

The Diablo Valley
VOTER

League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley 925-283-2235

www.lwvdv.org

Volume 61 #6

**League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
2011 Annual Retreat**

Saturday, July 9, 2010
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM

Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center
500 St. Mary's Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Invitees: New and outgoing board members, item chairs,
area reps and all members interested in attending and in
learning more about the League.

Please RSVP to Jeanne Melaugh, VP of Administration:
(xxx) xxx-xxxx or emailaddress@email.com.

Please bring a brown bag lunch.

**Eye on Water
Program Events 2 and 3**

Save these Dates!

September 20 and October 28
CSUEB Concord Campus

Visit our website calendar for details!
Co-Sponsoring with CSUEB Scholar-Olli

June/July 2011

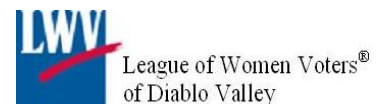
Inside this Issue

<i>Annual Retreat</i>	1
<i>Eye on Water</i>	1
<i>President's Column</i>	2
<i>CA League Convention</i>	3
<i>Observer Notes</i>	5
<i>Bay Area Annual Report</i>	6
<i>Remember the Ladies</i>	7
<i>Membership News, Dues</i>	7
<i>Membership Form</i>	8

Check our calendar on page 8



To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by visiting our website at www.lwvdv.org.



*where hands-on work to safeguard
democracy leads to civic improvement*



President's Column - Notes from our LWV Diablo Valley President

We've had an exciting month: the state League Convention in Ventura, our Annual Meeting in Rossmoor, our first board meeting with our new board, a wonderful water program, and four completed workshops on redistricting!

Three LWV-Diablo Valley members, Ana Spinola, Linda Soliven, and I went to the well attended convention of the LWV-California in Ventura in mid-May. The state voted on the 2011-2013 State League program:

- Continued support and monitoring of redistricting implementation
- An update study of the Initiative and Referendum process, last done in 1999
- Education and advocacy on state and local finances, concentrating on voter education regarding the state budget
- Community education on the Initiative and Referendum process to accompany the update study

Our Annual Meeting on May 21st was a great success. It was well attended with many more members than the required quorum, including several past Presidents who were given long stemmed yellow roses in honor of their service. Yellow was the theme for the CA suffrage movement that successfully won the right to vote for CA women 100 years ago in 1911, and many women planted only yellow flowers in their gardens to signify their support for gaining the franchise. Our new board of directors and officers were elected by the

members, and our new budget for 2011-2012 passed unanimously. We heard a very interesting discussion of the CA Assembly and the budget process from Asm. Member Susan Bonilla, who also presented our League with a Resolution from the Assembly honoring the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley for our "invaluable service to Contra Costa County," signed by Senator Mark DeSaulnier, and Assembly Members Joan Buchanan, Nancy Skinner and Susan Bonilla.

Our annual meeting speaker, Suzanne Stassevitch, member of the board of the LWV-California, spoke to us about the new redistricting process where a 14 member Citizens Redistricting Commission draws new lines from the 2010 U.S. Census data to insure "one person, one vote." Thanks to the League's participation in the passage of Prop 11 in 2008, the new commission, consisting of five Democrats, five Republicans, and four independent citizens is drawing the lines, not the Legislature. The commission just issued their initial maps, which they approved by a 14-0 vote.

I am happy to report that our League applied and received a \$500 grant from the state League to support our four workshops to educate the public about the process and encourage public input before the final maps are issued.

Our new board met for the first time last week, and I am very impressed with what

a strong board the Nominating Committee recruited! I welcome our new Vice President for Administration, Jeanne Melaugh, from the Monterey Peninsula League; VP for Voter Service Sharon Burke who has served with Joyce Kingery as coordinator of our Candidate Forums, Lura Dymond as our new Secretary, and Jan Howe who has agreed to serve as a director at large and who will mentor our Program committee. We appreciate the continuing board service of our treasured Treasurer, Carole Woods; our ongoing Bay Area LWV liaison and transportation/land use item chair, Sally Germain; our director at large, Joan Conley, and our webmaster/*Voter* editor, Ana Spinola. Many thanks to Nominating Committee chair, Martha Goralka, and to Joyce Kingery, Chris Coons, Linda Soliven, and Joan Lautenberger for a job well done!

Our Board Retreat will be on Saturday, July 9, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM in the Lafayette Community Center's Elderberry Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. All League members are invited to attend. We hope to discuss new ventures for our League, ways to engage more members, and to increase our League's diversity and visibility in the community. We will also review key League processes and provide orientation for new members and new board members. And we will review potential actions our key local priorities: 1) health and the social safety-net in a time of economic downturn; 2) California Water; 3) Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – what we can do at home and in our community for the environment. We look forward to your being there!



