



**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

See calendar, back page

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

Thursday, May 1  
Voters Service Orientation  
LWVDV Boardroom

Saturday, May 3  
LWVBA Convention  
Bay-Delta Model  
Sausalito

Saturday & Sunday  
May 17-18  
LWVC Leadership Council  
San Jose

June 6-9  
LWVUS Convention,  
Dallas  
*(see page 6)*

## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley

**9:30 a.m., Saturday, April 26, 2014**  
**Cedar Room**  
**Lafayette Community Center**  
**500 St Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA**

We will review our year as an organization, elect Officers and Directors for 2014-2015, and adopt a budget, positions and bylaws changes and program priorities for the coming year. Guest speaker will be former County Clerk/Recorder Steve Weir.

Refreshments (juice, coffee, tea, bagels, muffins and pastries) will be available. The cost will be \$15 (or \$5 for meeting-only attendance without refreshments).

**You are needed for our quorum -- please RSVP by phone or mail by Wednesday, April 23.**

**Your kit will be in the mail soon!**

**Inside:**

**Why we are changing our local positions – see the League Leader's Letter, page 2**

**Local sanitation district makes the Bay Area Monitor – see page 5**

**New moderator for LWVDV televised candidate forums – see page 6**



## LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

*By Leslie Stewart, VP Administration*

Here's a bit of a League history lesson to help you understand something important that will be happening at Annual Meeting this year – revising our local positions.

When I joined LWVDV many years ago, the League had local units, organized by geographic communities. I belonged to the LWVDV and also attended the Concord unit. Each unit had a leader, its own funds and treasurer, and its own membership chair (and as I discovered when I was drafted as the “newbie” to be unit leader, unit leaders were automatically appointed to the LWVDV board.) Most units met in the daytime, but we also had the Evening Unit, made up of members who could attend only in the evenings.

Local units chose studies of various issues in their own communities, which were ratified by the LWVDV at Annual Meeting. New unit positions were adopted at Annual Meeting, first by the unit's members, and then by the full LWVDV.

As a result, we studied topics such as land-use planning city by city at different times, as well as developing some countywide positions. Many of the unit and LWVDV studies covered issues that have since been studied at the state or national level, with positions that duplicate our earlier local studies. Often we haven't used local positions for years.

Last year at our Annual Meeting we agreed to look at a revision of our local positions. The packet for this year's Annual Meeting contains the first steps in that revision – a reorganization of the positions by issue, not individual community, and some recommendations to restudy or review some positions and drop others.



The full packet of revised LWVDV positions, with recommendations for changes, was e-mailed to members with the March Voter. Please contact the office if you need a mailed copy. You will probably need a copy for discussion at Annual Meeting.

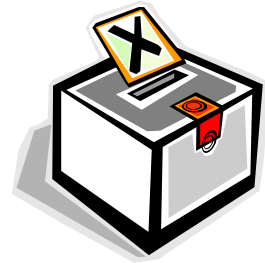
If you'd like to check out the Bay Area, California and US positions that will take the place of some of the positions we may drop, here are the links:

LWV Bay Area: <http://lwvbayarea.org/advocacy.html#positions>

LWV California: <http://lwvc.org/issues/lwvc-positions>

LWV United States: <http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues>

## **VOTERS SERVICE – GETTING READY FOR THE JUNE PRIMARY**



### **Become a Poll Worker (and optionally help LWVDV)**

The Contra Costa Elections Department is always looking for citizens to work the polls on election day. To do so, you fill out an application, then take the poll worker training. There is an \$80 stipend paid to poll workers who work the whole election day ( 6 am to as late as 9 pm).

In the past, our league has "adopted" a poll, staffing it with LWV members. The LWV members have donated their stipend to LWVDV. The adopt-a-poll process is being revised but even if we don't formally adopt a poll, you can choose to work at a poll close to where you live.

To learn more about being a poll worker, visit the county's elections website: [www.cocovote.us](http://www.cocovote.us). Click on **Get Involved**, then **Poll Worker Program**.

### **Orientation: What Voter Service Activities Can New and Not-So-New Members Do?**

- The League encourages people to register to vote and we help them through the process. That includes explaining paper forms or showing folks how to register online (on their device).
- We conduct Candidate Forums (being a timer is a great first volunteer opportunity, and you also can train to be a moderator or question-sorter).
- We ask candidates to post their information on [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org). Many volunteers can help with mailing, phoning, publicizing and linking to articles and videos about each race.
- We stock paper voter registration forms at many sites in Contra Costa County year-round and check frequently near the voter registration deadline.
- We provide presentations (in a team) on the Pros and Cons of ballot measures.
- We do outreach to high schools about the importance and details of voting.
- We observe meetings of local government boards (city council, school board, county supervisors).
- We do poll observation, and can observe at the Elections Office.

