorrell and Dick Kelkenberg and was adopted. The Local and County League Positions were adopted. Barbara Lea, standing in for Nominating Committee Chair Jane Voigts, presented the nominees for 2011-2012, who were then elected (Refer to last month's *Voter*).

President Jane Catalano gave out yellow roses, a symbol of the women's suffrage movement, to board and off-board members who had worked hard all year. Ten special award recipients received key chains for their efforts. The culmination of the awards was the Helga Ruby Outstanding Member Award presented for continuing outstanding service to our League.



Off-board service recognition

Our 2011-2012 President-elect, Eleanor Yick, expressed her delight at being elected and said that the League's National Study on the Role of Government in Education was what motivated her to join since education has been her life's work, with 42+ years in public education. As she became more aware of and

impressed with all the issues the League is addressing, she was motivated to take on the leadership role as president. In reflecting on what the League means to her, she said, "I see it as a non-partisan organization whose mission is to develop better communities worldwide through an educated and informed electorate."

Helga Ruby Award

Five years ago, our League began a tradition of honoring its consistent, competent, extraordinary contributors who have helped our League maintain its abiding success. We do so in honor of Helga Ruby, one of our Legacy Members and this year, we add Shirley Hill to this list of honorees.

As we understand from Shirley, she joined the League of Women Voters in the Yuba



Winner of the Helga Ruby Award, Shirley Hill, with past recipients

City-Marysville area in 1961. After being a member in the Fullerton and San Luis Obispo area, where she served as President, Shirley eventually moved to this area and joined our League in 1993.

Upon arrival, Shirley observed our League operations for just a little while, until she settled in and then, well, she hasn't "rested on her laurels" since! She has served as V.P. of Membership for two consecutive terms, Secretary for three, and Web Page Coordinator for three. In addition, she chaired a Study on Redevelopment in 2003-2004, served as Chair of our Nominating Committee, and for three consecutive terms served as our Program V.P. She has continued to vitally assist in this function this year, is currently co-chairing the Education Study, and handling our Telephone Tree—still a vital line of communication for our members who do not receive e-mails.

With members like Shirley, our League will continue to maintain the traditions on which the League of Women Voters has been based for ninety-one years. Thank you,



This year's special service award recipients

Shirley, for your strong, unerring support of our League

Speaker

After lunch, Fred Silva of California Forward was our speaker. His topic was "The California State Budget: Dreams, Realities and Possibilities". Fred is California Forward's senior policy advisor. He has had over 40 years of experience in working with groups involved in state and local finance.

Fred gave us some insights into the California budget problem as well as some possible solutions. He stated that the major problems with government are that there is too much bureaucracy and waste, leaders don't listen to the people and elected officials are not held accountable. One solution is to require government accountability to citizens, reports on results of programs and a process for getting rid of programs that don't work. In addition, some ways of gaining more revenue must be explored. For example,



Off-board service recognition

the sales tax base could be broader.

He told us that the state government should do multi-year planning, not just one year at a time. State income is not consistent with peaks and valleys. When we have a

Annual Meeting (Cont.)

spike in state income, some of it should be put away for when times are not so good. It is also crucial to adopt a pay-as-you go strategy. State government should know where the money is coming from before bringing in new programs or expanding existing programs. He also said that more authority and responsibility should be moved to local government.

California Forward is an organization attempting to move government closer to the people. They have speakers talking to groups like ours throughout the state. Their website is www.cafwd.org. His organization recommends the following five point plan to improve our state budget situation:

- Focus on outcomes.
- Align authority with responsibility
- Change the state role.
- Encourage regional collaboration.
- Provide incentives to reorganize our government.

He said that Governor Brown is trying to improve the budget situation and that some of these ideas should be on the 2012 ballot and some on the 2014 ballot.

We enjoyed Fred's talk and several members commented that they were glad to know about a group that had good ideas about how to solve the budget crisis. After a question-and-answer period with Mr. Silva, the Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Ann Roberts, Program VP

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

While former monthly California State Committee meetings on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan focused on conveyance, recent meetings have focused on policy. Much of the discussion has been on a conveyance system, possibly the 15,000 cubic feet per second facility. On May 10, Santa Clara Valley Water District's (SCVWD) board got its own briefing on Delta issues. SCVWD gets 40% of its water from the Delta system and 15% from the San Francisco PUC's Hetch Hetchy diversion upstream of the Delta.

A new report titled *A Review of the Use of Science and Adaptive Management in California's Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan* has been published. It is a plan to conserve habitat for endangered and threatened species, while continuing to divert water to agriculture and domestic water users in central and southern California—it's incomplete and contains critical scientific gaps. Today, the Delta is a maze of canals and waterways flowing around more than 60 islands of farmland and occupying an area of 1,150 square miles. After four years and \$150 million, the draft plan has failed to define basic goals or analyze the potential impacts on the sensitive and failing ecosystem at the core of California's water system, according to the National Research Council, the research arm of the influential National Academy of Sciences.

The National Research Council claimed the plan was disjointed, unclear and incomplete. It omitted key information on the amount of delta water to be diverted, climate change projections and the delta connection to San Francisco Bay. They found that the plan lacks any discussion of possible alternatives to a giant canal or tunnel circumventing the delta. The tunnel would siphon water from the Sacramento River at a rate of 15,000 cubic feet per second and send it around the central delta to pumps in the south. Rather than begin by evaluating any number of alternatives, the Plan seemed geared specifically toward building a canal or tunnel while not showing how it would impact the habitat, animals and water flows in the delta, according to the council. A biologist with the Bay Institute felt the plan has been a lengthy study for a conveyance.

This information has been taken from an article in the San Francisco Chronicle, May 6 and a *Report in Brief, A Review of the Use of Science and Adaptive Management in California's Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan* by National Academy of Science. Check Restore the Delta, <http://restorethedelta.org>, or e-mail barbara@restorethedelta.org for more info on the Delta.

Nancy Hobbs, Natural Resources Director

Join the League of Women Voters

Name: _____

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	Jul–Jun 1 year	Jan–Jul 6 months
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$70.00	\$35.00
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<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$30.00	\$15.00

Membership year is from 7/1 – 6/30.

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: County, Bay Area, State, and National. Please address questions regarding membership to Jane Ellis at jce218@sbcglobal.net, 408 374-0741, or 408 867-VOTE (8683).

❧ Event Details ❧

- June 1 Wednesday **Old/New Board Meeting**, 9:30 A.M. Dale Hills' home
150 Robin Way, Los Gatos, R.S.V.P. Ph (408) 356-7679
LWV Training with Jackie Jacobberger
- June 9 Thursday **Clip 'n Come**, Noon, Bring Salad/Food & Clipping to Share
Jane Voigts' home, 120 Carlton Ave.#18, Los Gatos
(408) 358-8082 **Please let hostess know you will be coming.**

❧ Save the Dates ❧

- July 6 Wednesday **Board Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Saratoga Fire Station