Lee Helena Lawrence
President

LWVC 2011 California Convention News

Over two hundred League members attended the state League convention in [Ventura](#), and seeing these committed, talented women was impressive. We heard a wonderful history of the fight for suffrage in [California](#), won on October 10, 1911, and many state League board members wore yellow "Votes for Women" sashes. I attended excellent workshops on increasing diversity in membership and came away with many good ideas. The president of the LWV-US, Elizabeth McNamara, gave a keynote address, and also provided workshop time for feedback about a current League controversy. The LWV-US received funding from nonprofit environmental groups to make TV ads which confronted Senators Scott Brown (R-MA) and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) with votes that "supported polluters, not people." A significant number of League members thought these ads went 'over the line' in attacking potential candidates in next years elections. You can see these ads on the www.lwv.org website. What do you think?
– Lee Lawrence



Convention News Continued:

Grow The Future – LWV of California Convention was very inspiring! We became more familiar with our leaders at the State League level, witnessing strong leadership skills in conducting business, communicating and getting lots of work and decisions made with tight-fisted but sensitive and respectful grace. Interesting speakers such as Dr. Beverly Kelly recounted the history of the League’s beginnings through an informative media production. Hon. Fiona Ma, CA Assembly Pro Tempore, spoke candidly of her legislative experiences and work. A highlight was the handing over of the gavel by President Janis R. Hirohama to incoming President, Jennifer Waggoner on the last day of the convention. Janis set a pace in the last four years that overcame many challenges. One challenge she admitted to not accomplishing was “diversity” within our league circles. Our incoming President, “Jenny”, she is called, is very savvy regarding technology. Jenny delivered a riveting acceptance speech which moved the audience to a standing ovation. Visit LWVC’s website to review her speech!



Linda Soliven, Ana Spinola

~~~~~

I attended a very helpful workshop, “Watching My City: Exposing the Secrets of Local Government”. Detailed steps, resources to use, and forms to help do your research can get anyone off to a good start to knowing your city government inside and out. Whatever time such a project would take, these efforts could lead to educating ourselves, subjects for an interesting program meeting, opportunities to educate the public through letters to the editor, and newspaper articles. Also shared was the resource guide “Observing Your Government in Action”. If there is interest, please contact the League Office at 925-283-2235.

At the caucus: Election Systems Concurrence and More the “principle of proportionality”, “ranked choice”, and how “Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)” elected the Mayor of Oakland were topics discussed. The discussion graduated into a contentious, but very interesting debate on the recommendation that the LWVCA position on election systems be updated to allow inclusion of these additional systems in State and local elections. The caucus began at 8:30 pm on Friday night and was still going strong at 10:30 pm when exhausted Linda left to get some much needed sleep. Needless to say, the proposal did not make it on the plenary floor. But I contend the idea will be back.

Linda Soliven

~~~~~

OBSERVER NOTES: Highlights

by Sally Germain



You Choose - Contra Costa County, May 7, 2011, Concord

This was our county's sole meeting to make choices and add results to MTC and ABAG's first round in the search for regional plan adaptations that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the [Bay Area](#). With the use of handheld electronic devices, the eighty or so people attending registered their preferences in three different stages. Of fourteen PRIORITIES, most favored were "easy access to work," "open space," "clean air and water," "lower carbon emissions," "less driving overall," and "more affordable homes." The least favorable choice was "keeping my town as it is." Next, we were asked to select OPTIONS for where growth should occur. Favored were "keep within the region," "most urban areas," and allowing growth to take some greenfields, but definitely a need for more transit. The third effort to solicit opinions came at our tables in discussions led by MTC staff. Taking our cues from a stack of cards with phrased answers, we transmitted responses to the giant screen. One of mine failed to be sent and didn't register on the screen: it was to reduce driving speeds to 55 mph. On the screen that choice showed a ZERO.

The last effort to get a more pointed response was to hand each of us two charts: one showed a list of all 42 Priority Development Areas in the county alongside a map showing their location. The other was a number of illustrations of how those projects might appear. Meeting time expired before we could put our minds around that challenge. Maybe we will get another chance when Round Two comes around next fall.

Comment: Where were our LWVBA members? Only two members attended. The lack of response may be due to members having to receive monthly *Voter* newsletters by e-mail instead of receiving them by mail.

Danville Town Council Meeting, May 17, 2011.

1. Presented to Valley Fire District EMS Coordinator Captain Andy Swartzell commendation on National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated Defibrillator Awareness Week and for its efforts in the Heart Safe Community Program. The Capt. noted his district's record of 50% survival is the best in the county.
2. Beverly Lane, President of the [East Bay](#) Regional Park District, reported the District's new "Healthy Parks, Healthy People" program, is part of an international initiative to promote awareness about linkage between the health of people and access to well-managed parks. Bev is a former mayor of Danville. Lori Sullenberger has become a spokesperson for the district and has walked every trail in [Las Trampas Wilderness Park](#).
3. The town council selected supervisorial and state assembly redistricting lines that include the entire [San Ramon Valley](#), including Tassajara Valley, within the same district, tied as they are by the same road systems and other commonalities.
4. The town will contribute to the expense of rebuilding the swimming pool at [San Ramon Valley High School](#), one of the oldest facilities in the district, as a gesture of partnership between town and district.