If you want to learn more about any of the above, contact Ashley Coates or contact the LWVDV office, 925-283-2235, [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org).

***Orientation is Thursday, May 1 from 2:00 to 3:15 pm.***

(If you can't attend at the scheduled time, we can arrange an individual orientation).

# LWVUS AGRICULTURE POSITION UPDATE

## Ag Consensus Meeting Recap: Much Food for Thought

*By Ashley Coates, Study Chair*

Even though we were scheduled for several hours, the time went quickly on March 22! Committee members presented brief overviews; then attendees discussed what they thought League's position should be on government policy (and funding) for several consensus questions on modern farming methods. Most of the time we were in pretty close agreement, sometimes we disagreed, but always the discussion was thoughtful, respectful, and fascinating.

Our answers, after board approval, will be forwarded to the national committee to consolidate with input from other leagues. We will have an updated position to use for advocacy after the LWVUS Convention June 6-10. Thank you to presenters Alison Stewart, Marti Roach, Leslie Stewart, Joan Lautenberger; recorders and discussion leaders Fred Sullivan, Sally Germain, and members Carole Woods, Carol Murota, Cynthia Landy and Phyllis Ceaser.

*If you'd like to see what LWVDV had to say on the consensus questions, please request a copy of our report to LWVUS from the LWVDV office, 925-283-2235.*

## THE LEAGUE IN ACTION

**LWVC** -- Through a settlement just announced, millions of Californians who have applied for health benefits through the state health exchange, Covered California, will be mailed a voter registration card, and the opportunity to register to vote will be integrated into future applications. We're glad so many Californians are getting health insurance through Covered California; and now we can help ensure that our democracy is healthy, too!



The LWVC has worked for this with the ACLU of California, the ACLU's Voting Rights Project, Demos, and Project Vote. We're excited that Covered California will comply with the National Voter Registration Act without the need for litigation. Many eligible Californians fail to register because of lack of access and opportunity. This is a great way to improve California's voter registration rate which is one of the lowest (45th) in the country.

**? Did you know? You can go to the LWVC or LWVUS website to see the latest action issues and take action yourself!**

**LWVDV** -- The Board voted in March to withhold endorsements for the Acalanes and Lafayette School District parcel tax renewal measures on the June ballot. These measures do not include a sunset provision, which is a criterion for support in our LWV Education Finance positions. We are awaiting language for the Community College District bond measure.

## From Drain to Grid: Transforming Wastewater into Energy

By Beth Hillman Tagawa, Bay Area Monitor Writer

*Note: This is an excerpt of an article from the Feb/March 2014 issue of the Bay Area Monitor, published by the LWVBA Education Fund. Angela Lowrey from Delta Diablo Sanitation District suggested the topic after participating in the LWVDV Water Forum in November 2013.*

Each time we flush the toilet, brush our teeth, take a shower, or use the garbage disposal, we don't typically think about the final destination of what goes down the drain. Pumped through a system of pipes, our daily waste ends up at a wastewater treatment facility, of which there are 40 in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Traditionally, the process that happens next — the treatment of waste to remove chemicals and prepare it for reuse — has been an energy-intensive one. However, researchers are making strides toward developing new systems aimed to reduce the amount of energy used for waste treatment — and even make the process energy-positive.



The Delta Diablo Sanitation District in Antioch is currently supporting two groundbreaking research projects that have the potential to result in new technology for treatment of biosolids and wastewater. Such technology could have a global impact by making the treatment process more environmentally friendly.

There is a pressing need for such innovation, since our increasing population will produce all the more waste in the future. And, with the advent of stricter government regulations — such as California's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which requires a major reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 — wastewater facilities like Delta Diablo need to reconsider their traditional systems, according to Angela Lowrey, spokesperson for Delta Diablo. Biosolids have conventionally been used for soil amendment and landfill cover. "It's already a resource, but it's got more potential," Lowrey said.

As such, Delta Diablo has taken a proactive stance toward research and adopted the role of "an incubator for exploring new technologies," Lowrey said.

"The way we're doing business is not sustainable," she said. "So we can wait until we get up one day and we're regulated and we must do this, at the cost of millions of dollars, which we must pass along to customers. Or we can say, 'Hang on a moment. Are there other ways we can start looking at the viability and benefits that wastewater has to our community?'"

## Drain to Grid, *continued*

One of the current research projects aiming to answer that question involves testing a technology that converts wet biosolids into hydrogen gas. Scientists then feed the gas into fuel cells that produce electricity.

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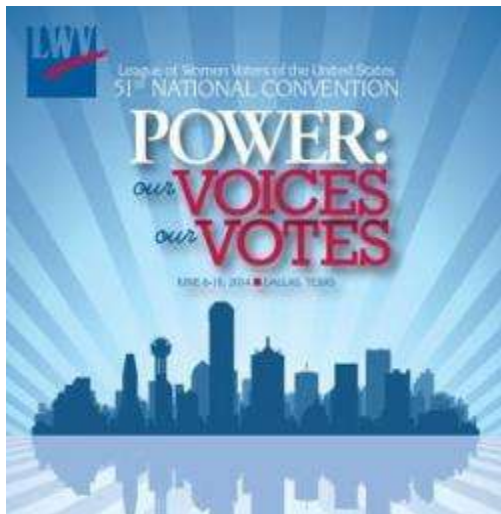
The other project at Delta Diablo, led by Stanford's Dr. Yaniv Scherson, tests a process that both removes nitrogen from wastewater and recovers energy.

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The full article may be found at <http://bayareamonitor.org/images/pdf/feb14.pdf>.

## HERE AND THERE AROUND THE LEAGUE

? Did you miss **Bay Area League Day's** wonderful panels on the new ways to look at the value of open space? Hop onto YouTube for your own private viewing of this event. The links are available from the Bay Area Monitor homepage, <http://bayareamonitor.org/> under Recent Notes and Updates – look for “Watch Bay Area League Day Online”.



? What do Molly Ivins, climate change and parliamentary procedure have in common? Hint: It's happening in Dallas, June 6-9.

**LWVUS Convention** will feature caucuses on topics such as climate change, electing the board and setting new program choices (parliamentary procedure), as well as a special event tied to Convention – Red Hot Patriot, the Kick Ass Wit of Molly Ivins (delegates get discount tickets). Networking, training and top-notch speakers on topics such as civic engagement round out the long weekend. **LWVDV is still seeking delegates** to attend this almost-all-expenses paid

Convention. Please email [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) if you are interested in attending, or call the LWVDV office at 925-283-2235.

? Did you hear that Lisa Vordebrueggen had left the Contra Costa Times? We have been extremely fortunate that Tom Barnidge has agreed to replace her as moderator of our **televised candidate forums** for the June primary. Planning for the forums is moving along well under Gwen Watson's leadership and the date will be April 24<sup>th</sup> at the CCTV studio. Look for information on how to view and publicize these forums soon!

**DONATE**

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org).

**The League of Women Voters  
of Diablo Valley Voter**

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**MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWALS AND  
DIRECTORY UPDATES**

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back page. If you already have renewed, thank you!

No April renewals – please **ask your friends to join** in April !!

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO THE ANNUAL FUND DRIVE!**

So far, donations to the unrestricted LWVDV account are \$905, and donations to the tax-deductible Ed Fund account are \$575.

A special thank you to Paul Popenoe for once again making a very generous donation to the LWVDV funds!

**Bay Area League Convention – Saturday, May 3**

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area will hold its biennial convention on Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Bay Model, 2100 Bridgeway in Sausalito. (Turn onto Marinship and follow signs.) We will adopt program and budget and elect the Board for the next two years.

Speaker will be Roberta Borgonovo, LWV California Program Co-Director, Water. Roberta has followed water issues for the League for several decades, most recently the proposals for the water transfer tunnels.

LWVDV delegates will be Leslie Stewart, Sally Germain and Joan Conley.





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

**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 Carole Woods 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 \_\_\_  
 (For a student or non-citizen non-voting member)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category above)

Gift Membership from: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please write recipient's information below.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$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 LWV (our account at LWVC).  
 Please make separate check payable to LWVC - Education Fund.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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**

<b>Apr 8</b>	<b>Action Committee</b> 2-4 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> 2-4 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>Apr 24</b>	<b>Candidate Forum Tapings</b> 9 am <a href="#">CCTV Studio, Martinez</a>
<b>Apr. 26</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b> 9:30 am- <a href="#">Cedar Room,</a> 12:30 pm <a href="#">Lafayette Comm. Center</a>
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Voters Service Orientation</b> 2 – 3:15 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Action Committee</b> 2 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Old/New Board Meeting</b> 2 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>