5. Prior to the council meeting, the council held a joint study session with the planning commission to review draft amendments to the Danville 2010 General Plan's "Sustainability Section on Resources and Hazards," and to review final edits to the Historic Preservation Section. "The Town's sustainability initiatives dovetail with efforts to respond to global climate change issues (and our goals) will only be possible through fundamental changes to the way we build our homes, design our communities, and plan our transportation systems." Under the section of "Policies: Greenhouse Gas Reduction" the town planners commented that this policy supports General Plan Goal 4 which is to recognize [Downtown Danville](#) as the Town's "Priority Development Area".

BAY AREA 2011 ANNUAL REPORT for Open Space, Transportation

By Sally Germain



Election Activities:

1. The LWVDV opposed Brentwood's Primary ballot measure to change its Urban Limit Line. The City asked for more room inside its city limits when it has a lot of open space. The measure was DEFEATED.

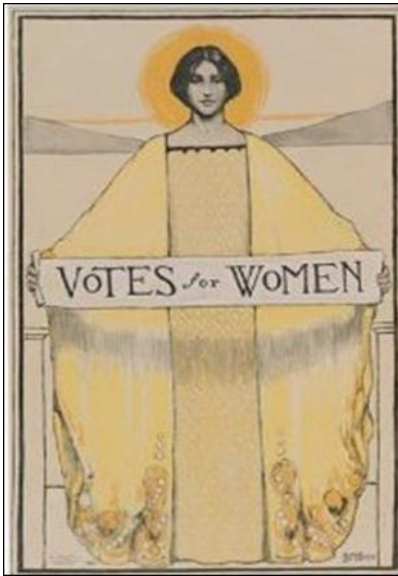
2. The LWVDV opposed San Ramon's November General Election ballot measure to move its Urban Limit Line beyond its border, though it has much developable space available. Measure was DEFEATED.

Regional Transportation Planning Process:

1. Wrote LWVDV *Voter* articles in February and April defining the nature of major regional planning decisions facing voters in the [San Francisco Bay Area](#) to accommodate the coming growth pressures of nearly two million in future population between 2005 and 2035, while we have to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases our cars and light trucks will be emitting. The May *Voter* expressed an invite for members to attend the MTC/ABAG response workshop in [Concord](#).

2. Article in February *Voter* describing the new [Contra Costa Centre](#), at the [Pleasant Hill BART Station](#). It demonstrates the beneficial uses of our county redevelopment agency, as well as its being an early example of the kind of planning being required under the subjects referred to in Item 1 (above): a transit village to join together new affordable housing that is convenient to jobs and public transportation.

3. Attendance at LWVBA subcommittee meetings on Transportation and at the LWVBA-North meetings every two months to share information from different parts of the Bay Area.



Remember the Ladies ENDS JULY 16

Celebrating the Centennial of
Woman Suffrage in California 1911-2011

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley announces a special exhibit now to July 16, 2011, featuring the Centennial of California woman suffrage. It will focus on local women's lives and provide programs at the museum.

Our board is checking into the possibility of a special League tour before the exhibit ends on July 16. If you are interested, please contact the League office at 925- 283-2235.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back cover and send with your dues to the League Office. (See page 8.) If you already have renewed, thank you!

Phyllis Devich
Karen Dolder
Lura Dymond
Barry Fadem
Phyllis Gottfried
Rebecca Harris
Shirlee Loret
Jerrri McNair

The Diablo Valley Voter

Published monthly except June and December by
League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
500 St. Mary's Road # 14
Lafayette, CA 94549
925-283-2235
www.lwvdv.org

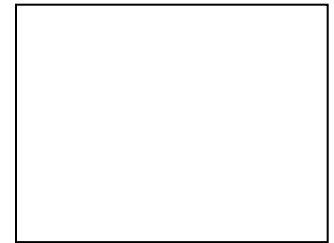
Editor: Ana Spinola

Associate Editor: Jeanne Melaugh

Delivery is free via email, or \$10/year by U.S. mail.
Current and past issues are posted on our website.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley
500 St. Mary's Road #14
Lafayette, CA 94549



**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact membership chair Linda Soliven at the League office: (925) 283-2235.

___ \$65 Individual Membership Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___

___ \$95 Family Membership (2) Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___

___ \$35 Associate Membership Indicate NEW ___ or RENEWAL ___

___ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category, above)

For recipient name _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

___ \$10 included to receive printed copies of the Voter by US Mail

\$ _____ Additional Donation to LWVDV (*not tax deductible).

\$ _____ TOTAL of ALL above enclosed to: LWVDV (*not tax deductible).

\$ _____ TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to LWVC. Please make separate check payable to LWVC - Education Fund.

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Please print, complete and mail this form along with your check to:
LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

Calendar:

- July 9 LWVDV Annual Retreat
(Replaces 7/12 Board Meeting)
- July 16 Remember the Ladies ENDS
- Sept 20 Eye on Water, Program 2
- Oct 28 Eye on Water, Program 3

Board Meetings are held at the League Office from 3 pm to 5 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

League Websites:

Diablo Valley: www.lwvdv.org

Bay Area: www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org

California: ca.lwv.org

US: www.lwv.org